



## FLOWER BEARERS

Winston-Salem District Lay Council

## PALL BEARERS

Men's Booster Ministry of Winston-Salem District

### "THE GIFT OF LETTING GO"

*The angels gathered near your bed,  
so very close to you,  
For they knew the pain and suffering  
you were going through,  
We thought about so many things,  
so we held tightly to your hand,  
Oh, how we wished that you were  
strong and happy once again.  
But your eyes were looking homeward,  
to that place beyond the sky,  
Where Jesus held his outstretched arms,  
it was time to say good-bye.  
We struggled with our selfish thoughts,  
for we wanted you to stay,  
So we could walk and talk again,  
like we did just yesterday.  
But Jesus knew the answer  
and we knew He loved you so,  
So we gave to you life's greatest gift,  
The gift of letting go.  
(Johnson and Morse - Author)*

### Acknowledgment

You have understood our loss  
and demonstrated your friendship.  
You have felt our loss and offered your prayers.  
You have seen our need and rendered your love.  
Thank you for your many acts of kindness.

*Lester B. Speas, Jr. Family*

**Clark S. Brown**  
& Sons  
SINCE 1928  
FUNERAL HOME

## HOME-GOING SERVICE OF LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE FOR

**Mr. Lester Blanco Speas, Jr.**



**"LB"**

*"O God, thou hast taught me from my youth ..." Psalm 71:17*

**MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017**

**2:00 PM**

**GOLER METROPOLITAN A.M.E. ZION CHURCH  
1435 EAST FOURTH STREET  
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND JOHNNY L. RUFF, PASTOR/OFFICIATING**

## A Life to Be Remembered

Lester Blanco Speas, Jr., affectionately called “LB,” entered this life as the eldest of seven children born to the late Reverend Lester B. Speas, Sr. and Lillian Payne Speas of Tobaccoville, North Carolina.

Lester’s earlier years of education were in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. He graduated from Carver Consolidated High School in Winston-Salem in 1955. He continued his education on a baseball scholarship at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in Greensboro. He later pledged his allegiance to the Twin City Chapter of NC A&T Alumni, and always displayed his *“Aggie Pride.”*

During his lifetime, as a skilled photographer, he left captivating memories in the homes of many families, friends, and relatives. And he was often the photographer requested to take pictures at several diverse social, cultural and religious events. He was employed for several years with Talton Photo Laboratories. Other employment opportunities included Experiment in Self Reliance (ESR), Bassick & Sack, Inc. and Winston Salem/Forsyth County Schools, as a substitute teacher.

Lester was a product of A.M.E. Zion church parsonage and a devout advocate for the Lay Council of the denomination. He served on the district and conference level as Chaplain. He was also a member of the Men’s Booster Ministry of the Winston-Salem District. At an early age he joined Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church of Tobaccoville. He was passionate about serving the Lord. And he was an active and faithful member of Goler Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church where he enjoyed singing on the Cathedral Choir and the Men’s Chorus, until declining health limited his active participation.

LB was quite a conversationalist and many mornings you would find him with other retirees at the local McDonald’s expounding on life experiences. Scheduled events in his weekly journey included numerous hospital visits and end of life services for friends and acquaintances.

**On Sunday, June 25, 2017,** at about the break of dawn, Lester Blanco Speas, Jr. entered life eternal from Regency Care of Clemmons. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Wilma Mae Ijames; and two brothers, Oscar Lee and Cornelius Payne Speas.

Those family members who now celebrate his life and who will forever cherish fond memories of him include his sons, Lester B. Speas, III and Edward V. Valentine, Sr., Mocksville, NC; his daughter, Shelvly Prestina (Thomas, Sr.) Gaither; their mother, Elizabeth V. Speas; six-grandchildren, Shatese, Trey, Thomas Gaither, Jr. , Sherita, Edward and Aubrey Valentine; six great-grandchildren; three sisters, Delores Harris and Reverend Belinda Harris, both of Tobaccoville; Ann E. (Dr. Harry) Caldwell of Charlotte, NC; an uncle, whom he loved like a brother, Charlie Payne; special cousin, Reverend William Speas; dear friends, Shirley Allen, JB Myers, Ron Kilgore and Frank Thomas; a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members and many friends.

## Home-Going Service of Love and Remembrance

Prelude Mr. Shipps Washington

The Processional Clergy and Family  
Gathering of Family and Friends 1:00 pm—2:00 pm  
Solo Ms. Bonnie Booker

*“Holding On”*

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Invocation Reverend Johnny L. Ruff

The Hymn of Praise Cathedral Choir  
*“Onward Christian Soldiers”*

### The Holy Scripture Reading

OT: **Psalm 121** Reverend Dr. Karen Roberts-Miller  
NT: **I Corinthians 15:51-58** Reverend William Speas

The Prayer of Comfort Reverend Dr. Calvin L. Miller

Selection Cathedral Choir

Church Resolution Ms. Lillian Riggs  
Community Reflections Mrs. Karatha Scott

Music of Request Mr. Jordan Speas

*“I Got A Feeling”*

### **Words of Remembrance** *(2 minute limit, please)*

Twin City NCA&T Alumni Association Mrs. Erica Lowery  
Men’s Booster Ministry of the W-S District Mr. James Griffin  
WNCC Lay Council Mr. Jerry McComb  
The “Boss Man” Mrs. Carla Brown Rumph  
“My Dad” Mr. Lester B. Speas, III

Solo Reverend Kedrick Sprinkle

*“My Soul Been Anchored”*

The Eulogy Reverend Johnny L. Ruff

The Recessional

### **THE INTERMENT**

Center Grove A.M.E. Zion Church Cemetery  
Tobaccoville, North Carolina



## **“ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS”**

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
forward into battle see his banners go!

### **Refrain:**

**Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.**

2. At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;  
on then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;  
brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

### **(Refrain)**

3. Like a mighty army moves the church of God;  
brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

### **(Refrain)**

4. Crowns and thrones may perish,  
kingdoms rise and wane,  
but the church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;  
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

### **(Refrain)**

5. Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,  
this through countless ages men and angels sing.

### **(Refrain)**