

*A Journey Begins...* "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

II Timothy 4:6

*Mr. Vernell Ragins*, on November 22, 1934, the youngest of ten children was born to the late Eula Lee Harvin Ragins and the late Elijah Ragins in Sumter, South Carolina. He received his formal education in the public schools of Sumter County. *Vernell* at an early age accepted Christ as his personal savior, joined and was baptized at Mount Zero Missionary Baptist Church in Paxville, SC. He was a faithful member until his health failed. In 1957, *Vernell* joined the United States Army and served two years of duty.

In 1965, he married Oree Gaymon and to this union three children were born, Senita, Darrell and Oreka. *Vernell* was a welder at Montague and C.F. Evans in Sumter, SC. He also spent some time in construction with ECB in Sumter, SC. On April 13, 2014, *Vernell* returned to his heavenly Father's arms at Tuomey Regional Medical Center in Sumter, SC.

In Heaven, he joins our Father; his parents, Eula Lee and Elijah; and his nine older siblings who preceded him in death, Theodore ("Ted"), Admiral, Eugene, Edward ("Eddie), Irethea ("Sis"), Leroy, Annie Mae, Levan ("Kent") and Amelia.

On Earth, he leaves to cherish his memory his devoted and caring wife of 24 years, Emma Nathaniel; two sons, Maurice Mack of Bishopville, SC and Darrell (Charlene) Ragins of Lorton, VA; two daughters, Senita Carter of Columbia, SC and Oreka Quintero of Matthews, NC; two step-daughters, one devoted Theresa (Levern) Wilson of Indian Trail, NC and Yolanda (Warren) Glover of Sumter, SC; Six grandchildren, Ryan, Angel, Myles, Xavier, Evan and his "little angel" Darah; Six step-grandchildren, Quinton, Alexis, Antwaun, Rakim, Spencer and one devoted step-grandson Sedrick ("Bay-Bay"); five step-great grandchildren, his "little buddy" Ny'kel, Mykeyra, Zykim, Travis and Caelyn; one special sister-in-law, Mary D. Ragins; two brothers-in-law; three sisters-in-law; loving nieces; nephews; a host of cousins, other relatives and friends.

A Journey Ends...