



## James Ralph Davis

November 26, 1932 - August 5, 2018

James Ralph Davis departed this earthly life for his heavenly home on Sunday, August 5, 2018. A native of Palmer Spring, Virginia, he was born November 26, 1932, as the third of seven children to the late William and Josephine Coleman Davis. He was educated in the public schools of Mecklenberg County, Virginia, and was a graduate from East End High School. Upon graduation, he entered Morgan State College (now Morgan State University) in Baltimore, Maryland. A proud and duty-bound American, he interrupted his education and enlisted into the United States Air Force. Assigned to the 363rd Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina, James served as a fighter jet Aircraft Technician and engineer. After four years of service in the Air Force, he received an honorable discharge and moved to New York where he was employed with TWA Airlines and Ramp Service at LaGuardia Airport.

After a short period, he returned to South Carolina and entered Morris College where he earned a B.S. Degree in Biology and later accepted an Athletic Director and teaching position at Dennis High School in Bishopville, South Carolina. After leaving Dennis High School, he then accepted a position as an Insurance Consultant and was sent to Chicago for further studies and certification at Dale Carnegie School of Positive Thinking. Following that study, he then worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as a Sales Consultant. He became a three-time Millionaire Producer and Member of the

Round Table. He completed additional studies at the University of South Carolina where he received his Certification for CLU.

After ten years with Metropolitan Life Insurance, James joined the South Carolina State Budget and Control Board. Serving as an Assistant Director, he was then promoted to Director of Customer Relations for the South Carolina Employees Insurance Program. While still serving in this capacity he was appointed by the former Governor Carroll Campbell to serve in a dual capacity as Consultant and Commissioner for Richland County Recreation Commission. After six months he was unanimously elected Chair. He retired from the state government in the year 2000, after thirty-nine years of service. During his subsequent retirement, he served as Chairman Emeritus of the Richland County Recreation Board of Commissioners.

Learning to love the Lord at an early age, James joined Roanoke Baptist Church, and many years later joined First Cavalry Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, where he worshipped with this beloved wife and family.

In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by two sisters: Isabelle Garnis Davis and Lillie Alexander; and a brother, William Davis, Jr.

He leaves to cherish his memories his loving wife, Dr. Vivian S. Davis of the home; three daughters: Jamella Williams of Columbia, Tara Davis of Atlanta, Georgia, and Sharon Hanks of Columbia; two sons: Allen Kearney of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Alton Davis of Columbia; five grandchildren: Kia Williams, Kiana (Vince) Sneed, Ian Kearney, Janais Davis, and Cristofher Griffin; two great grandchildren: Mauri Williams and Jaylen Johnson; three sisters: Augusta Faines of Bronx, New York, Sarah (Douglas) Hanks of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Alice (Henry) Walters of Richmond, Virginia; a sister-in-law, Lalla Davis of Charlotte, North Carolina; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



# Cemetery Details

**Fort Jackson National Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Family Visitation

**AUG 12.** 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>

### Public Viewing

**AUG 13.** 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

First Calvary Baptist Church  
1401 Pine Street  
Columbia, SC

### Celebration of Life

**AUG 13.** 11:30 AM (ET)

First Calvary Baptist Church  
1401 Pine Street  
Columbia, SC

## Graveside service

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AUG 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fort Jackson National Cemetery

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Ralph Davis*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *I extend my deepest condolences to the Davis Family. I just found out that Mr. Davis gained his wings to be with the lord. I have good memories of Mr. Davis. My inlaws live in Columbia and one Saturday morning I decided to get breakfast from McDonalds. I couldn't help but to notice a group of distinguished men sitting in the corner having a good time talking. They were talking about Gamecock VS Clemson football. While waiting on my order, I decided to walk over and join the conversation. We laughed and laughed about the comments supporting each team. Mr. Davis, told me stop back by the next time I'm in town. That's were they hang out every day he said. I am so thankful for Mr. Davis welcoming me into his awesome group of friends and making me feel welcomed and special. Rest In Peace Sir! Respectfully, Harold D. Butts, Jr.*

**Harold Butts** - December 31, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ *I am saddened to learn of the loss of your father. Sending love and prayers to your family.*

**Michelle Hurley** - August 17, 2018 at 07:15 AM



“ *My sincere condolence to the Davis family. Jim was so humorous, kind and caring. He will truly be missed. Please be assured that God will comfort, protect and cover you in this time of bereavement. All my love. Dr. Ronnie Hopkins*

**Dr. Ronnie Hopkins** - August 12, 2018 at 04:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Ralph Davis.*



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August 11, 2018 at 02:28 PM



“ *My heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the Davis Family.*

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**Nkechi Scott** - August 10, 2018 at 06:57 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss, Mr. Davis was a pleasure to work with. My prayers are with the family during this difficult time.*

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**Cindy Shirey** - August 10, 2018 at 12:49 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*With deepest sympathy,*

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**CaSandra Spigner** - August 10, 2018 at 08:00 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences to you all Sharon. A long time resident of Meadowlake... he will be missed. Prayers from The Bowens.*

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**Stephen Bowen and Family** - August 10, 2018 at 12:10 AM

SO

“ Mrs. Davis and family sorry for your loss. We are praying for God strength for you and your family. Sandra Solomon and family.



Solomon - August 09, 2018 at 11:26 PM



“ Glorious Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Ralph Davis.



August 09, 2018 at 02:19 PM

PJ

“ Condolences to the family of Mr. Jim Davis (Jamella Williams).

Pamala Jackson - August 08, 2018 at 03:07 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Ralph Davis.



August 08, 2018 at 01:51 PM

AD

“ *Ms. Jamella I'm sorry for your loss, will keep you and your family in prayer.*

*Angela Davis and Jazmine Diamond*

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**Angela Davis** - August 07, 2018 at 04:26 PM

Jl

*Dear Jamella and Family, I am praying for God's strength for you during this time of sorrow. May the sweet memories of your father give you peace. With much Love,*

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**Joel and Loraine Ingram** - August 12, 2018 at 02:55 PM