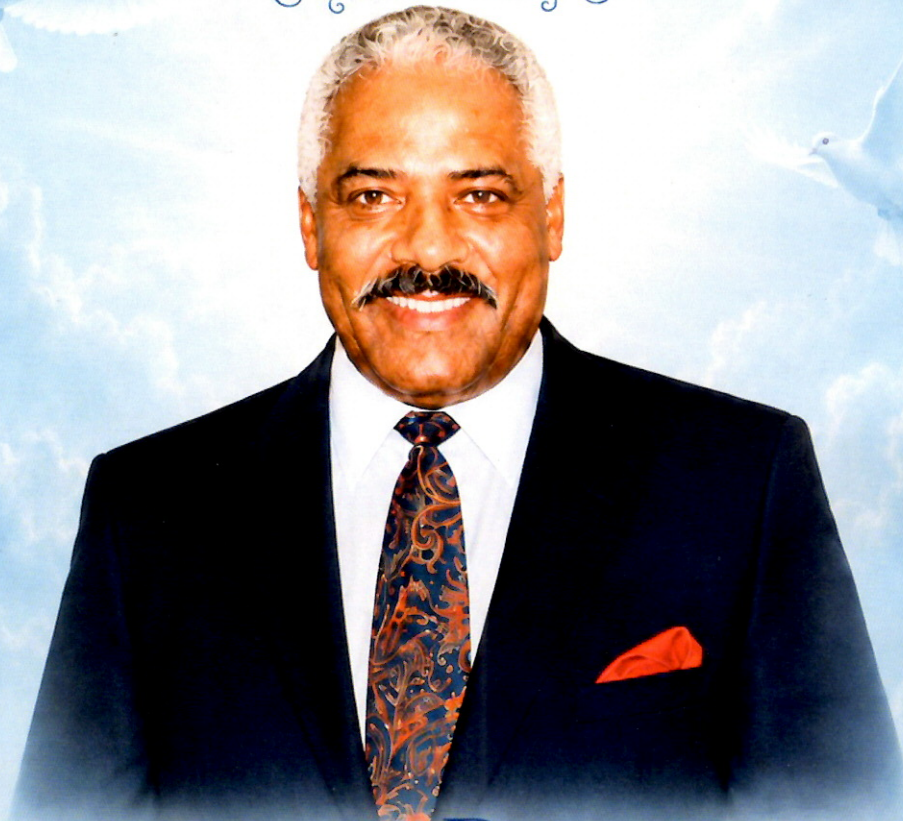


A CELEBRATION  
— OF THE —

*Life* OF



MICHAEL ROBINSON

*December 17, 1947 – July 4, 2026*

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

701 West Montgomery Road  
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

*Saturday, August 15, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.*

*Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend H. Mawande Mzongwana,  
Officiating*

# *A Celebration of the Life of Michael Robinson*

## *Order of Service*

|                                                         |                           |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Musical Prelude at Processional                         | <i>How Great Thou Art</i> | Mr. Bill Perry and Mr. Allen Williams                      |
| Processional                                            |                           | The Family of Michael Robinson                             |
| Opening Words & Prayer                                  |                           | St. Andrew's Episcopal Church:<br>Denise Dixon             |
| Scripture Readings                                      |                           | John 14:1-3 Shavonne Smith<br>Luke 23:42-43 Shari Kelly    |
| The Gospel                                              |                           | John 5:24-27<br>The Reverend H. Mawande Mzongwana          |
| Expressions                                             |                           | Family and Friends                                         |
| The Hon. Lawrence "Tony" Haygood, former Tuskegee Mayor |                           |                                                            |
| Jason Wilson, General Manager, BMW of Montgomery        |                           |                                                            |
| Lurma Rackley                                           |                           |                                                            |
| Beth Robinson                                           |                           |                                                            |
| Leslie Robinson                                         |                           |                                                            |
| Mark Jackson                                            |                           |                                                            |
| William T. McDaniel, Jr.                                |                           |                                                            |
| Elliot McDaniel                                         |                           |                                                            |
| The Eulogy                                              |                           | The Reverend H. Mawande Mzongwana                          |
| The Lord's Prayer                                       |                           | Prayer Book, Page 364 Congregation                         |
| The Blessing & Dismissal                                |                           | Prayer Book, Page 500<br>The Reverend H. Mawande Mzongwana |
| The Recessional                                         | <i>I Love the Lord</i>    | Mr. Bill Perry and Mr. Allen Williams                      |

# The Obituary

**Michael Robinson ("Mike")** was born to Sue Ann Jackson Robinson and Irvin Clark Robinson, Sr. on December 17, 1947 in Akron, Ohio. Mike had an extremely happy childhood, raised by his parents with his nine beloved siblings: his brothers Irvin Clark Robinson, Jr., Richard Anthony "Tony" Robinson, Allan F. Robinson, Albert Chris Robinson and Donald F. Robinson, and his sisters Diane Marie Robinson, Sue Ann Robinson, Therese Robinson and Ophelia Robinson. Mike's beautiful mother, Sue Ann, was a devoted civic leader in the Akron community who actively worked with local voter-registration, while simultaneously raising ten children. His handsome father "Clark" Robinson was one of Akron's first successful minority entrepreneurs who owned Akron's first minority-run Bowling Alley, and several local restaurants in Akron.

