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5-7-1998

### Obituary; 1998-05-07; Foote, Sr., Lonnie Charles

Bethel A.M.E. Church

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*In Loving Memory of*  
**Lonnie Charles Foote, Sr.**



**July 16, 1923 - May 7, 1998**

**Pentecostal Temple COGIG  
618 Jefferson Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14204**

**Tuesday, May 12, 1998  
Wake Visitation 11:00 a.m.  
Funeral Service 12:00 noon**

**Auspices  
H. Alfred Lewis Mortuary, Inc.  
968 Jefferson Ave., Buffalo, NY 14204**

## Obituary

Lonnie Charles Foote was born July 16, 1923, the sixth child to the union of Bennie Dick Foote and Ola Mable Carson Foote in North Braddock, Pennsylvania. The Lord granted eternal peace and rest to Lonnie Foote on May 7, 1998. He was preceded in death by five brothers and one sister.

Lonnie and Mary Ellen Dryer united in holy matrimony on May 1 1, 1947, and were blessed with seven daughters and one son.

At an early age he became responsible at home. He learned skills with his hands in carpentry and auto mechanics to help support the family. He never completed elementary school and at the tender age of 19 entered the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in continental duty and the European Theater which included England and Northern France. He was decorated with the American Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals.

Being a "jack of all trades and a master of none", his employment history varied from truck driver to laborer at J. Edgar Thompson Plant in Pittsburgh, to Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna, where he retired in 1984. His love for cars and trucks was a passion and in his spare time when not with the family, was spent running a neighborhood mechanics shop.

He was a simple man who loved to reminisce about the depression years and tell war stories. He even went to an elementary school and participated with other grandparents, retelling stories about military life during the war years.

He enjoyed life with his family and will be sorely missed by them and a host of many other relatives and friends. He leaves to mourn and cherish his memory, his loving wife Mary; daughters, Sharon (Raymond), Geneva, Beverly, Marilyn, Lorraine (Aundry), Norma, Leslie, and son Lonnie (Frances). He is also survived by his sisters Ruby Franklin and Marjorie Fuller of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; his mother-in-law Geneva Allen and twenty-one grandchildren, Eddie, Jennifer, Toddie, Raymond A., L.C. David, II, Lisa, Nicholas, Nathalie, Ola, Marlon, Stephanie, T atchy, Byron, Lia, Cassandra, Marcella, Matthew, Joshua, Isaiah and Lonnie III; and eight great-grand children.

~\*~  
BELIEVE

that LIFE is meant to be EMBRACED not just endured, TREASURED, not just tolerated, SAVORED not just survived, ADVERTISED not just avoided, ILLUMINATED not just ignored, and most of all, BELIEVE that LIFE was meant to be CELEBRATED!

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## Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings - Old Testament, Psalms 23  
- New Testament,  
1 Corinthians 15: 51-58

Hymn  
When Peace Like A River

Solo  
His Eye Is On The Sparrow  
- Vietta Hutchinson

Poem  
Read by  
Marilyn Foote-Kragbe'

Obituary (Read Silently)

Musical Selection - Tamella Mitchell, Verona  
and Vietta Hutchinson,

Family Expressions

Acknowledgements

Eulogy  
Rev. Robert Lowe

Benediction

Recessional

Interment - St. Matthew's Cemetery,  
West Seneca, New York

Rouffalo, New York

**Lonnie Charles Foote, Sr., by Marilyn Foote-Kragbe'**

**Name him,**

The frisky and polite little boy  
Who smiled quickly and laughed a lot  
Always savoring his only toy  
He made from scraps and a box.

**Name him,**

That obedient and caring son who grew  
Very fond and close to his mom  
While he wiggled on the church pew  
And stole many hearts with his charm.

**Name him,**

At nineteen he dutifully and with honor  
Served as a Sargent in the army during W. W. II  
In the infantry and the firemen's corp  
England, France and Belgium he had gone through.

**Name him,**

A committed husband till death do us part  
An ever ready energy father of eight  
Endless, rides, the comet, tobogganing and Beaver Island  
Park  
Remember, "You have to eat everything on your plate."

**Name him,**

He was the man everyone called dad on the neighborhood  
block  
Who reached out to help his sisters and brothers  
Worked double shifts and made it home by 4 o'clock  
Self-sacrificing many basic needs and always included  
others.

**Name him,**

He was the father of invention and very resourceful  
Because he was good with his hands  
His life's stories were humerus and inspirational  
He loved to tell them to all, his grands and great grands.

**Name him,**

He was the lover of Mahalia Jackson and the big bands  
He could repair anything that was under a hood  
Faulty machinery and "ole Betsy" woke-up at his command  
Everything he put his hands on, he tried to find some good.

**His name was Mr. Lonnie Charles Foote, Sr.**

## When All Is Done

When all is done, and my last word is said  
And ye who love me murmur, "He is dead"  
Let no one weep, for fear that I should know  
And sorrow too that ye should sorrow

When all is done, say not my day is o'er  
And that thro' night I seek a dimmer shore  
Say rather that my morn has just begun  
I greet the dawn and not a setting sun  
When all is done.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar

### Acknowledgements

The family of the late Lonnie C. Foote, Sr. acknowledges with grateful appreciation the many acts of kindness throughout the time of sorrow.

### Pallbearers

Greg James, Jerome Young,  
Joe Moscato, Raymond A. DuBard, LC Da  
Rogers II, Nicholas Ogden,