



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED

*Jackson's Memorial Chapel*

*"Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted"*

6751 Savannah Highway, Neeses, South Carolina

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AND

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(803) 568-7832

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A CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
HONORING

*Deacon James Leslie Knotts*

December 19, 1919 - The Dash - September 12, 2020

*~The Godly Man~*





God's Grace is sufficient!  
 He held on to be able to refer to his  
 Granddaughter as Dr. Brenda Branic. The  
 photos pictured were captured on the  
 Sunday prior to his transition,  
 September 6, 2020.  
 "You're the wind beneath my wings"



### *God's Garden*

God looked around his garden and found an empty place.  
 He then looked down upon the earth, and saw your face.  
 He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest.  
 God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.  
 He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb.  
 So He closed your weary eyelids and whispered "Peace be thine."  
 It broke our hearts to lose you but you did not go alone...  
 For part of us went with you the day God called you home.

Thank you for being the best Granddad that you could be. Thank you for teaching us how to maintain the things  
 most important about gardens in life; Nourishment, Love, and Patience. Your wisdom will never be forgotten.

*Your Loving Grandchildren*

### *Acknowledgements*

It is with a grateful heart that the family of Deacon James Knotts extends sincere thanks and deep  
 gratitude for the many expressions of sympathy, love and consideration shown. We do not have  
 adequate words to express our sentiments during this journey.

To all of the churches, friends and family members that have prayed without ceasing for Deacon  
 Knotts, thank you. You have lifted our hearts and we pray that God will richly bless each of you as  
 you have blessed us.

*Carrie Jackson & The Knotts family*

A Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by the United States Congress and is, along with  
 the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, the highest civilian award in the **United States**. The decoration is awarded  
 to an individual who performs an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national  
 interest of the United States. Such an honor was bestowed to **James Knotts**.

We are forever grateful for the life and service of Deacon James Knotts. To God Be The Glory!

## A SENATE RESOLUTION S. 1605

TO RECOGNIZE JAMES KNOTTS OF THE RICHARD STREET COMMUNITY IN RICHLAND COUNTY FOR HIS SERVICE AS A  
 MEMBER OF THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES DURING WORLD WAR II, TO HONOR THE COURAGE AND DEDICATION HE  
 DISPLAYED AS A MEMBER OF THAT PROUD GROUP, AND TO COMMEMORATE HIS BEING AWARDED A BRONZE MEDAL  
 OF HONOR, WHICH IS A REPLICA OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, AT A CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE IN  
 WASHINGTON, D.C., ON JUNE 27, 2012.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to note that **James Knotts**, who served during World War II as a  
 Montford Point Marine, will be honored with his Montford Marine comrades in a ceremony to take place in  
 Washington, D.C., on June 27, 2012; and

Whereas, from 1942 to 1949, Montford Point Camp in Jacksonville, North Carolina, was a segregated training facility  
 that readied for military service the first African Americans to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. During the June 27  
 ceremony, for their courageous service during World War II the Montford Marines will receive bronze replicas of the  
 Congressional Gold Medal given to the Montford Point Marine Association; and

Whereas, born on December 19, 1919, Montford Marine James Knotts attended Rocky Swamp School in his  
 hometown of Norway. Following the death of his father, he left school after completing third grade to help provide  
 for his mother. His first job was picking blackberries, which lit a spark in young James that eventually grew into a  
 passion for gardening; and

Whereas, on April 1, 1945, at the age of twenty-four, James Knotts was drafted into the Marine Corps and received  
 his basic training with the 518th Battalion at Montford Point Camp, making him one of the first African Americans to  
 serve in the Marine Corps; and

Whereas, after his honorable discharge in 1946, he volunteered with the Marine Corps Reserves and eventually served  
 in the Korean Conflict, as well; and

Whereas, married to Leona Bowlin Knotts for forty-two years, James Knotts lost his wife to an untimely death in 1981,  
 but God soon blessed him with another spouse, Flossie Butler Knotts. God called her home in 1991. Now ninety-two  
 years of age, Mr. Knotts long has enjoyed a fine family of two beautiful daughters, four delightful grandchildren, and  
 four charming great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, a man of faith, James Knotts became a faithful and active member of Columbia's Sweet Home Baptist Church  
 in 1952. He has served there in several capacities and currently holds the title of Deacon Emeritus. In addition, he is  
 active in his community in various organizations, including VFW #6 (Reeder Point, Eastway Park, and Atlas Road  
 communities), and as a gardener he enjoys the yearly competition he and his neighbors launch to see who can grow  
 the biggest and best garden; and

Whereas, the Senate, grateful for his service as a Montford Marine, takes great pleasure in saluting James Knotts on  
 the occasion of his receiving a Bronze Medal of Honor. Now, therefore,  
 Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize James Knotts of the Richard Street  
 Community in Richland County for his service as a member of the Montford Point Marines during World War II, honor  
 the courage and dedication he displayed as a member of that proud group, and commemorate his being awarded a  
 Bronze Medal of Honor, which is a replica of the **Congressional Gold Medal**, at a ceremony to take place in  
 Washington, D.C., on June 27, 2012.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to James Knotts.

