11-26-2016

Obituary; 2016-11-26; Rickerson, Sr., Alfonso

Hopewell Baptist Church

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A Celebration of Life

March 9, 1920 - November 26, 2016

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

~Psalm 23:6~

Alfonso Rickerson, Jr.

"Ricky"
Home Going Services
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

HOPEWELL BAPTIST
CHURCH
1301 FILLMORE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14211

11 AM · WAKE
12 PM · FUNERAL

Final Resting Place
Ridgelawn Cemetery
800 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd
Cheektowaga, NY
Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Final Viewing · Family

Scripture Readings
Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection · Curtis Cotton

Reflections · Family & Friends

Reflections · Alfonso Rickerson Jr.

Musical Selection · Hopewell Choir

Eulogy · Pastor Dennis Lee Jr.

Closing Musical Selection
Blessed Assurance (sung in unison)

Benediction

Recessional

REPAST

Hopewell Baptist Church
Buffalo, New York
Alfonso Rickerson was born on March 9, 1920 near Claxton, Georgia in a farming community affectionately known as “The Area.” This land is now part of the Fort Stewart U.S. Army Base. It was there a young insurance salesman named Joseph Rickerson met Carrie Baker. After a brief courtship, they were married. John Baker gave his daughter a plot of land to farm so that they could support themselves and their upcoming family. Alfonso was the third child of that union.

Unfortunately, farming life did not agree with Joseph so he decided to return to the city leaving behind his wife and four kids. This devastated the family forcing Alfonso to leave school and find work to support the family which had grown to five children. After turning 18, Alfonso enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he learned to drive trucks and pilot boats. After CCC camp, he relocated to Jacksonville Florida where he worked in a railroad factory and lived with a cousin, Dave Rickerson, who treated him like his own son. When World War II started, Alfonso enlisted in the U.S. Army and was trained at Fort Bragg and Fort Bennett. He was assigned to the tank division. And was honorably discharged after his service.

Alfonso grew to love traveling around to different places, “to see how others lived” and on one of those trips he made his way to Chester, Pennsylvania where he lived for a few years, finding work at Baldwin Locomotives. On a weekend trip to Buffalo to visit his uncle Nathan, Alfonso saw the numerous employment opportunities and liked it. Reasoning that he had family here and that more cars will be built than railroads, Alfonso decided to move to Buffalo.

It was in Buffalo Alfonso met Helen Dunlap, they eventually married and produced a son, Alfonso Jr. In addition to his own son Alfonso became the step-father to six additional sons. Alfonso went to work at General Motors auto plant where he stayed for 42 years until his retirement. He started a janitor and left as a skilled tradesman.
March 9, 1920 - November 26, 2016

Alfonso was affectionately called “Big Al” by his co-workers. But to most of his friends and family he was known as “Ricky.”

Alfonso became a widower in 1999 after his wife Helen died of a massive heart attack. He continued his love of travel and his routines such as reading the newspaper and walking around Delaware Park. A new chapter for Alfonso happened when he met Willa Mae Young-Simpson. Their friendship lasted until her untimely death in September of 2016.

Alfonso was an avid lover of jazz. In his travels, he attended many concerts. As much as he liked to travel, Alfonso became very good at reading maps and finding the best time and routes to many destinations. It was not uncommon for people to call him to find the best route somewhere. Alfonso loved reading the newspaper from the front to the final page. He was also a staunch supporter of education whether it was college, the Armed Services or learning a trade.

Alfonso was preceding in death by his parents, Joseph Rickerson and Carrie Stafford; wife Helen Rickerson; companion, Willa Mae Young-Simpson; brothers, Asia Rickerson of Buffalo, NY, Bea Walden of Chicago, IL, Blanche Hammond of Glenville, Ga, Marcus James Rickerson of Savannah Ga, Ward Rickerson of Tampa FL, and Mercer Rickerson of Boston, MA; sisters, Jurutha Jones of Fort Lauderdale, FL, Nell Grant of Newark, NJ; step-sons, Maurice Cotton of Buffalo, NY, Murphy Cotton of Buffalo, NY, Melvin Cotton of Detroit, MI, Carlton Cotton, of Dertoit MI, Melroy Cotton of Detroit MI, and Paris Cotton of Buffalo, NY.

Alfonso is survived by his son, Alfonso (Ruthellen) Rickerson Jr. of Titusville Pennsylvania; a daughter-in-law, Doris Cotton; a first cousin, Almeta L. Baker-Bowes of Buffalo, New York; granddaughter, Avonlea; grandson Armand Rickerson; and numerous other grandchildren, as a result of his marriage, along with a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.
Those special memories of you will always bring a smile;
If only I could have you back for just a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do;
You always meant so very much to me and always will do too.
The fact that you’re no longer here will cause me pain;
But you’re forever in my heart,
Until we meet again
I'll Be There
Maude Hurford
Guernsey Poet

I'll be there
I've come to the end of life's busy road
I've put down the burden, I've cast off my load.

My spirit is free, my soul has wings
I'll pour from the throat of a bird that sings.

I'll ride on the wind, I'll float on the clouds
I'll twinkle with stars in night's velvet shroud.

I'll shine with the sun as it circles the earth
I'll be there at dawn when the new day gives birth.

I'll be with the snow fluttering down
Silently, softly, nature's crown.

I'll be in the rain as it falls on the earth
Cleansing, refreshing, priceless worth.

I'll ride on the ether, silent and free
A world of my own, please don't cry for me.
Pallbearers
Melroy Cotton, Jr.
James Patterson
Robin Thompson
Armand Rickerson
Fred Young
Aaron Cotton

Acknowledgements
Perhaps you sent a lovely card,  
Or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece,  
If so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,  
As anyone would say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all,  
But thought of us this day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts,  
We thank you so very much.  
We would like to thank everyone for  
Coming out to celebrate the life of  
Alfonso Rickerson, Sr. May God  
Continue to bless you all!  
~The Rickerson Family~

We Entrusted Our Loved One To:
Brian K. Lewis Funeral Home  
347 Peckham St  
Buffalo, New York 14206  
www.brianklewisfuneralhomes.com  
“To Serve This Present Age”