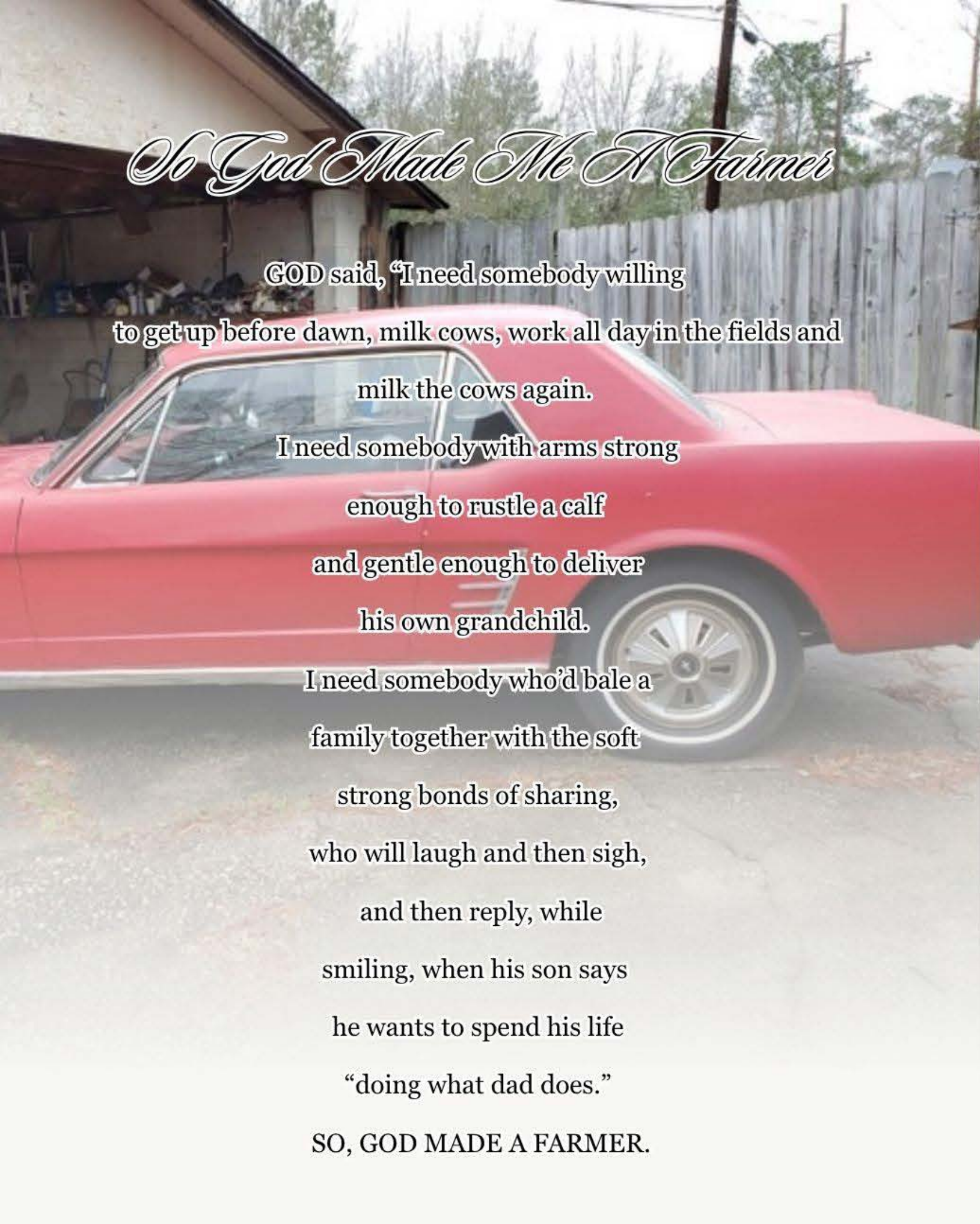




So God Made Me A Farmer

GOD said, "I need somebody willing
to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields and
milk the cows again.

I need somebody with arms strong
enough to rustle a calf
and gentle enough to deliver
his own grandchild.

I need somebody who'd bale a
family together with the soft
strong bonds of sharing,
who will laugh and then sigh,
and then reply, while
smiling, when his son says
he wants to spend his life
"doing what dad does."

SO, GOD MADE A FARMER.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude
"Jesus Promised Me A Home Over There"
Jennifer Hudson

Processional
"Safe in His Arms"
Rev. Milton Brunson & The Thompson Community Singers

Opening Hymn
Central Baptist Church

Old Testament
Job 1:21, Job 13:15
Reverend Carlton Dixon

New Testament
Philippians 4:13
Ephesians 4:32
Reverend Albert Kelly

Prayer-
Reverend Vernon Dixon

Solo
"May The Work I've Done Speak For Me"
Ronda Camille Bright

Remarks
'Amos & Andy', LightHouse Hospice
Dea. John Edwards
Carl Harris
Phil Stuckey
Grandchildren
David F. Rivers, Lodge #143
Will Kelly
Alburtus "CJ" Kelly
Clyde Rivers

