

Celebrating the Life of

# Joseph Nathaniel Branch

"JOE BOY"



**PROOF**

Sunrise: July 14, 1939 ~ Sunset: April 28, 2023

Thursday, May 4, 2023 | 10:00 A.M.

**THE ADAMS CHAPEL**

510 Stephenson Avenue | Savannah, GA 31405

# Celebrated Life

## Joseph (Joe Boy) Nathaniel Branch



*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.” John 14: 1- 4*

Mr. Joseph Nathaniel Branch, affectionately known as ‘Joe Boy’, put on his wings and took flight to his heavenly home on April 28, 2023, surrounded by his family and friends. “For this God is our God, forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.” – Psalm 48: 14.

Joseph Nathaniel Battise Branch was born on July 7, 1939 to Ms. Mattie Branch and Mr. Nathaniel Battise, both who preceded him in death.

Joseph was educated in the Savannah-Chatham County school system and graduated from Alfred E. Beach in 1957. Joseph heard the call of the Holy Spirit at an early age and responded “Here I am Lord,” and was baptized at Minna’s Landing in White Bluff. He served diligently in the Choir. He was united in Holy Matrimony to “the love of his life” Sallie Middleton and God blessed their union with two daughters.

Joseph Branch was a well-respected, and a true leader of men. After graduating from Beach High School, he worked as a cement finisher until he was drafted into the United States Army on May 8, 1962, and he began his Army career as a telephone lineman.

In 1964, Joseph reenlisted and was stationed to Fort Jackson, SC for Drill Sergeant School. Assigned to South Vietnam in 1965, he was awarded several commendations including the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal of Valor, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1965, Joseph served a 4-year tour in Aschaffenburg, Germany and was promoted to Staff Sergeant. He was then assigned in 1969 to Advanced Drill Sergeant Academy in Fort Ord, California, upon completion he was promoted to Sergeant First Class.

In January 1971, he was assigned to the Boston Recruiting Command as Station Commander in Plymouth, Massachusetts. While in Massachusetts, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northeastern University.

In July 1977, Joseph was assigned to Jacksonville, Florida where he served as Station Commander in Vidalia, Georgia and was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant (E-8). He was also reunited with Second Mount Peasant Baptist Church.

After returning to his second tour of duty in Korea for one year, he was then assigned to Hunter Army Airfield as First Sergeant over A Company 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Combat Aviation. In 1982, Joseph was selected to attend the Sergeant Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas; instead, he chose to retire on January 1, 1983.

Soon after he was offered a position with the United States Postal Service; where after three years, he was trained and promoted to Level 15 Supervisor. Joseph retired from the United States Postal Service in 1999.

In 1990, Joseph was ordained as a Deacon under Reverend Anthony Harris. Joseph was faithful and loyal to the calling and followed the commandments of God. He always did as the Lord commanded, always praying for his family, as well as the whole world. Joseph was loyal to his members and the surrounding community through visitations, prayers, shopping- no matter what the circumstance called for he was always there until his health started to fail.

Joseph made his transition to Jerusalem on Friday, April 28, 2023.

He was preceded in death by Charles and Princess Battise (Great Grandfather and Mother), Francean L. Haynes (Grandmother), Nathaniel Battise (Father), Phillip Mack (2<sup>nd</sup> Father), Mattie Branch Mack (Mother), 3 Brothers-in-law (Daniel Dambeck, Moses Middleton, and Arthur Hall), 3 Sisters-in-law (Viola Middleton, Anna Harris, and Elise Gibbons), 3 nephews (Craig Harris, Johnny Ferguson, and Snelson Harris, Jr.), and several aunts and an uncle.

He leaves behind to cherish a lifetime of memories, a beloved and devoted wife, Mrs. Sallie M. Branch; 3 daughters, Mrs. Yolanda (Samuel) Roundtree, Ms. Anita M. Branch-Bell, and Mrs. Ivona Renee' (Anthony) Anderson; 2 grandchildren, Mrs. Nicole (Matthew) Kral and Anthony J. Anderson; 2 Goddaughters, Mrs. Lillian (Reverend Solomon) Washington and Ms. Scheherezade Roundtree; 2 sisters, Mrs. Emma Hall and Ms. Dorothy Mitchell; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Delores Dambeck; 2 nephews, Mr. Lewis (Joan) Hall and Mr. Melvin Mitchell; and a niece, Ms. Pamela Mitchell; a special friend, Mr. Otis (Delores) Johnson; and a host of cousins, friends and co-workers.

