

*Yet we have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live;
their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth
will rise up and sing for joy!*

— Isaiah 26:19_{NLT}

Faithful • Talented • Humble

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Oleo

Carver Byrd

SUNRISE

December 4, 1943

SUNSET

September 3, 2026

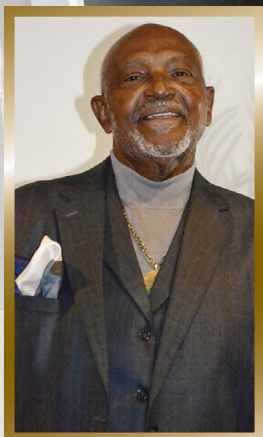
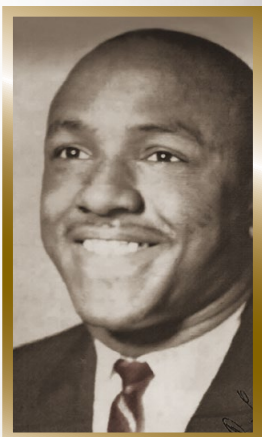
**First Baptist Church
Centralia**

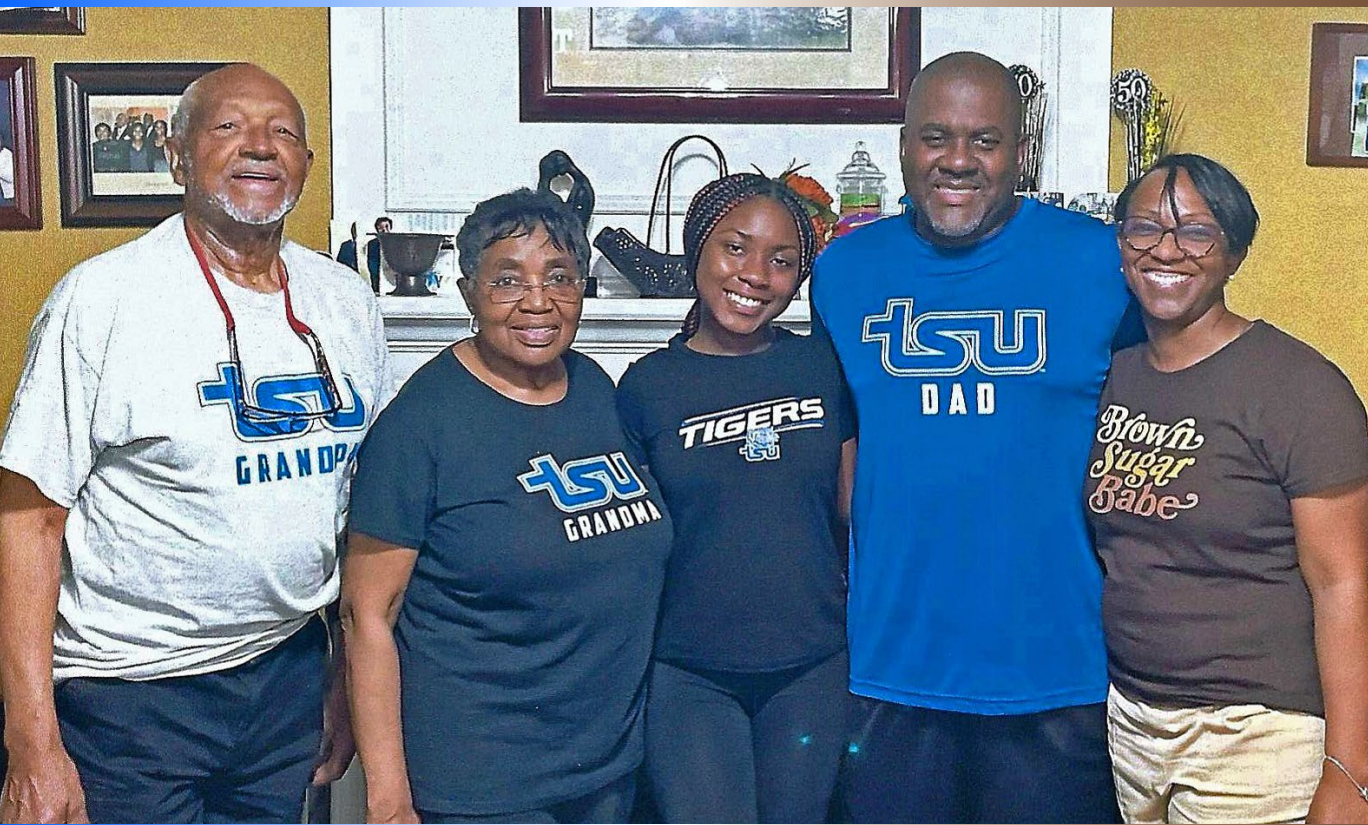
2920 Kingsdale Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23237

