



## Charles Franklin Starnes

June 21, 1935 - January 9, 2018

Charles Franklin Starnes was called from earthly labor to heavenly reward on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at his home in Columbia, South Carolina. Born June 21, 1935, in Gastonia, North Carolina, he was the eldest of two children born to the union of the late Prince and Ovella Easter Starnes. He was raised an only child, having lost his sister at an early age. Educated in the public schools of Gastonia, Charles was a graduate of Highland High School in the Class of 1953.

After attending NC A&T for two years, he moved to Brooklyn, NY, and was employed in various capacities. Among his many career iterations were stints as a watch factory worker, toll collector on the NY Thruway, mail carrier for the USPS, and finally as a bus driver for the NYC Transit Authority, which he maintained until his retirement.

After leaving New York in 1987, Charles and his wife moved to Columbia, South Carolina. He worked for several more years, even trying his hand at entrepreneurship, a trait he passed to his daughter, before eventually retiring a second time. He was then able to spend time with friends, taking up new hobbies such as golf and becoming active in his community and Gill Creek Baptist Church, where he was an ordained deacon and member of the Men's Choir.

Charles leaves to cherish precious memories his wife, Daisy Williams Starnes of Camden; two children: son Cazembe Bektemba of East Orange, New Jersey, and daughter Lori (Robert) Isom of Camden; three grandchildren: Shani, Jelani, and Omari Bektemba; and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Previous Events

## Family Visitation

JAN **26**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Memorial Service

JAN **26**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Palmer Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Franklin Starnes* ”



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**Palmer Memorial Chapel** - January 26, 2018 at 06:58 PM



“ *Charles Franklin Starnes* ”

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October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Catherine A. Palmer And Family lit a candle in memory of Charles Franklin Starnes* ”



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**Catherine A. Palmer and Family** - April 13, 2018 at 04:21 PM

JF

“ To the Starnes family sorry to read about Charles Starnes he used to stop in the NE Library some time he always seem to be a happy go lucky guy and was easy to talk with he shared how he lived in New York and the bus drive and moved back South he mention wanting to move to the Sunshine State so I thought that was where he went, I'm Retired now from the Library so I wouldn't see him. Sorry to read about his passing I always thought he was a cool dude Rest in Peace Mr. Starnes Those who knew him will miss His smile and friendship.

*Jean Fryer*

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**Jean Fryer** - January 26, 2018 at 04:56 PM

LO

*He loved visiting that library! Thank you for the kind words.*

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**Lori** - January 27, 2018 at 10:01 AM

CJ

“ Hi I'm your cousin Cynthia, my Little Brother is John. Charles Franklin and our mother Carrie and John Mack, our dad, were close and kept in touch when they lived in New York. Though most of our visits were by phone and a few in person, we knew we were family. I remember him stopping to pick us up as we were walking home sometimes from downtown, Brooklyn. Though his route took us only part way home, I recalled how thoughtful the gesture was and how happy mother was to share and help us understand how we were related. My maternal grandmother, Lula Hull- Crawford and Emma Hull- Starnes, Charles' grandmother, were sisters. Cousin Mary and Cousin Geneva ( Aunt Emma's daughters) were very dear to us too. I have fond memories of our frequent visits to Gastonia which included: My Little Brother John and my Mother's Sister, Aunt Mary Curtis. We felt so close to Charles Franklin for another reason too, Cousin Mary and Cousin Geneva shared stories from Charles Franklin, Daisy, ( Little Mary: Laurie and Ken's visits) it was like sitting and listening to the great Riot) Those Sister were animated and could make a story come alive. In their own way they kept us all close.



As I talked with Daisy today, we shared who had fallen asleep in dead, Daisy brought a sobering message to the forefront when she said, "but we are still here and we can make a difference, by keeping in touch, those of us who are left and make more good memories." I just loved her so much for saying that. What better way to honor our cousins memory than to just remember to show love. It could be an email, postcard or phone call, "Love Never Fails." Charles Franklin, you are remembered and loved, Rest In Peace.

May the Bible scripture at Rev 21:3-4 bring the family comfort.

Cwashin929@gmail.com

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Cynthia and John - January 25, 2018 at 06:59 PM

RW

*Hi My favorite Auntie, Cazembe and Laurie  
I'm sorry that I can't be there with you in body, BUT I'm there in spirit  
and thoughts.  
Tinky, you know you were always my favorite aunt and Charles was my  
favorite uncle.  
I will be in touch soon to check on you.  
Cazembe and Lori, take care of mom the way dad did , I know you  
always have.*

*Love Ronald*

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**ronald williams** - January 26, 2018 at 06:04 PM

CS

*I love you Uncle Charles and will miss you always. Thank you for being  
such an important part of my life. I don't know what I would have done  
without you and auntie Tenkie. My promise to you is that I will always  
do my best to try and help take care of Auntie. Rest in Peace! Love  
you! Cindy*

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**Cindy Saunders** - January 26, 2018 at 11:01 PM

LO

*Thanks, Ronald. Hopefully you are able to watch it online.*

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**Lori** - January 27, 2018 at 10:03 AM

KC

*Cherish these wonderful memories in the forefront of your heart and  
mind. It's ok to laugh about them, cry about them, but don't ever forget  
about them. My favorite verse in the Bible says "Weeping may endure  
for a night, but joy comes in the morning". I pray that God will comfort  
you all during this difficult time. Love, Kim Campbell.*

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**Kim Campbell** - January 28, 2018 at 07:23 AM

CF

*R.I.P.*

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**Catherine A. Palmer and Family** - April 13, 2018 at 04:23 PM