



Celebrating the Life of Senator Ralph Anderson, Sr.

Sunrise
11-02-1927

Sunset
11-30-2019

Thursday, December 5, 2019 - 1:00pm
Springfield Baptist Church
600 East McBee Avenue
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

Order of Service

Dr. John H. Corbitt, Presiding

Prelude

Hymn.....*Goin' Up Yonder*.....Springfield Baptist Church Choir

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament.....Reverend Terry A. King
New Testament....Bishop Samuel Zimmerman, Jr.

Prayer.....Minister Hester Scott

Solo.....*I Won't Complain*Ms. Sherry Caldwell

Memories (Please limit to three minutes.)

The Honorable Glenn Reese, SC State Senator, District 11

The Honorable Karl B Allen, SC State Senator, District 7

The Honorable Leola Robinson-Simpson, SC State Representative, District 25

The Honorable Lillian B Flemming, Greenville City Council

Recitation.....*The Dash*..... Nikki Anderson

Memories (Please limit to three minutes.)

Deacon Eugene Harrison, Friend

Mr. Ray Martin, Friend

Deacon Darrel Thomas, Friend and Deacon

Dr. E. D. Lawson, Friend

Reverend Sean Dogan, Friend

Selection.....*If I Can Help Somebody*.....Springfield Baptist Church Choir

Memories (Please limit to three minutes.)
Brittany Lorena Anderson, Granddaughter
Jean Goodlow, Cousin

Solo.....*I Can't Even Walk Without You Holding My Hand*.....Deacon Deothus Jeter

Prayer.....Christian Foggie, Great-Grandson

Words of Comfort.....Dr. O.T. Hill
Beaverdam Baptist Church

Closing Prayer.....Dr. John H. Corbitt

Recessional.....Springfield Baptist Church Choir

Interment

Military Rites

Committal/Prayer/Benediction

New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery
619 Greenville Drive
Williamston, SC 29607

Mr. Ralph Anderson, Sr.

A Life Well-Lived in Service

Mr. Ralph Anderson, Sr., was born November 2, 1927, to the late Annie Mae Mattison Anderson and Johnny Anderson of Anderson County, South Carolina. He was the youngest of two children. His sister, Mrs. Johnnye Mae Anderson Robinson, preceded him in death. On Saturday, November 30, 2019, he left his earthly home and received his wings of eternal rest.

Ralph grew up on 9 Calvary Street in the West End Community of Greenville. He attended Sterling High School and after graduating from there, enrolled in Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. After receiving his Bachelor's Degree from Allen, he joined the U.S. Army as a non-commissioned officer whose duties included Troop Information and Education. He served first at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and later at several bases in Germany during the Korean War.

In the years following his return from Germany, he met the love of his life, Geraldine Lewis, whom he married. Their union was blessed with three children - Ralph, Jr., (deceased), Valerie, and Joel. Ralph was a loving father who took great pride to instill morals, manners, and an unwavering work ethic in his children. His personal work ethic was evident in his own work history which started as a mail carrier in Greenville. After 16 years as mail carrier, Ralph climbed the ranks within the United States Postal Service (USPS) to become a Specialist with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1969. He was responsible for processing cases in Upstate South Carolina and in parts of Georgia. He further climbed the ranks when he made a significant and lasting mark on the employment landscape in South Carolina as the first African American postmaster in Upstate South Carolina in 1973.

He held that groundbreaking position for a decade and after retiring in 1983, he remained influentially involved with the postal service through his tenure on Promotion Review Boards and Postmaster Selection Boards. Additionally, upon retirement from the USPS, it was his intention to pursue his passion in public service in a more active capacity as a public servant in local and state government .

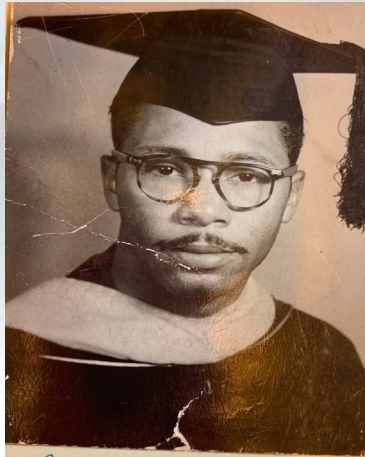
Right away, in 1983, he won the first of his two terms as City Councilman in Greenville. From there, he sought and won election in 1991 to the South Carolina House of Representatives, where he served for five years. His service to the community took another step upward when he won election in 1997 to become the State Senator representing District 7 in Greenville. Winning State Senator of District 7 was especially noteworthy because it marked the first time that a Democratic candidate defeated an incumbent Republican candidate in District 7. Ralph held that seat for 10 years and used his political influence and membership on numerous Greenville-based boards and commissions to help his constituents and the citizens of Greenville find employment, acquire social services, and other requested assistance.

