

Joseph Benjamin Fields, Jr.

Hometown Hero - 2022



Joseph Benjamin Fields, Jr. was born July 17, 1944, in Church Road, Virginia. He was the only child born to Joseph Benjamin Fields, Sr. and Pearl Lewis Fields.

Joseph Fields grew up in Dinwiddie County and graduated from Southside High School in 1963. Following high school, he entered the military and served three years in the Army's 82nd Airborne division as a Parachute Rigger. Mr. Fields' service included one year of service in Vietnam (1965-1966).

On July 24, 1965, Mr. Fields married Miss Earnestine Marie Bower. The new Mrs. Fields was a secretary at Sunnyside Elementary. The couple was married for 26 years before her passing on April 1, 1993. Together, they had one child, Brian Keith Fields, who is currently a member of the City Council in Dumfries, Virginia.

Mr. Fields spent his entire career enriching the lives of others. He was a teacher in Nottoway and Dinwiddie Counties, working with at-risk youth; and he spent more than 20 years as a salesperson for Petersburg Motor Company.

Mr. Fields accepted the call to ministry and the position of Pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Dinwiddie in 1975; in 1980, he began serving as pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Blackstone where he served for 34 years before retiring. Forty-seven years later, Reverend Fields is still pastoring at Mt. Zion.

Rev. Fields earned his Associates Degree from Richard Bland College. At the time, he was one of only five African-American students on campus. He enjoyed his time at RBC so much that he stayed as long as he could and transferred 90 credit hours to Virginia State University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in 1985. Fields attended seminary at Virginia Union

University and earned a Masters of Theology from Frederick L. Ray Biblical Seminary, and his Doctoral degree from Richmond Seminary. Reverend Fields also received an Honorary Doctoral degree from Tabernacle Divinity School.

On June 20, 1998, Reverend Fields married Ms. Regina Beckles. While they did not have children together, he grew to love her daughter, Tiffany Beckles, as his own. Together they are grandparents to four grandchildren: Devonte Hampton, Devonte “Scooter” Sampson, Alexis Fields, and Marquis Beckles.

For the past six years, Reverend Fields has served as Chaplain of the Dinwiddie County Sheriff’s Office under Sheriff D.T. “Duck” Adams.

Reverend Fields is a member of the:

- ✓ United Churches of Dinwiddie County and has twice served as Vice President.
- ✓ Sunday School Union of Dinwiddie County
- ✓ National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- ✓ Southern Christian Leadership Council
- ✓ Congressional Voters League and served as State Delegate
- ✓ Historic Southside High School Alumni Association
- ✓ Buffalo Soldiers
- ✓ Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12145
- ✓ 555 Parachute Association and currently serves as Chaplain
- ✓ Dinwiddie County Advisory Task Force on Equity and Racial Reconciliation
- ✓ Dinwiddie County Faith-Based Initiative

In his free time, Reverend Fields enjoys riding his Honda Gullwing Trike. He was eager to share that his wife makes his trike look pretty. Reverend Fields is also a self-proclaimed “automobile nut” and enjoys “tinkering with his toys”.