# *Order of Service*

Presiding, Rev. James C. Briscoe,  
Pastor, Zion White Bluff Missionary Baptist Church

Musical Prelude

Processional  
Invocation

“Goodness of God” by CeCe Winans  
Rev. Jerry Wright, Pastor Emeritus  
Zion White Bluff Missionary Baptist

Solo

Rev. Sammie E. Kenty

Scriptures

Old Testament

Rev. Dr. Rita Herring, Pastor  
Glorified Miracle Deliverance Church – Estil, SC

New Testament

Rev. Vernon Galloway, Pastor  
First Union Missionary Baptist Church

Reflections

As a Deacon

As a Classmate

As a Patriot

Deacon Clinton Owens  
Mr. John Henry Haynes  
Deacon Otis Johnson

Acknowledgements

Sis. Kathy Thomas

Musical Selection

Evg. Felicia Calhoun & Sis. Daphne Coleman

Words of Comfort

Rev. Lawrence Sams, Pastor  
Second Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Joe’s Last Song to Family and Friends

“Home” by Chris Tomlin

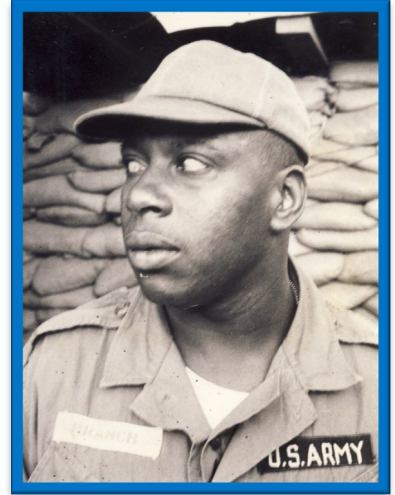
Recessional

Committal

Pastor Lawrence Sams

*Service of Interment*

Beaufort National Cemetery | 1601 Boundary St. | Beaufort, South Carolina



# *My Beloved Husband...*

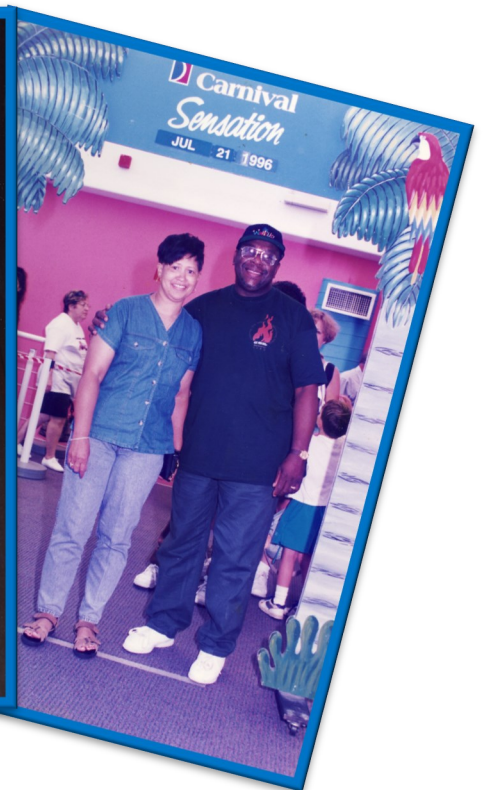
*God looked around his garden and found an empty place  
He then looked down upon the Earth and saw your tired face*

*He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest  
With the help of His angels they flew you to your rest.*

*God's garden must be beautiful, He always take the best  
He knew you were suffering, he knew you were in pain  
He knew that you would never get well on Earth again.*

*He saw the road was getting rough and the hills too hard to climb  
He closed your weary eyes and whispered "Peace be thine"  
It broke our hearts to loose you but you didn't go alone  
Part of us went with you the day God called you home.*