In all of Ralph's political offices, he was known for being open to ideas other than his own. He was a soft-spoken, quiet, confident man who often worked to build bridges rather than walls among legislators. One of the best ways he expressed concern for his fellow men and women was gaining bi-partisan support for passage of a major bill that required hospitals to collect and report vital information about rates of infectious diseases at their facilities. The passage of this bill earned him the Southern Health Association's Legislator of the Year Award.

Ralph's life of service also earned him walls full of other awards and expressions of gratitude, including the Whitney Young Humanitarian Award, an "A+" rating from the South Carolina Education Association for his exceptional support of education throughout the state, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Citizen of the Year Award, and the W.F. Gibson Freedom Fighter Award.

There is so much more that could be said about the many public and private ways that Ralph assisted others and to express full appreciation for the fact that the life of the Honorable Ralph Anderson, Sr. was indeed "a life well-lived in service."

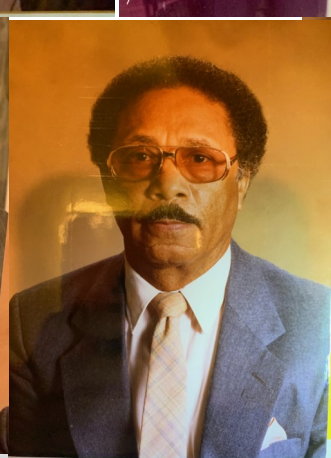
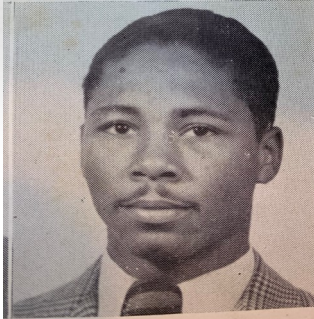
Left to cherish his precious memories are his wife, Geraldine; a daughter, Valerie Anderson of Greenville, SC; a son, Joel (Darlene) Anderson of Greenville, SC; a daughter-in-law, Diane Anderson of Greenville; ten grandchildren Nikki Anderson, Toni (Tony) James, Joy Anderson, Ralph Anderson, III, Johnny Anderson, Brittany Anderson, Jovan Anderson, J.J. Anderson, Justin Anderson, and Jay Anderson; 16 great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.



*Ralph Anderson, Sr.
College Graduation
(Allen University)*

SENIOR

RALPH HENDERSON
"All mankind loves a lover"
Football 1943-44; Basketball
1943-44; Band 1941-44; Dra-
matic Club 1941-44; Sports
Editor "Pinta" and "Torch"
1944-45.







Anderson wins House District 23 primary

By Jo Fleischer
News staff writer

In a close run to the wire, City Councilman Ralph Anderson won the House District 23 Democratic primary Tuesday, defeating County Councilman Fletcher Smith, 406-753, according to unofficial results.

With no Republican opponent, Anderson, 63, is virtually assured of victory in the June 25 special election.

However, Smith said he may oppose Anderson again for the District 23 seat in an upcoming general election.

Anderson, a retired postmaster, said he will remain a City Council candidate as he makes plans to step into the House seat formerly held by Ennis Fant. Fant resigned this year after pleading guilty to conspiring to sell his vote as part of the federal anti-corruption probe of the Legislature.

Anderson said he had predicted a larger margin of victory. He also said his home precinct at the Phillis Wheatley Center, where the heaviest balloting occurred, made the difference Tuesday.

"I hope that when I go to Columbia, I will not have another race like that," he said.

With the voter turnout extremely light in a district with about 7,000 registered voters, Anderson would have led by just 14 votes without the 28-vote edge he gained at the Phillis Wheatley polling site, which is also Smith's home precinct.

Anderson said the close margin was due to his joining the race after Smith had won.



