

## Obituary of Mr. Gerard Peeples

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, The righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, But unto all them also that love his appearing.” II Timothy 4:7-8 Mr. Gerard Peeples was born in Barnwell, SC on January 25, 1946. He was the son of the late Cleveland Peeples and Alma Harvey Peeples. Gerard was married to the late Helen Byrd Peeples who preceded him in death. He departed this life on Thursday, July 18, 2024.

To know Gerard was to love him! He was educated in Barnwell County Public Schools, where he discovered his love for music. He was drafted into the United States Army, where he served in the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged. After returning to the States, he continued his education at Claflin University where he earned a B.S. in Music -French Education. Gerard also earned advanced degrees at Winthrop University (M.Ed – Music - French Education) and at University of South Carolina (M.Ed – Educational Leadership/Supervision). Because of his love for music and children, he pursued a teaching career at Allen University; the Continuing Education Center at Fort Jackson; and finally at Fairfield County Public Schools, where he was named District Teacher of the Year in 2005. Gerard’s love for music wasn’t just for the children – he used his gift for the Lord first and foremost. He shared this gift with various ministries as Minister/Director of Music, to include Ridgewood Missionary Baptist Church. His love for people didn’t stop there – he was a member of Columbia Alumni Chapter of Claflin University; South Carolina Music Education Association; SC Palmetto Teacher’s Association; and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity – Columbia Chapter.

In addition to his parents and wife, Gerard was preceded in death by three brothers, Theodore Peeples, Cleveland Peeples, and Willie Edward Peeples; and one brother -in -law , Willie Gray.

He leaves to cherish fond memories: his daughters, Stephanie Renee Jones (Ron) and Deirdre Strange; three grandchildren, Bryson Strange, Jaxson Jones, Jordyn Strange; two sisters , Alma Peeples Gray and Mattie Peeples Carpenter (William); one sister - in -law, Eloise Peeples ; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.