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# THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF *Deacon James Leslie Knotts*

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: Ecclesiastes 3*

## A TIME TO BE BORN AND A TIME TO DIE;

Deacon James Leslie Knotts born December 19, 1919 in Norway, South Carolina to parents Mr. John Hart, and Mr. Sam and Mrs. Mittie Jenkins Knotts. On Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 7:00am Deacon Knotts entered a peaceful eternal rest at his residence with family.

## A TIME TO PLANT AND A TIME TO PLUCK UP WHAT IS PLANTED;

Deacon Knotts was a humble, grateful, gracious and giving person who was blessed with 100 years and eight months of life. He epitomized the quality of life that we all seek. He was a hardworking husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great grandfather. Deacon Knotts took wonderful care of his family, loved his church and served his community.

James Knotts really worked hard to **achieve the American Dream** with his strength, determination and deep religious conviction. He walked through life eager and ready for work, serving, and giving advice on being a true follower of Christ. He attended the Rocky Swamp School in Norway, South Carolina.

Through his lifetime, he was employed at Fort Jackson as a laborer, mechanic helper and mechanic for over 32 years beginning in 1941 and ending in 1973. His service was interrupted by his active duty service in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Knotts was employed with Hardaway Concrete Company from 1973 to 1987 where he retired with over four months of annual leave.

Also, he was accredited with being an avid gardener who enjoyed yearly competitions that he and his neighbors launched to see who could grow the best and biggest gardens. Those far and near enjoyed his harvest as many were able to feast over the years. He never placed a cost and was more ecstatic about sharing than any personal gain.

## A TIME TO BUILD UP;

Deacon James Knotts' spiritual journey began when he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. He was baptized at the Bushy Pond Baptist Church of Norway, South Carolina. He was a former member of Bethlehem Baptist Church of Columbia, SC. Deacon Knotts became a faithful and active member of Sweet Home Baptist Church in the summer of 1952. He was a dedicated servant who was involved in numerous church ministries. He was always willing to be of service anywhere necessary. He served in the following capacities; president and vice president of the Jubilee Choir, superintendent and treasurer of Sunday School, church treasurer, treasurer and chair, and co-chair of the Deacon Board. He was also appointed as Deacon Emeritus.

Deacon Knotts had a great passion for politics. His political involvement was extensive and was included but not limited to Precinct President and Treasurer of the Hopkins and Bluff Road Precincts in South Carolina.

His love and passion for service was widespread as he was initiated into Killian #72 of Ancient York Rite Mason, Prince Hall origin in 1950. His membership included; Ridgewood Lodge #63D. Shrine, Israel Temple #1 Drill Team, Master Mason, and was a recipient of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree. He was further affiliated with the VFW #6 Reader Point, Eastway Park and Atlas Road Communities.

He was adamant about education, and often stressed the importance. His involvement with the Parent-Teacher association led to his recommendation for the implementation of school buses for the students of the Richard Street Community.

He was most proud to have been one of the first African Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps. He was a member of the Montford Point Marines and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on June 27, 2012 from President Barack Obama.

In honor of his untiring service to the community, in the year of 2017, Senator Darrell made recommendation to the county council to rename a portion of Richard street, Deacon James Knotts Street. Mayor Steve Benjamin declared Thursday, December 19, 2019 as James Knotts Day. He also received the key to the city and the proclamation as a result of his community involvement from City Councilman Ed McDowell. The Senate led by Darrell Jackson adopted a resolution acknowledging Mr. Knotts' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and his service to the community.

# CENTENARIAN AND MONTFORD POINT MARINE

**I have fought the good  
fight,  
finished the race,  
kept the faith.**

*2 Timothy 4:7*



*~Deacon James Leslie Knotts~*





*To Observe A Marine  
Is Inspirational  
To Be A Marine  
Is Exceptional!*



**Thank you Deacon  
James Knotts for  
your love, dedication  
and service!**

*~The Godly Man~*

## THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

*Deacon James Leslie Knotts (Continued)*

### A TIME TO WEEP;

Preceding him in death, are his parents, Mr. Sam and Mrs. Mittie Knotts and Mr. John Hart, his wives, Mrs. Leona Bowlin Knotts and Mrs. Flossie Butler Knotts, his brother, Master John Lee Knotts, his daughter and son in law, Mrs. Daisey and Mr. Alex Sivills and a step daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Branic.

### A TIME TO LAUGH;

Deacon Knotts never received credit for inventing the uber concept, however before its invention he served as a driver for over forty years taking citizens to the polls. He went further to assist those needing to go places as well.

