Honorary Pallbearers

Donald Stevenson
Jasper Gerald Jr.
Rev. Anthony Stevenson
Edgar Stevenson
Bruce Stevenson
Rev. Sylvester Stevenson Magwood

Active Pallbearers

South Carolina Honor Guard

Floral Bearers

The Women’s Missionary Society of Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church

Acknowledgment

The family of the Honorable Reverend Clementa C. Pinckney would like to thank each one of you for all acts of kindness rendered to our family during this difficult time. To President and Mrs. Obama, Vice President and Dr. Biden, Bishop Norris, Presiding Elder Goff, other ministers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the members of Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church, Governor Haley, colleagues in the South Carolina Legislature, Mayor Riley, the citizens of Charleston, South Carolina, other elected officials and to all of you who have prayed for us; We Thank You. A part of our burdens have been lifted, our frowns have been replaced by smiles and our pain has been soothed by your loving support. May God continue to bless each one of you in a special way.

Services Entrusted To:

Leevy’s
1831 Taylor Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803)771-7799

I. S. Leevy Johnson
Owner & Director

Chris Leevy Johnson
President & Managing Director

Lower Richland Chapel
9120 Garners Ferry Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
(803) 776-6922

Leverette A. Williams II
General Manager
When we woke up on Wednesday, June 17th, I never knew our lives would change so drastically. God realized that this day was different from any other. There is no reason Malana and I should have traveled to Charleston with you on that day. But we wanted to spend quality time with you, in such a special way.

Who knew when we sat in the office, the unthinkable would occur? But as I sit back and reflect, I am so grateful to God that He gave us the time to spend on that day.

You meant so much to me and the girls. You were our world. I do not know how to think about moving forward, but I know I must! I have tried to be strong for the girls, but this is so hard for all of us! You promised me you would never leave me!
You promised me we would be together for years to come!
You promised me we would watch our children grow, get married, and have children of their own.
You promised me that we would grow old together and spend our latter years without the demands of the Church or the State.

I feel robbed, cheated, and cut short. I feel badly that our girls will never have their father to watch them grow.
But I am thankful for one consolation that your life was not in vain.
You taught us through your example that we must trust in God in all things.
Today, tomorrow, and in the days to come, we will believe that God will make a way for us!
We believe that God used you to be a beacon of hope to transform our family, the Church, the State, and our world. We believe that your life mattered. It mattered to us, and it will forever change the culture and mindset of the world.

You were our hero and now you are our Angel. Watch over us in the coming days.
Guide and direct us to follow the proper ways. Inspire us through a rainbow to believe that hope is still alive. Encourage us through a songbird that our love will never die.

I will not let go of what we have shared. The memories of our life together will comfort through the years.

Love,
Your wife, soul mate, confidant, and friend,
Jen—

To My Daddy:

When someone loves you they care
Even if they are not there
They motivate you two prosper and believe
In any of your dreams
They watch over you day and night
Two make you are doing alright
They believe in you and treat you well
And I may not show it but he won’t care
This person I am talking about here today
Is my dear father who passed away
And although he may be gone
He’s there with me all day and night long.
I will always remember and love you.

Eliana—

Dear Daddy:

I know you were shot at the Church
and you went to Heaven.
I love you so much!
I know you love me
and I know that you know that I love you too.
You have done so much for me.
I can’t say it all. You will be watching over me
And you will be in my heart. I love you!

Love your baby girl and grasshopper,
Malana
The Honorable Reverend Clementa Carlos Pinckney, born July 30, 1973, the son of Mr. John Pinckney and the late Theopia Stevenson Aikens of Ridgeland, South Carolina was educated in the public schools of Jasper County. At a young age, it was obvious to his parents and family that Clementa was not like other children. He was driven, motivated, and determined to excel at everything he put his mind to doing. He was studious, loved to read, and maintained a passion for learning.

The Honorable Reverend Pinckney left the familiar comforts of Ridgeland, Jasper County, and the Lowcountry in pursuit of educational excellence. He loved his alma mater, Allen University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. While at Allen University, Clementa found not only his voice but also his passion for preaching the Word of God and politics. He served as Freshman Class President, Student Body President, and Senior Class President. In fact, Ebony Magazine recognized the him as one the “Top College Students in America.” During his junior year, he received a Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson Summer Research Fellowship in the fields of public policy and international affairs.

The Honorable Reverend Pinckney’s zest for knowledge and passion as a lifelong learner motivated him to receive a graduate fellowship to the University of South Carolina where he earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration. To better equip himself for the work of ministry, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Reverend Pinckney was actively working on a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Reverend Pinckney’s unusual, peculiar disposition was made evident when he answered the call to preach at the age of thirteen and received his first appointment to pastor at the age of eighteen. He loved the Lord, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the people of God. He has served the following charges: Young’s Chapel AME-Irmo, The Port Royal Circuit-Beaufort, Mount Hor AME-Yonges Island, Presiding Elder of the Wateree District and Campbell Chapel AME, Bluffton. He was serving with distinction as the pastor of historic Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston, South Carolina at the time of his untimely death. In the South Carolina Annual Conference, the Honorable Reverend Pinckney was a leader among pastors. He served as Chairperson of the Conference Board of Examiners among other notable committees. Also, in the Seventh Episcopal District, he was a Pastor-leader on all levels.

