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Bethel A.M.E. Church

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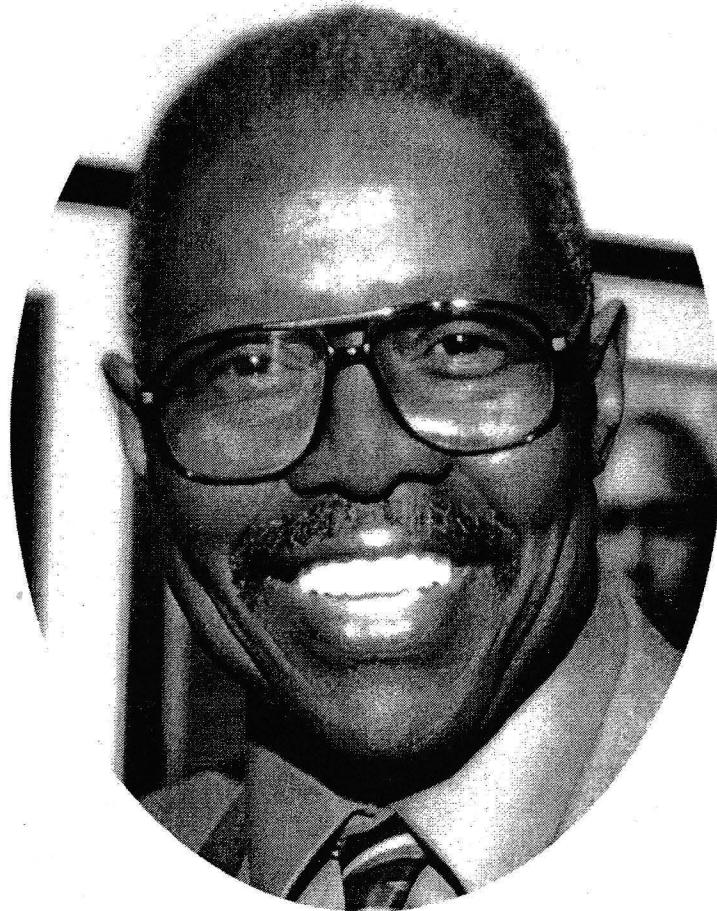
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Homegoing Service for



J. Carl Bland
"Minister of Protocol"

Sunrise
June 13, 1928

Sunset
April 11, 2002

Tuesday, April 16, 2002
12:00 P.M.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
1525 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York

Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse, Pastor

OBITUARY

J. Carl Bland departed this life on Thursday, April 11, 2002.

J. Carl was born in Sanford, North Carolina, June 13, 1928, to the Late Josephine (Sister) Bland; he was educated in Lee County Schools. In 1944, after leaving North Carolina, he moved to Buffalo. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1950 where he volunteered to serve with the 11th Airborne Division. He received an honorable discharge from the Army Services.

Upon returning to Buffalo, he was employed at Pratt & Letchworth where he became an active member and officer of Local 316. He was elected a permanent delegate to all district and national conventions. He eventually resigned in order to devote his services to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was a Life Member and a Golden Heritage Member. He became a National Life Membership Committee member of the NAACP after raising \$10,000.00 for the Mississippi Crisis. He earned the title, "Mr. NAACP".

J. Carl joined Bethel AME Church in 1957, under the Pastorate of Rev. Harry White, Sr. and served as Men's Day Chairperson in 1982 and 1987. The Buffalo Area Council of Churches honored him for his church service in 1987. Bishop Philip R. Cousin named him the "Chief Minister of Protocol and Special Messenger to the Bishop" at the First Western New York Annual Conference in 1997. His Bethel Family affectionately called him "The Candy Man".

J. Carl was a founder and charter member of Master Craftsmen Lodge #110 where he served as Treasurer for many years. He was a member of Bennett Wells Post #1780, Bison Consistory #29 and Hadji Temple #61, which he served well.

He was a faithful and hardworking individual who was the recipient of many awards.

He leaves to cherish his loving memory; one brother, Nathaniel Bland of Buffalo, NY; one sister, Catherine Bland of New York, NY; seven nieces, Alma McDonald, & Evelyn Bland of Buffalo, NY, Vivian Elaine Easterling of Bronx, NY, Maria Alston-Hicks of Queens, NY, Brenda Swann-Douglas of Orange, NJ, Linda Faye Smith of Cameron, NC, and Joyce Bland of Sanford, NC; seven nephews; Jacob Bland of Buffalo, NY, Paul Bland of Bronx, NY, Gene Bland of Sanford, NC, Robert Earl of Liberty, NC, Benny Bland of Sanford, NC, John Bland of Connecticut and Gregory Eugene Swann of Newark, NJ, a host of other relatives and an abundance of friends. Samuel Belton was his closest and dearest friend.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Scriptural Readings

Hymn "We Are Often Tossed And Driven" #394

Prayer Clergy

Scriptures Clergy

Old Testament Psalms 137:1-6

New Testament Ephesians 2:11-22

Selection "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Remarks & Tributes

Selection "I Am Redeemed"

Acknowledgements

Obituary (read silently)

Selection "It Is Well, With My Soul"

Eulogy Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse

Recessional "Lift Every Voice And Sing"

Interment

Forest Lawn

Buffalo, New York

"Well done, my good and faithful servant"

Pallbearers

Master Craftsmen Lodge #110

“When I Must Leave You”

*When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears.
Don't hug your sorrow to you through the years.
Instead, start out bravely with a gallant smile,
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same.
Feed not your loneliness on empty days.
But fill each waking hour in useful ways.
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And God will comfort you and hold you near
And never, never be afraid to die—
For I am waiting for you in the sky.*

The Family

Auspices

*H. Alfred Lewis Mortuary
998 Jefferson Avenue
Buffalo, New York*

Acknowledgement

We shall always remember with grateful appreciation your kind expressions of sympathy extended to us during our time of sorrow. May God bless each of you.

The family of J. Carl Bland