Selection
Central Baptist Church

Words of Comfort
Pastor Ricky Ray Ezell

Recessional
Pastor Ricky Ray Ezell

Postlude
Committal, Prayer, Benediction

Internment
OrangeHill Methodist Church
3005 SC-261 Wedgefield SC, 29168

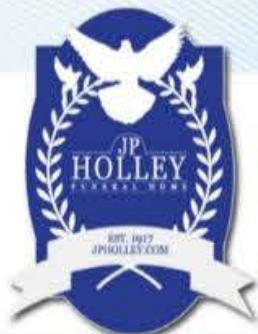
Repast
M.L. Smith Community Development Center
5213 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203

PALLBEARERS
Family & Friends

FLORAL BEARERS
Family & Friends

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

We, the family of Clifton Kelly., wish to express our deepest gratitude for the overwhelming love, support, and sympathy shown to us during this time of sorrow. Your comforting words, prayers and kind gestures have been a great source of strength. Though our hearts are heavy with grief, we find comfort in knowing how much Clifton was loved and cherished by so many. Your presence and kindness remind us that we do not walk this path alone.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

COLUMBIANE CHAPEL
8010 Florence Rd
Columbia, SC 29203
803-704-0888

COLUMBIA ST. CHAPEL
8132 Garrison Ferry Rd
Columbia, SC 29209
803-695-1666

ST. MATTHEW'S CHAPEL
102 Church Street
St. Matthews, SC 29135
803-874-3317

BISHOPVILLE CHAPEL
114 East Church Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
803-484-7245

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COMMEMORATING THE *Life, Labor and Legacy of*

CLIFTON KELLY
"Nick"

MARCH 17, 1928 - OCTOBER 12, 2025

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025
11:00 AM

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
3625 CLEMENT RD, COLUMBIA, SC 29203
PASTOR RICKEY RAY EZELL, SR.

Reflection of His Life

DEACON CLIFTON “NICK” KELLY

Mr. Clifton Kelly also known as Deacon Kelly and "Nick" was born in Sumter County, South Carolina, on March 17, 1928 he transitioned from his earthly home into eternal rest on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at his home peacefully. To reunite with his loving, beautiful wife of seventy four years, the late Mrs. Sarah Lucille Taylor Kelly. He was the second born of eleven children to his late parents Mr. Robert Kelly Jr. and Mrs. Janie Benjamin Kelly. He was preceded in death by five siblings Mr. Robert Kelly III, SC; Mr. Samuel (late Rhoda) Kelly Newport News, VA; Mr. Marion (late Martha Ann) Kelly Wedgefield, SC; Mrs. Viola K (late Whitfield) Braxton Jacksonville, FL; Mrs. Louise K (late John Tracey) Snow Buffalo NY. Surviving sisters; Mrs. Leola Kelly(late Allen)Whittaker Sumter, SC, Mrs. Leila Mae K(late Rev.CC) Dixon Columbia, SC., Mrs. Mary Kelly (late Leroy)Boston, Sumter, SC., surviving brothers; Mr. James Kelly, (late Earline B and Christine P) Sumter, SC; Mr. Will (Betty) Kelly, Freehold, NJ; Mr. Albertus- CJ (late Gladys) Kelly Columbia, SC.

Mr. Clifton Kelly was the father of four children, Mrs. Rudine Ms. Janiece K Wynn, (late Herbert) Macon, GA, Mrs. Philamenia La-Dena Kelly Rivers (Clyde), Atlanta, GA, Mr. Taft Ronald Kelly Sr. and Mr. Clayton Blouvier Kelly (Jezell dear friend) both of Columbia, SC; an adopted daughter, Ms. Barbara Ann Kelly, Jersey City NJ., who preceded him in death. Grandchildren-; Mr. Taft (Briana) Ronald Kelly II Haymarket, VA; Ms.Tiffany Leigh Rivers, Atlanta, GA; Mr. Daryan Broderick Kelly, West Columbia, SC and Mr. Herbert Joe Wynn III “Herbie”, Macon, GA; Ms. Claudia Kelli Rivers of Atlanta, GA and an adopted granddaughter, Ms. Towangia Carswell, Macon, GA; first and only great granddaughter(6 months) Ms.Wrenly Rowe Kelly of Haymarket, VA

Mr. Kelly was educated in the Sumter County School District and completed back then an eight grade education, but after conversing and being around him for a length of time you would have thought he had a PHD in psychology and business.

Let's take a look back into over almost a century ago:

Early life: Like his parents Mr. Kelly loved to plant and grow things. He was a BIG helping hand (not by choice) on the farm which his parents eventually owned, planted and harvested their crop and livestock after a period of sharecropping. Fascinated with machinery (good old green and yellow), John Deere hand-me downs and sometimes new machinery were very interesting and challenging for him because the parts were very expensive and sometimes required expensive tools to fix and repair mechanical problems.