Ralph Anderson thanks his supporters during a victory celebration Tuesday night

District 23

	Anderson	Smith
Greenville 4	72	53
Greenville 5	15	32
Greenville 6	31	61
Greenville 7	31	15
Greenville 8	82	95
Greenville 9	67	97
Greenville 10	16	13
Greenville 12	121	61
Greenville 13	38	28
Greenville 14	326	287
G. villa 24/Mission	4	7

sought two seats simultaneously.

He said he plans to speak to Mayor Bill Workman on Wednesday about when an election should be held to fill the District 3 City Council seat. But, Anderson said, he expects to remain a candidate for the seat in the May 21 city election.

Being re-elected to a third

election will allow voters in the district enough time to find a suitable City Council candidate for the seat, Anderson said.

Anderson said he also plans to concentrate on forging relationships with members of the Greenville Legislative Delegation and on tackling education, health care and economic development.



RALPH ANDERSON

Senator says a leader listens well, helps others

By Dan Hoover
STAFF WRITER
dhoover@greenvillenews.com

The worst thing about legislative reapportionment isn't the threat to his political future, but the distraction from his lifetime motivation, just helping folks.

That's state Sen. Ralph Anderson's lament these days, as a mid-January federal courtroom showdown looms, one that will determine whether the Upstate's only black state senator will remain in a safely 50-50 black-white district or have to scrap for survival in one with a white majority.

Redistricting, forced by the 2000 Census that showed little growth in his Greenville District 7 since 1990, the lifelong Democrat says, represents the biggest challenge to his leadership this year.

Instead of helping senior citizens become eligible for state-paid prescription aid or steering troubled youths toward a better life, Anderson has been involved in protracted legislative sessions and, just before Christmas, deposition hearings over the reconfiguration of his district.

Representation of minorities aside, Anderson, 74, said that all of Greenville County has a stake in the outcome.

"Each senator, although he may show a little favoritism



GEORGE GARDNER / Staff

Ralph Anderson

level. It's proven that if we invest in education, we can improve the quality of life for all people."

Education, he said, provides a challenge in "that it requires no effort to stay in poverty, but it does require effort to be educated and get out of it. The quality of education will make the difference in most peoples' lives and we will save money that would go to the prison system."

That's part and parcel of his

took off late in life, following his retirement at age 55, after 30 years "and two months," with the U.S. Postal Service. He had been postmaster in Clemson and later, Greer. First came a seat on the Greenville City Council in 1983, then the state House in 1991. He was elected to the Senate in 1996, ousting a Republican incumbent.

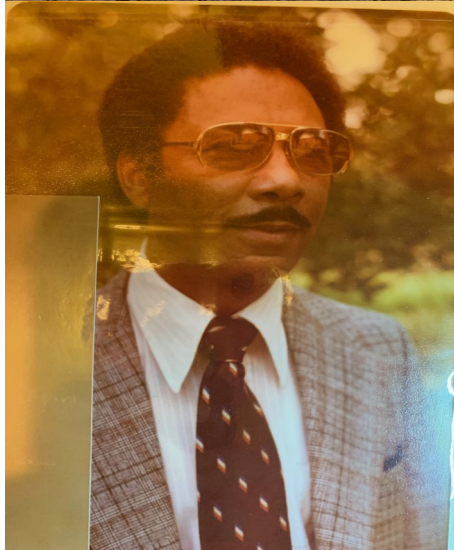
As one of the area's first five black letter carriers, Anderson

All this is rooted in a deeply religious upbringing.

Religion was instilled by his mother, Annie Mae, "a very, very, very religious" woman.

"She taught us early the fear of God and if we could be obedient to Him, we could overcome" the rules of a segregated era in which few jobs, virtually none of them good, were available to blacks.

"I give her credit for my success."





Pall Bearers

**Springfield Baptist Church Deacons and Trustees
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity**

Flower Attendants

**Springfield Baptist Church Deaconesses
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority**

Acknowledgement

Our family is sincerely grateful for your many prayers, acts of kindness and support shown during our time of sorrow and bereavement.

A special "Thank You" to his caretaker, Gwendolyn Gray,
and Interim Home Health Services.



Services Entrusted to
Watkins, Garrett & Woods Mortuary, Inc.
1011 Augusta Street
Greenville, SC 29605
(864) 242-1144