Saturday

September 26, 2026

10:00 AM





ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Leader – Deacon Thomas Jones

Organ Prelude.....	Mr. William O. Evans, Jr.
Processional	Clergy, Family, and Friends
Musical Selection.....	Mass Choir
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament – Psalm 23	Deacon Thomas Branch
New Testament – 2 Timothy 4:6-8	Mrs. Nancy Phillips
Musical Selection	Mr. William Carter
Prayer of Consolation	Rev. Dr. Ruby Thomas
	Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, Ft. Washington, Maryland
Poem	Mr. J. Derrick Smith
Reflections (limit your remarks to 2 minutes or less, please)	
Mr. David Humphrey	
Mr. Ike Townes	
A Tribute to Dad.....	Dr. Jacinda Byrd-Smith
Acknowledgments	Mrs. Barbara Jones
Obituary (read silently to soft music)	
Musical Selection.....	Mr. William Carter
Eulogy.....	Associate Pastor LaTonya Moore
	Church of the Redeemed of the Lord – Baltimore, Maryland
Closing Prayer.....	Associate Minister Gregory Gallop
	First Baptist Church Centralia
Hymn of Triumph	Mass Choir
Recessional – Clergy and Family	Mass Choir

INTERMENT

Sunset Memorial Park
2901 W. Hundred Road, Chester, VA 23831

REPAST

Immediately following the Interment,
please join the family for a Repast
and a time of fellowship at the
Samuel Moss Carter Family Life Center,
First Baptist Church Centralia,
2920 Kingsdale Road,
North Chesterfield, VA 23237



A LEGACY™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs . . .

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints. – Psalm 116:15

Cleo Carver Byrd of Chesterfield, VA earned his wings on September 3, 2026, at 12:43am. Cleo was born on December 4, 1943 to the late McClain and Edna Mae Byrd as the youngest of their two sons in Florence County, South Carolina. He graduated from Spaulding High School in Lamar, South Carolina in 1961. After which time, he attended Friendship College in Rock Hill, South Carolina and later attended Elizabeth City State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1966. While attending ECSU, he met and fell in love with Shirley Jefferson. They married in 1967 and relocated to Paterson, NJ. To their union, one child was born, Jacinda Denise Byrd.

In New Jersey, he began a career as a junior chemist at Chemway, Wayne, NJ. In 1973, he began teaching at Eastside High School, Paterson, NJ and taught there for 27 years. In addition to serving as a social studies teacher, he also held roles as Class Advisor and School Treasurer. His students all agreed that “Mr. Byrd was tough, but fair.” He taught his students meaningful lessons about what life could hold for them after high school, lessons that went beyond textbooks and the classroom.

Never afraid of hard work, he used his skills as a jack of all trades to become an entrepreneur. After school he and another teacher, Ike Townes, acted as handymen – repairing homes, tiling floors, remodeling bathrooms, painting and doing home repairs of all kinds. He later used those skills to purchase and maintain multiple rental properties throughout Paterson.

