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10-4-1988

### 1988-10-04; Pamphlets; A Service in Celebration of the life of James Patterson

Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

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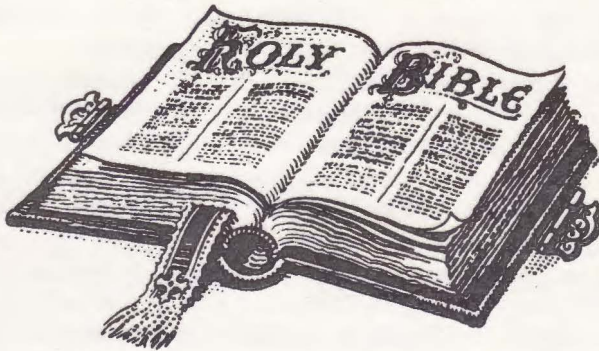
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*A Service in Celebration*  
*—of the life of—*  
**James Patterson**

1923

1988



**Tuesday, October 4, 1988**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Lincoln Memorial United  
Methodist Church**  
641 Masten Avenue  
Buffalo, New York

**The Rev. Melba V. Chaney, Pastor**

## **JAMES PATTERSON** Professional Engineer

Mr. Patterson died suddenly October 2nd 1988 at Buffalo General Hospital. He was 65 years old.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he attended Lincoln University, then served as sergeant in the United States Army, 9136th Technical Service Unit. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Civil Engineering. He held professional engineering licenses in New York and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Patterson, one of Buffalo's first black engineers, was called to the city from Great Falls, Montana, to serve as chief of the Rivers and Harbors Section of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In this capacity, he was involved in several major projects, among which were the St. Lawrence Seaway Project and the de-watering of Niagara Falls.

Upon retiring from the Corps of Engineers, he became Director of the Housing Development Division of H.U.D. and later joined the engineering firm of Eugene S. Richards and Associates. He was a professional photographer, taught Computer Science at Erie Community College, and was a Certified Club Director of the American Contract Bridge League and the American Bridge Association.

Recently appointed to the Architectural/Engineering Selection Team of the Facilities Development Corporation, Mr. Patterson served as Chairman of the Selection Team for the Rochester Psychiatric Center.

He was president of the Buffalo Negro Scholarship Foundation and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Lung Association. Formerly a Sunday school teacher at Westminster Presbyterian Church and a member of the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Museum of Science, Westminster House and Friendship House, he also held memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Les Treize Couples Club.

Survivors include his wife, Vernetta Coles Patterson; two sons, Gregory (Yvonne), Kevin (Charlene); grandchildren, Kisha and Craig Patterson, and Judy Flowers; step-father, Thomas D. Dorsey of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Organ Prelude.....Mrs. Joyce Mathis

Congregational Hymn....."A Mighty Fortress  
Is Our God"  
(Verses 1 & 2) p. 20

Prayer.....Rev. Melba Chaney  
Selection

"In Bright Mansions Above".....Senior Choir

Memorial Tribute

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity...Mr. Eugene Richards  
Presentation of Colors.....Bennett Wells Post 1780  
The American Legion

Solo "Ordinary People".....Mrs. Laretta Anderson

Eulogy.....Mr. Kevin Patterson  
Mr. Leland Jones

Solo

"Just A Closer

Walk With Thee".....Mrs. Laretta Anderson

Scripture

Proclamation and Blessing

Psalms 84.....Rev. Melba Chaney

Benedictory "Close To Thee".....Senior Choir

Postlude

*Contributions, in lieu of flowers, should be made to the*

**Buffalo Chapter of the Links Scholarship Foundation**

89 E. Depew

Buffalo, New York 14214