During a television interview in 2019 with WachFox 57, Knotts shared his humorous choice of words as he was asked by the reporter, "What was the secret to his long life"? He replied with part of the secret to his long life is simple. "23 hours and 59 minutes taking care of my own business. I didn't worry about the Joneses I just took take of myself."

He also displayed an intense love for family and friends. He was always giving sound advice whenever it was needed.

### A TIME TO LOVE;

Deacon Knotts was married to Mrs. Leona Bowlin Knotts for forty two years. This union ended in her untimely death on May 20, 1981. On July 3, 1982 God blessed him with another spouse, Mrs. Flossie Butler Knotts. This union lasted for nine years until God called her home on June 6, 1991.

He is the proud father of two daughters, Carrie and Daisey. He maintained a strong presence in the home with a gentle but firm hand of correction and support. He reared and taught his children the value of Christian and moral standards. The family felt safe and secure by the strong religious faith of his heritage.

### A TIME OF WAR AND A TIME OF PEACE;

Deacon Knotts was drafted into the United States Marine Corp in April, 1945, becoming one of the first African Americans to serve in the Marines.

He successfully completed his basic training with the 518th Battalion at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Montford Point Marines served during a time of a segregated Marine Corp. In 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed an Executive Order allowing Black men to join the Marine Corps. In 1949 President Harry S. Truman eliminated segregated units in all armed forces.

Mr. Knotts military tenure included a tour with World War II and the Korean Conflict. Knotts served in the U.S. Marine Corp from April 1945 to August 1946, March 1950 to December 1950 and the Sixth Marine Corps Reserve January 1948 –March 1950. He witnessed and was a part of the integration of the Marine Corps. He obtained the rank of PFC with a hash mark, received a medal of Good Conduct and an Honorable Discharge.

### A TIME TO EMBRACE;

He leaves treasured memories with his daughter, Carrie Knotts-Jackson of Piscataway, NJ; his memories of love are also given to his grandchildren, Janeen, Michal, Dawn, Tisha, Brenda, Cynthia, and Eugene (Myra). Also treasuring his memories are his great grandchildren, Maya, Kayla, Skylar, Ashleigh (Sean), Adam, Myles, Tre', Justin, Jerome, and Dexter; He was also blessed with seven great great grandchildren, including Master Grayson who his Grandfather affectionately called "Buster".

He is also survived by his sister in love, Mrs. Betty Walker of Orangeburg, South Carolina and many cousins, relatives and dear friends.



Friday, September 18, 2020  
2:00 In The Afternoon  
Bushy Pond Baptist Church, Norway, South Carolina  
Pastor James E. Holiday, Officiant  
Reverend Johnny Ray Noble, Ph.D., Presiding

~Order of Service~

Prelude		Organist
Processional		Clergy and Family
Hymn of Praise		First Lady Sybrenda Holiday
	<i>"I am going to do all I can for my Lord"</i>	
The Old Testament	Psalms 112:1-9	Pastor Rickey James
The New Testament	2 Timothy 4:7-8	Reverend John Goodwine
Prayer of Comfort		Pastor Clyde Holliday
Song		Pastor Glenn Edwards
	<i>"My Soul Has Been Anchored"</i>	
Moments of Reflections (2 minutes please)	Mr. Thomas Ray, Montfort Point Association, Ms. Kathleen Williams Richard Street Neighborhood Association Deacon Fred Grooms, Sweet Home Baptist Church Brenda B. Branic, Ph.D., Granddaughter	
Reading of the Obituary and Acknowledgements		Minister Demestress Bell-Williams, Ed.D.
Eulogy		Pastor James E. Holiday
Closing Prayer		Reverend Cynthia James Walters, Ed.D.
Committal, Closing Prayer, Benediction and Interment		



~Daddy's Spirit~



Daddy, I know that no matter what  
you will always be with me.  
When life separates us  
I'll know it is only your soul  
Saying goodbye to your body,  
But your spirit will be with me always.  
When I see a bird chirping on a nearby branch,  
I will know it is you singing to me.  
When a butterfly brushes gently by me so freely  
I will know it is you assuring me  
you are free from any agony and pain.  
When the gentle fragrance of a flower  
catches my attention,  
I will know it is you reminding me  
to appreciate the simple things in life.  
When the sun shining through my window a  
wakens me, I will feel the warmth of your love.  
When I hear the rain pitter patter against my  
window sill I will hear your words of wisdom  
And will remember what you taught me  
so well that without rain, trees cannot grow.  
Without rain, flowers cannot bloom.  
Without life's challenges,  
I cannot grow strong.  
When I look out to the sea,  
I will think of your endless love for your family.  
When I think of mountains,  
their majesty and magnificence  
I will think of your courage for your country.  
No matter where I am,  
your spirit will be beside me,  
For I know that no matter what,  
you will always be with me.

Thank you Daddy for 100 years  
of your amazing love! Carrie