In 2003, Cleo and Shirley moved to Chesterfield where they built their dream home, but kept traveling back and forth to New Jersey to maintain their properties and enjoy spending time with their long-time friends. They continued friendships with Nettie and Lindy Curry and Bernice and Calvin Martin, traveling, gaming, and enjoying a good meal together. They also spent time traveling to Ohio to visit Wilson and Lillie Bell Williams. Cleo joined First Baptist Church Centralia in 2003 and lived by the mantra that God had been good to him and he thanked God daily for all the blessings he had received.

Cleo enjoyed life. He couldn’t resist a good laugh and relished being able to see the positive side of things. He loved always being well-dressed, and enjoyed buying new cars, trucks, vans, an RV or two, or anything with four wheels. His favorite hobbies included fishing, listening to music, and creating projects for himself (that might include fixing or tearing something apart). He treasured friendship, and loved his family and the extended family created from relationships he developed in New Jersey. Most would agree that, above all else, he valued the small family that he and Shirley created. His priority was to always make sure that the lives of his wife and daughter, and later his granddaughter, were better because of him. He got the son he hadn’t planned on when Jacinda married his son-in law, Derrick Smith. Jacinda was the light of his life; that is until his granddaughter, Jaida entered the scene.

Although Cleo and Shirley only had one daughter, there were unique relationships with some of the young women that entered into their lives that made them Cleo’s special girls: Tiara Brown, Sharon Byrd (who preceded him in death), Linda Davis,

Monica Lane, Tanya McMichael, Ashley Mills, LaTonya Moore, Trina Phillips, Maria Walker, and Archyne Woodard.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his **devoted wife** of 59 years – Shirley Byrd; **daughter** – Dr. Jacinda Byrd-Smith (Derrick) of Stone Mountain, GA ; one **granddaughter** – Jaida Smith of Stone Mountain, GA; one **brother** – Raymond Byrd of Lamar, SC; one **sister** – Annette Johnson of Lamar, SC; **sister-in-law** – Nancy Phillips (John); **nieces** – Linda Byrd Davis (Bobby), LaTonya Moore (James), Mariah Crawford (Jay), Sarah Jefferson, Mikayla Harris, Mica Harris and Mikay Harris; **nephews** – Michael Harris, Anthony Craft, and Rico Naylor; and a host of **cousins**, other family members, friends, and students.

Friends that became family include James and Lena Mills, Maurice Pickett, Otis Coe, Ike Townes, David Humphrey, Nettie Curry, Bernice Martin, Lillie Bell Williams, Henry Lee and Barbara Ann Jones, William Rogers Trent, and Titania Williams.

Simply put, Cleo never met a stranger, and made friends easily with his warm smile and good nature. Cleo had a mind that amazed most people because if he stared at something long enough, he would figure out how to reconfigure it, fix it, or make it work. He was a man of few words but would share his opinion with you whether you were ready to hear it or not. He demonstrated, by example, how a man could simultaneously be gentle and firm. He will be missed for his laughter and easy-going personality. Whether you knew him as Daddy, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle Bo, Uncle Cleo, Cle, Byrd, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Cleo, or just Cleo – his imprint on the lives he touched has left a forever mark.





Family and Friends Photos

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.”

– Revelation 21:4

Pall Bearers

Otis Coe • James Mills
Maurice Pickett • Levern McClain

Flower Attendants

Usher Board of First Baptist Church Centralia

The Fallen Limb

*A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, “Grieve not for me.”
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.
The good life I lived while I was strong.*

*Continue my heritage, I’m counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.*

*My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.*

*Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don’t worry about falls
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes we’re together again.*

In Appreciation

The family of the late Cleo Byrd wishes to convey our sincere thanks for every phone call, text, email, and visit during the loss of our loved one. Your presence and every act of kindness was comforting during this difficult time.

We take comfort in 1 Corinthians 2:9....

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

– the Family

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY:

MIMMS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

1827 Hul Steet | Richmond, VA 23224

(804) 232-3847

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