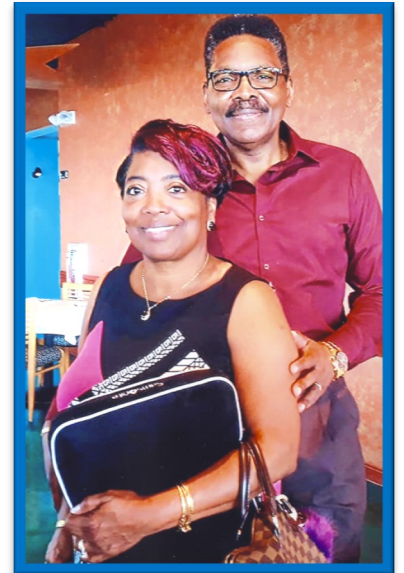
*Wife*



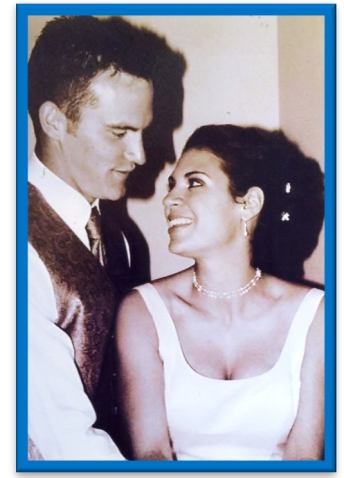
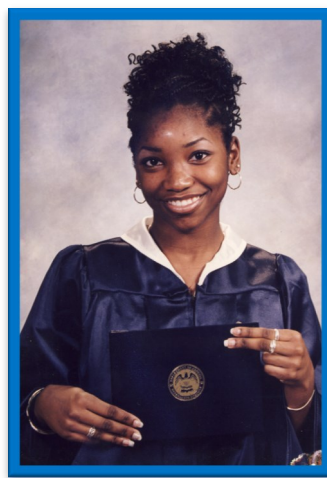
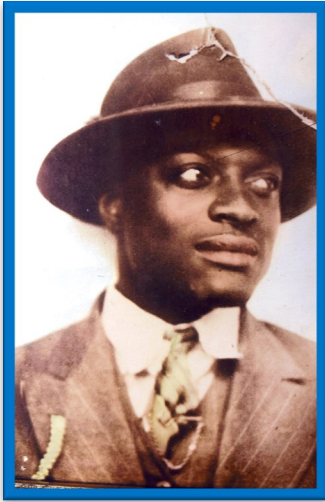
# *Dear Dad, Your Loss Has Been So Hard To Bear*

*Dear Dad, as our tears fall  
We think back to time long gone  
When you would be the Strength  
That our lives were built upon.  
We remember all the happiness  
You brought throughout the years  
And although they are  
the sweetest memories,  
We cannot stop our tears.  
You were always our protector-  
Our advisor and our guide  
And Life could never be the same  
Without you to walk beside.  
So, Dad as we pay this visit  
To your resting place today;  
We'd like to thank you for the caring  
That we could never repay.*













## *Miss Me But Let Me Go*

*When I come to the end of the road,  
And the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in gloom-filled rooms,  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little - but not too long,  
And not with your head bowed low;  
Remember the love that we once shared  
Miss me - but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we all must take,  
And each must go alone.  
It's all part of the Master's plan,  
A step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick at heart,  
Go to the friends we know,  
And busy your sorrows in good deeds,  
Miss me - but let me go.*

## Honorary Pallbearers

Jerry Battise  
Marcus Sams  
J. B. Gibbons

Lewis Hall, Jr.  
Ronnie Hall  
Charles Harris

John Henry Haynes  
Melvin Mitchell  
Herbert Battise III

## Acknowledgements

The family of Joseph Nathaniel Branch extends our deepest appreciation for your prayers, phone calls, visits and other acts of kindness and support you have extended to us during these difficult times. May God continue to bless you and keep you in His loving care.

We also extend thanks to the following medical professionals and caregivers: Dr. Jules Victor, III, M.D. and office staff; Fresenius Dialysis; Francina and Company; Vickies's Helping Hands; Enhabit Home Health; Help at Home; Help People First Transportation; Transport Care Service; Center for Hyperbarics and Wound Care; and Savannah Hospice, Inc.

Repast to follow the Service for all not going to the Committal at Second Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

In Lieu of Flowers ...

The family requests that memorial donations be made to:  
Second Mount Pleasant Baptist Church  
14022 Coffee Bluff Road, Savannah, Georgia 31419



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