As time went down "Nick" acquired land from his father and over a period of time purchased more land in the area where he and his wife Sarah planted crops and vegetables to share with neighbors or sometimes take to town or downtown Wedgefield, SC where sometimes there would be bartering options. Soybeans, wheat and corn was one of Mr. Kelly's favorite crops. He would often state that cotton was not profitable or it was costly to buy seeds and keep Johnson grass and sometimes an insect called boll weevil which would destroy the cotton in the fields was costly. Eventually, three of the four children he had learned how to pull Johnsongrass to keep it from consuming most of the cotton crop. One of the girls even learned how to operate one of the smaller tractors he purchased to plow the rows of soybeans and wheat. While working the farm Mr. Kelly also worked at a plant that made cabinets and after work would come home in the summer months because the days were longer and plant large gardens.. The three of the four children would dig the holes and he would put the seeds in and the children would sometimes cover the seeds lightly but sometimes they were fired or fussed at for not putting enough dirt or too much dirt in the holes .

He tried to teach and taught his children a lot about farming because he would remind them ..there was no money to go to the store which was twenty or so miles away to buy food. He provided for them meat and vegetables from the land,and his wife and their mother Sarah would prepare the best home cooked meals from the land. Harvesting / canning food in freezers and Jason jars were also taught to them. shelling field peas he would have them shelled enough to freeze and sell quart mason jars to neighbors or vendors in the city. The children would often complain of green fingernails because of all the shelling of peas and beans.(sometimes he would make it a contest as to who could shelled the most)!! He would awarded a nickel or dime..sometimes if we did really well, a quarter.

DEACON CLIFTON “NICK” KELLY

Mr. Kelly loved himself some cornbread, okra/tomato stew or alone and butter beans and field peas stewed with okra. He had a sweet tooth and would always buy cookies from the Dollar Store and was addicted to peppermint balls and canned Sprite sodas. He fell out with chicken for many years because he became very sick one time from eating chicken that he says was not cooked well. He loved to dress and had a lot of suits and shoes. He would take shirts and his suits to the cleaners. He did not know how to cook or iron because he said he was in the fields all the time and was never taught to cook or iron..of course that was the one thing his wife wanted him to learn how to cook but he was not interested..being outside cleaning all the the cars and trucks he owned cutting the grass or in the garden or his shed full of things that could not and would not be thrown away was his " happy place"

Middle Age Life:

Mr. Kelly rented his land out and had family members and people in the community to run the farming business and provided them a living by employing them to continue the agriculture business (a win -win situation for all) He would go back on weekends to make sure the guys helping him had what they needed to keep things going and to make sure things were being taken care of and also to visit his parents who were still there (who by the way lived to be 102 years old and 104 years old

He moved to Columbia, SC in the early 1970's. There were some personal challenges that he eventually overcame but it did set him back. His advice to young and old is IT'S NOT WHERE YOU CAME FROM, IT IS WHERE YOU ARE GOING. He knew that looking back was not the answer but moving forward would shut doors that needed to be shut and open doors that needed to be open. He started working in the school system as a custodian and eventually worked his way up to a supervisor of over thirty people and eventually retired with a pension from the state and county. Also during that time he and his youngest daughter purchased a home together and over the next twelve years was able to have the same person who rented. He was big on advising his children on buying property and not to ever rent but purchase property He was a member of Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church and later joined Central Baptist Church where he was ordained as a Deacon. Mr Kelly learned to put his trust and faith in Jesus Christ and God and sobriety was a part of his life for over 30+ years.

Latter and Ending Years:

Clifton Kelly was a connoisseur of cars..HE LOVED CARS . a calculated guess would say he had over 50 cars, trucks, or SUV's in his lifetime. The story is this.. after retiring he met a guy named Phil who was an independent car dealer. The cars would be purchased online and Mr. Kelly would pick the car up to deliver for Phil to various cities within a 2 to 3 hour drive. But he would end up buying the cars at some point. He was the car dealer's best customer.. Eventually, of course some of the cars did not make it out of Washington Park where he resided, to the intended destinations. He sometimes would deliver in some places in Atlanta, GA and tell his youngest daughter he was in her 'neck of the woods' but had to get back because his friend Carl would follow him so he would have a ride back and vice versa Carl would deliver a car and he would pick him up. He would say how much money he made delivering cars. When he wasn't doing that he was working at Fort Jackson commissary helping people take groceries or household items to there car and receive tips for his services often he would show one of his children his hiding place for his tips and then he would go to Palmetto Federal credit union to ching ching ching to cash in. As time went on Mr. Kelly was diagnosed with prostate cancer and his beautiful wife was diagnosed with dementia which she was able to live for 16 years after diagnosis. He beat his disease for almost 20 years and unfortunately it came back and eventually moved to bladder cancer and as time passed about 2 to 3 years to bone cancer. Dec. 26, 2024 was the diagnosis. He was a "CHAMP" WITH THAT DIAGNOSIS, hardly ever complained too much and peacefully and quietly transitioned SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 2025. He will be and is already MISSED!!

His other message he liked to emphasize is to remember we are blessed no matter how it looks because it could always be worse!

