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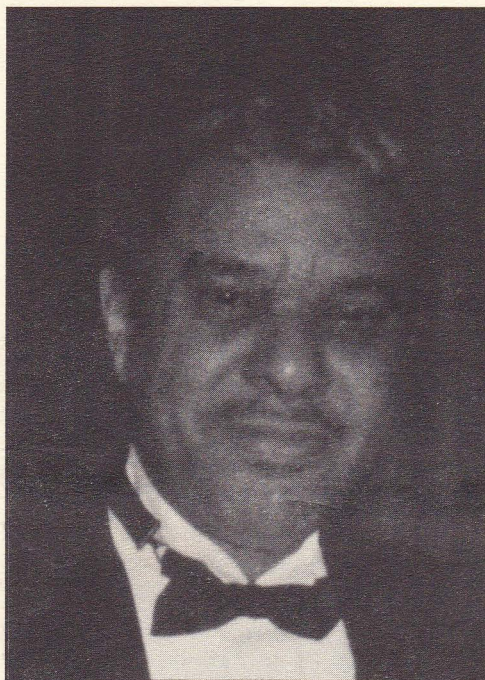
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**Memorial Service
for
Dr. Ryland E. Melford, Sr.**

Sunrise February 22, 1915

Sunset August 16, 2003



Wednesday, August 20, 2003

**Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church
641 Masten Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209**

Officiating Minister

Reverend G. Ewart Morris, Pastor

Organists

Mr. Tim Kennedy

Mrs. Michelle Thomas

OBITUARY

Dr. Ryland E. Melford, Sr., beloved husband of Juanita Davidson Melford and son of the late Captain W.G. and Lillian Melford, was born in Bonner Springs, Kansas on February 22, 1915. He departed this life on August 16, 2003, after a long illness.

After attending school in Bonner Springs, and Kansas City, Missouri, he entered the O'Neil College of Chiropractic Medicine and graduated in 1950. He received special training at Yale University's School of Public Health, and the U.S. Public Health Service in Maryland. After moving to Buffalo, New York in 1952, Dr. Melford became the first African American Chiropractor in Western New York, and practiced chiropractic medicine for 41 years.

Mel, as he was affectionately called, was a devote Christian who believed in serving his church and his community. For many years he served as the treasurer of the Trustee Board of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, where he regularly worshiped, until his recent illness. Dr. Melford was a proud member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Boule Chapter, and was very active in the Upstate Medical Alliance and the Eta Tau Chi Professional Chiropractic Fraternity. Over the years, he served on numerous Boards, including the Board of Directors of the Humboldt YMCA, the United Negro College Fund, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Hickory Street Center, the Social Welfare Department of Erie County and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. He was also named Vice President of the Urban Center, which later became the Educational Opportunity Center. From a brief career in the newspaper industry, he parlayed his love of communication into the development of the *Empire State Bulletin*, a weekly publication in Buffalo.

A distinguished man with varied talents and interests, he participated in politics and became the Ward Chairman of the 32nd Zone of Erie County, played duplicate bridge at the tournament level, and won awards for his photos. He was an avid reader, and enjoyed gardening, gourmet foods and wines, and traveling throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and Europe. He relished his role as "elder statesman," sharing his wisdom, experiences, and lessons learned with the young and old.

In addition to his wife, Juanita, of 49 years, he leaves a son, Dr. Ryland E. Melford, Jr, grandsons, Dr. Ryland E. Melford, III, Patrick Melford, and Rylan Melford, granddaughter Robyn Melford, sister, Dorothy Johnson, daughter-in-law, Patricia Melford, goddaughter, June Simmons Barrow, extended family members, and a host of friends to cherish his memory.

Tributes:

*The Buffalo Chapter of the Links, Inc
The Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Boule Chapter*

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Invocation

Reverend Morris

Musical Selection

*"Close to Thee"
The Senior Choir
Organist/Director, Mr. Tim Kennedy*

Scripture Readings

*Isaiah 40:1-8
John 14: 1-8, 18-19, 27*

Obituary

Dr. Ryland E. Melford III

Soloist

Ms. Bariki Shadazz

Eulogy

*Reverend Leeland Jones
Minister, Bethel AME Church*

Prayer

Reverend Morris

Musical Selection

*"Steal Away"
The Emma J. Horner Chorale*

Poem *(author, Dr. Ryland E. Melford, Jr.)*

*"A Song for My Father"
Mrs. June Simmons Barrow*

Benediction

Postlude

A Song for my Father

Sing - Sing a song for my father

A song with notes clear like a winter's night

A song whose melody lingers like a hot summer day

A song whose lyrics are a poetic gift

Fill this song with love for his sweet Juanita

Fill this song with honor among his many friends

Fill this song with gladness for the joy of family

Fill this song with friendship one and all

Fill this song with achievement for all he tried to do

And as he sits in heaven and hears the sweet melody

He will say - that song's for me and what I tried to be.

Love

Honor

Friendship

Gladness

Achievement

Yes, that is my song

Sing it for me.

Dr. Ryland E. Melford, Jr.

The family of Dr. Ryland E. Melford, Sr. wishes to thank everyone for their kindness and support.

Services for Dr. Melford are entrusted to
Memorial Chapels of Buffalo, 66 East Utica Street