



*A Celebration of Life*  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
*Dr. Joe C. Gardner*

MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 11

Sunrise  
April 6, 1944



Sunset  
February 4, 2013



*Sunday, February 10, 2013 1:00 p.m.*

*Batesville Junior High School Auditorium*

507 Tiger Drive • Batesville, Mississippi 38606

Dr. Zannie Leland, Jr. Officiating  
Pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church • Batesville, Mississippi

# *The Celebrated Life*

Dr. Joe C. Gardner was born on April 6, 1944, in Sardis, Mississippi to the late Charlie Gardner and Jessie Littlejohn Gardner. He made his heavenly transition on February 4, 2013, in Batesville, Mississippi. Having been nurtured in a Christian environment, he acknowledged his need for salvation at an early age and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, then united with the

Viney Creek Missionary Baptist Church family in Sardis, Mississippi. Dr. Gardner later joined the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Batesville, Mississippi where he served as Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and Associate Minister. His ordination came in 2005, and he became pastor of the Greater Concord Missionary Baptist Church in 2009.



Dr. Gardner was an advocate for education as evidenced by his many years of service in public education with the North and South Panola School Districts. He was a graduate of South Panola High School, Coahoma Community College (AA), Mississippi Valley State University (B.S.), University of Mississippi (M.A), and Southwest University (Ph.D.) After high school graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army and served his country honorably during the Korean Conflict. Dr. Gardner also served in the United States Army National Guard and retired from the United States Army Reserve.

On August 29, 1966, Dr. Gardner married the former Ella Graham and was a loving and devoted husband for forty-six years. To this union, one child was born. His unconditional love for his child was only surpassed by his adoration and love for his granddaughter. His love for family and friends was reciprocated by all who came to know him.

He leaves to cherish his legacy and loving memory, his wife, Ella; daughter, Chandra Armilla (Joseph) Thompson, granddaughter, Kiara LaShea Thompson, all of Warner Robins, Georgia; two brothers, Willie Joe (Mary) Gardner of Hazel Crest, Illinois, and Jerry (Angela) Gardner of Batesville, Mississippi; one sister-in-law, Glennie (Milton) Hines of San Diego, California; and two brothers-in-law, Ira Walter (Carolyn) Graham, and Thomas (Flora) Graham both of Batesville, Mississippi; and a number of nieces, nephews, and other family whom he cared for and loved.

His sister, Annie Bell Gardner; and two brothers, Charlie Lee and Johnny Gardner await him in Glory.