

A Celebration of Life for

Raymond M. Turner

June 21, 1932

January 19, 2020



Tuesday, January 28, 2020
11 AM

THE HISTORIC CHARLES STREET A.M.E. CHURCH

551 WARREN STREET, DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

REV. DR. GREGORY G. GROOVER, SR., OFFICIATING

Order of Worship

PROCESSION

HYMN *We've Come This Far by Faith*

PRAYER OF COMFORT

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23 Tyreese Nicholas, *Grandchild*
Lamentations 3:22-23 CoCo Crayton, *Grandchild*

SELECTION *I'm a Soldier in the Army of The LORD* Gail McAden

REFLECTIONS

Tracy Attaglia MD, *Boston Medical Center*

Geraldine Thomas/Jordan Alloway, *Sister*

Portia McFarlin, *Mother of children*

Lisa Burton, *Granddaughter*

Michelle Burton, *Granddaughter*

Wanda Turner, *Daughter*

Denise Burton, *Daughter*

Tyrone Turner, *Son*

READING OF OBITUARY *Shaun Bragg, Grandson*

SELECTION *This Little Light of Mine* Gail McAden

EULOGY Reverend Dr. Gregory Groover, Sr.

CLOSING PRAYER

Interment

Mt. Hope Cemetery, Mattapan, Massachusetts

Repast

The Historic Charles Street A.M.E. Church
Morrison Epps Fellowship Hall

Life Reflections

Raymond Maurice Turner was born in Pike County Goshen, Alabama to the parents of Tom & Ethel

(McGhee) Turner. They had altogether five children. Maurice, as he was also affectionately called during his entire life, had a strong relationship with his family. They resided in a small town that housed only a shop, school and a church. The Turner children were raised, instilled with the importance of education and Christian faith due to the legacy of Sallie Carter who lived to be 113 years, old. She was born a slave but was taught how to read and write. She became the founder of one of the first C.M.E churches in the state and the school attended by Maurice and his siblings.

While growing up in the south, Maurice's favorite past time was fishing with brothers James & Murvin and playing basketball. He also enjoyed being with his sisters Ardra & Geraldine. Due to no school buses being provided for black children in his hometown, Maurice traveled each morning twelve miles on his bike to get to school. He loved riding little Geraldine on the handle bars.

When Maurice's mother died of kidney disease, Maurice, at age seventeen, had to work full-time as a sharecropper. While the work was hard and grueling, the pay was very little because the landlord took three-fourths of the share. After graduating from high school, Maurice was drafted into the U.S. Army and fought on the frontline in the battle of Heartbreak Ridge 45th Infantry. He was a sergeant who managed to escape from almost being captured by the Korean soldiers. After the war, Maurice participated in a parade in New York City. He earned three battle stars for serving in the war. For many years, Maurice was repeatedly considered for the congressional medal of honor.

While in Fort Jackson during 1954, Maurice got engaged to Portia after leaving the army. He shared his wedding day with brother James and His wife to be Georgia. Later on, they would also had the same mid wives. Maurice loved his children and grandchildren both from Boston and Florida. He loved taking them to the beach, picnics, amusement parks, vacations and family reunions. As a family, they attended the Historic Charles Street A.M.E Church.

One of the first jobs Raymond was gainfully employed was as a mill operator the Built Right Rubber Company. He also worked, as Lineman at Polaroid. Later on, he would work until retirement as the superintendent of Building services of Wentworth Institute. Maurice was proud to be instrumental in arranging accommodations for the dormitories to house out of town relatives for a Boston family reunion. At that time, blacks were not allowed to stay in Boston Hotels. Maurice was also active in the Masons until he became diagnosed with kidney disease and breast cancer.

In Raymond's own words during an interview, he said that, "sharing my story is important because I want others to know what I've been through in life growing up in rural Alabama and becoming a recognized war veteran. I want to be remembered as someone who was happy and always joked with others. I am proud to be a Christian because I believe in the power of prayer. All of My strength and faith comes from God above. It is what keeps me going!"

On Sunday morning January 19, 2020, Raymond Turner's journey from this earthly life effortlessly went to be with the Lord. He leaves to cherish his children Tyrone Turner (Loretta), Denise Burton (Sidney), Wanda Turner Bragg (Boston Ma), Robert Ashley (Florida), step daughter Pat Williams; mother of his children Portia McFarlin; son-in-law Kevin Bragg; one sister Geraldine Thomas (Lewis) of Nashville, Tennessee; grandchildren Shaun, Deon, Tyreese, Lisa, Michelle, CoCo, Robert Jr., Justice, Keisha and Kerri; great grandchildren Jordan, Alex, Brielle, Alexis, Carly, Makayla and Seth; nieces/nephews Rev. Jerri Brion, Bobby Brantley, James Turner Jr., Marvin, Kervin, Eric, Ray Alloway and Nicole Thomas and a host of friends.

WE THOUGHT OF YOU IN LOVE TODAY

We thought of you in love,
But that is nothing new.
We thought of you yesterday
And days before that, too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.
Now we have is memories
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our hearts.

Pallbearers

Deon Bragg
Shaun Bragg
Eric Turner

Ray Alloway
Marvin Turner
Ricardo Belizaire

Acknowledgements

May we express our sincere appreciation for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, and other acts of kindness shown to us during our time of loss and bereavement. A special extended thank you to Veterans Hospital Dialysis Unit, Breast Cancer Association, and Boston Medical Center.

We especially thank "Virginia House" Dorothy O Connor Charles St. A.M.E Church, Bethel A.M.E Church, Twelfth Baptist Church, Extended family Turner, McGhee, McCarther, Carter's, Juanita Beaver, Johnnie Norvell, Kervin, Sidney Burton, Jr. Sharon Byrd, Min. Elizabeth Crockton, Laura, Majeeda, Tricia, Bernice McGhee and all the relatives and many, many friends who have been a part of Maurice's life.



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