The Honorable Reverend Pinckney was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1996 at the age of twenty-three. In 2000, he was elected to the State Senate at the age of twenty-seven. He was one of the youngest persons and the youngest African-American in South Carolina to be elected to the State Legislature. He represented Jasper, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, and Hampton Counties. His committee assignments included: the Senate Finance, Banking and Insurance, Transportation, Medical Affairs and Corrections and Penology. Washington Post columnist, David Broder, called the Honorable Reverend Pinckney a “political spirit lifter for surprisingly not becoming cynical about politics.” The Honorable Reverend Pinckney served on a number of community organizations, boards, and commissions over the years. He was very proud to serve on the Board of Directors of Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company. He was a distinguished members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

The Honorable Reverend Pinckney leaves behind: his beloved wife, Jennifer Benjamin Pinckney; their two beautiful daughters, Eliana Yvette and Malana Elise Pinckney; his maternal grandmother, Gracie S. Broome of Mullins, South Carolina; his fathers, John Pinckney and Lynear Aikens, Sr. of Ridgeland, South Carolina; his mother-in-law, who was just like his mother, Cleo M. Benjamin of Jackson, South Carolina; his father-in-law, Frank Benjamin of Jackson, South Carolina; six siblings: Ralph Stevenson of Lacey, Washington, Carmellana Dupont of Ridgeeland, South Carolina, Kenya (Arica) Pinckney of Grafenwoer, Germany, Lynear (Lynear) Aikens, Jr. of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Johnette (Dexter) Martinez of Irmo, South Carolina, Marvin Aikens of Savannah, Georgia; one brother-in-law, Eric (Leila) Benjamin; his grand aunts Lee and Louise Pollins of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; his grand aunt and uncle Donald and Emma Stevenson of Ridgeeland, South Carolina; four long-time friends who were as close as brothers: the Reverend Dr. Kylon Jerome Middleton, the Reverend Chris Vaughn, the Honorable Reverend Joe Neal, and the Honorable Gerald Malloy; a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.
The Order of Celebration
Friday, June 26, 2015
11:00 a.m.
TD Arena - Charleston, South Carolina

Pre-Services Music 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Lowcountry Voices - Sandra Barnhardt & Nathan L. Nelson

Musical Prelude ..................................................... Medley of Spiritual Songs
The Processional 11:45 a.m.

The Call to Worship ..................................................... The Right Reverend John Richard Bryant
Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Presiding Prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District of the AME Church

Musical Selection .... “He’s Done So Much for Me” ........... Mother Emanuel AME Church Choir

Reflections from the State Capitol.............................................. Chaplain James I. St. John
Chaplain South Carolina Senate
The Honorable Gerald Malloy, Senate District 29
Chesterfield, Darlington, Lee, and Marlboro Counties
The Honorable Reverend Joseph Neal, House District 70
Richland and Sumter Counties

Episcopal Expressions....................................................... The Right Reverend John Richard Bryant
Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Presiding Prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District of the AME Church

Reflections from the Clergy..................................................... The Reverend Dr. Ronnie Elijah Brailsford
Pastor, Bethel AME Church
The Reverend Dr. John H. Gillison
Retired, Presiding Elder
The Reverend Dr. George F. Flowers
Executive Director, AME Global Witness & Ministry

Mother Emanuel Church Resolution and Tribute.................... Mother Emanuel AME Church
Musical Selection .................. “How Excellent” ............... Mother Emanuel AME Church Choir
Acknowledgement of Civic and Religious Leaders ................... Sister Tylaunda Corbin
Musical Tribute..............“Permit Now, Oh Lord: My Soul To Enter”...................Dr. Greg McPherson
Reflections from the Friends, the Church, & the Family: The Reverend Chris Vaughn, Friend
Brother William Dudley Gregorie, Church
The Reverend Dr. Kylon Jerome Middleton, Spiritual Brother
Brother Ronnie Johnson, Cousin
The Reverend Donald Sheftal, Cousin

Order of Eulogistic Services
Services Officiated By:
The Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr., Presiding Elder
The Edisto District of the South Carolina Annual Conference
Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Opening Selection........... “My Help” ............ Lowcountry Voices - Sandra Barnhardt & Nathan L. Nelson
Opening Sentences............................ The Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr.
Presiding Elder, The Edisto District

The Hymn of Comfort
The Choir and Congregation........... “It is Well” .......... The Reverend Dr. Charles Watkins
Pastor, Morris Brown AME Church

The Invocation ..................................................... The Reverend Joseph Postell
Presiding Elder, The Lancaster District

The Anthem ............... “O God Our Help in Ages Past” ............... Mother Emanuel AME Church Choir

The Old Testament Scripture............................ The Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon
Pastor, Macedonia AME Church
The Reverend Dr. Juenarrl Keith
Presiding Elder, The Mount Pleasant District

The Epistle ..................................................... The Reverend Gregory M. Kinsey
Pastor, Saint John AME Church

The Gospel ..................................................... The Reverend Dr. Juenarrl Keith
Presiding Elder, The Mount Pleasant District

Eulogistic Hymn ..... “My Hope Is Built” ............... Mother Emanuel AME Church Choir

The Eulogy........................................................................ President Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

Prayer of Comfort................................. The Reverend Joseph Darby
Presiding Elder, The Beaufort District

Acknowledgement on Behalf of the Family.................... The Reverend Dr. Chris Leevy Johnson
Leevys Funeral Home

Recessional ...... “You’ve Got to Answer to Your Name” ............ Pastor H. E. Dixon & Company

Postlude

Committal, Prayer, Benediction and Interment
Saint James A.M.E. Church Cemetery
Marion, South Carolina