



## Major Norman Ralph Zanders, Sr.

May 5, 2022

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,  
but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body,  
I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave himself for me.”  
~ Galatians 2:20 ~

Major Norman Ralph Zanders, Sr., of Surfside Beach, SC, met his Heavenly Savior the evening of Thursday, May 5, 2022. He passed peacefully after a two-year illness, surrounded by his loving wife and family who were singing the hymns he dearly loved.

Norman is survived by Ruby (Michaels), his wife of 55 years; his two sons, Norman (Mary Christmas) Zanders of Hope Mills, NC and Kevin (Tawny) Zanders of Lafayette Hill, PA; his grandchildren, Aaron (Reighn) and Grace Zanders of Hope Mills, NC, and Kaleb and Zoe Zanders of Lafayette Hill, PA; and great granddaughter, Luna Zanders-Johnson of Hope Mills, NC. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Anna (Price); daughter, Zandra K. Zanders; and siblings, Thomas and John Zanders, and Mary Ann Lieby.

After serving in the US Army in Korean, he served as a pastor in The Salvation Army (Defender of the Faith session) for over 38 years, he was

known as a steward of God's resources, a preacher of the Word, a gentle encourager, voracious reader and writer, dedicated musician, and a faithful friend. He retired from active ministry in 2003 and settled in Surfside Beach, South Carolina where he quickly became involved in The Salvation Army Conway Corps, becoming the bandmaster, adopting a nursing home to conduct monthly religious programs, creatively bringing the Vacation Bible school lessons to life year after year, and ringing the RED KETTLE bell at the Myrtle Beach mall over several Christmas seasons.

Though he was always a traveler, in retirement, he and his wife fully embraced the opportunity to experience the body of Christ in multiple countries. Wherever they went, they made deep friends and lasting relationships, adding new countries to send their annual Christmas card to each year. The walls of their retirement home are dotted with pictures of their worldwide adventures and their shelves are filled with precious mementos. They especially loved to take cruises, eventually taking over 30 cruises over their married life. When he was not traveling, he enjoyed singing in the local barbershop quartet, participating in the Salvation Army's Retired Officer Fellowship of the North and South Carolina Division, attending community events, and displaying his collection of over 500 nativity scenes.

In every way, he fully embraced and loved life; however, his greatest joy was spending time with his family. He was never happier than when his home was full of the lovingly loud noise of family fellowship. Regardless of how long the visits were, the family knew they would meet around the table for a breakfast of his amazing gourmet, berrylicious, Belgian waffles and a dinner of traditional Lithuanian potato cakes, followed by a family game. These precious times were filled with devotions, laughter, memories, and good old-fashioned competition.

Besides his loving family, Norman leaves behind a legacy of lives touched by

his compassion and devotion to spreading the love of God. He will be sorely missed by all who were honored to know him.

Service: A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, May 28th at 1:00 pm at The Salvation Army, located at 1413 2nd Avenue; Conway, SC 29526. The service will be live streamed on The Salvation Army of Horry County Facebook page.

Sympathy: Online expressions of sympathy can be recorded at: [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com). Arrangements are by the Goldfinch Funeral Services – Beach Chapel.

Contributions: In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the music programs at The Salvation Army, 1413 2nd Avenue; Conway, SC 29526.

# Tribute Wall

SZ

“ My Uncle Norm was a precious gift to us all. He had a flare for writing to people and would communicate with my dad that way every week. When my dad died, Uncle Norm and I continued the tradition and became pen pals. He would send jokes and always a ton of encouragement. My heart is so saddened. So grateful to have been there at his bedside and hear his heart speak about his life. He died in peace as he led his life.  
Well Done my dear friend...I will miss your letters

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**Steve Zanders** - May 14, 2022 at 07:33 AM

GN

“ What can I say about my uncle that already Ben said?he and my aunt ruby touch a lot of lives. They brought joy 2 a lot of people, that came from there heart and God's love.im very happy 2 have and a great uncle like him.and my uncle bud and tom.and my mom.i will always love u all.and 2 the rest of all my family were ever u are I love u and u are always in my heart ❤️

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**Greg nye** - May 13, 2022 at 12:35 PM

MC

“ I remember the first time I met Mr. and Mrs. Zanders. It was at Norman and Mary's Wedding on a Sunday. My dad was pastoring at our first church so we had church that night. Mary and Norman came along with Mr and Mrs Zanders to our service that night. It was a wonderful memory. I was aware of the Salvation Army but was not aware that they had an actual church so from we visited with them in church as well. Somewhere along the way I started referring to them as Mr and Mrs Z and it stuck. I always enjoyed hearing them tell of their many travels and pictures to show. I didn't really collect nativity scenes to much but I think they had an influence on me and now I try to get one each year. Lol. I remember in New York City he took me around the city and showed me the many sight and history behind different landmarks. We went through Central Park and I truly never realized how huge it was!!! Mr Z was very animated when telling his different stories of his travels. He will be missed most definitely!!! I know my Dad was waiting at the gate for him as they got to know each other through the years and many times bothe families getting together for different holidays. They each took turns saying grace. I had never had potato cakes before until he cooked them for us for the first time not long after Mary and Norman were married! My heart goes out to Mrs. Z and all the family! I am so glad of the memories made!

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**Margaret Christmas** - May 13, 2022 at 12:08 PM