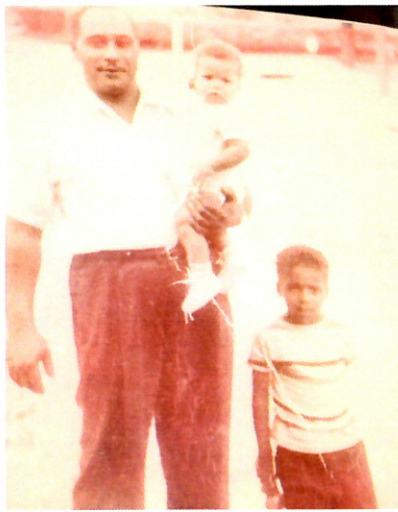
As a child, Mike was raised Catholic and educated at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Akron. He then attended Akron's North High School where he excelled in sports. Mike became an exceptional football player for the North High School Vikings football team; he played halfback (an offensive back-field position, catching short passes and blocking quarterbacks). He graduated North High in 1967 and attended Akron University (Business major) until being drafted in 1969 (U.S. Vietnam War draft). Mike proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy (for 4 years) and was awarded several National Defense Medals. He also served in the Naval Reserve (Manpower Center, Bainbridge, MD). Mike, along with his brothers Tony, Chris and Allan Robinson, were all proud "Navy men." Mike often told his family numerous stories of his days on the USS SEMMES (DDG-18), and of spending time "at sea" in the Mediterranean and of his numerous travels abroad. With the Navy behind him, Mike returned to Akron, Ohio (1970s) and developed a genuine talent for sales. He had a magnetic personality, people gravitated towards him, and he became very successful in sales. He began as a wine distributor sales representative, selling wine portfolios to local (Ohio) restaurants and establishments. In the 1980s, Mike moved to Atlanta and worked as both a Secondary Finance Manager and Sales Rep for Atlanta's Classic Cadillac, and SouthTowne Hyundai dealerships, *et al.*

In Atlanta, the year was 1991 (subsequent to Mike's and Brenda's previous marriages), Mike met Brenda Dowdy. Brenda had just moved back to Atlanta (from living in New York, NY for 6 years); she and Mike met each other, dated, fell deeply in love, becoming lovers and best friends. They were married in 1994 by their dear friend (Atlantan) Horace T. Ward, Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia. Mike and Brenda were married in Judge Ward's chambers on November 23, 1994. Dear friend Margaret Washington Cabiness Clifford, stood with Mike during their wedding ceremony, and dear friends Mary Johnson Barnett and Attorney Winnie Simpson were with Brenda (as her maid-of-honor and matron-of-honor). Mike and Brenda both felt that their union was orchestrated by God. They shared interests: they both truly loved New York and went there often; they enjoyed the same music (jazz and "the Standards"); they adored animals (especially dogs). It was good! In 1998, Mike's beloved father-in-law, (Tuskegee University Professor Emeritus) Dr. George T. Dowdy, suffered a massive stroke that left him an invalid. Brenda had Dr. Dowdy transferred from Alabama to Atlanta where he could be hospitalized near her. When it was apparent that Dr. Dowdy would never recover, Mike and Brenda sold their Atlanta home and moved Dr. Dowdy back into his house, in his beloved Tuskegee Institute. Subsequently, Mike was hired at BMW of Montgomery and also managed to help care for his father-in-law with a remarkably divine and amazing dedication, and with love and compassion.

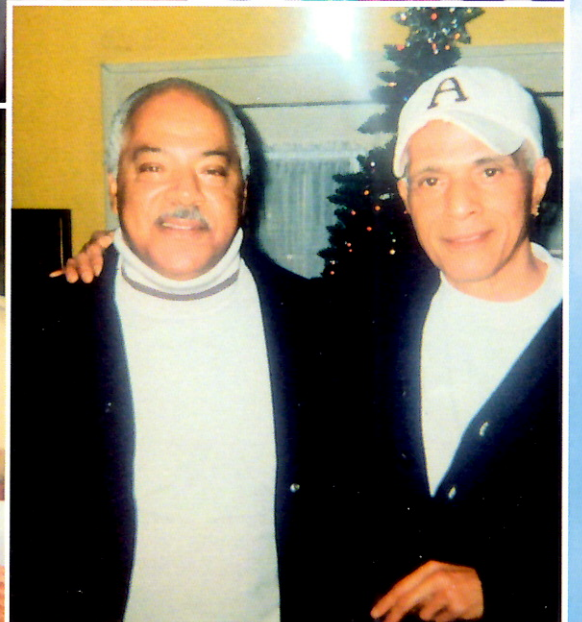
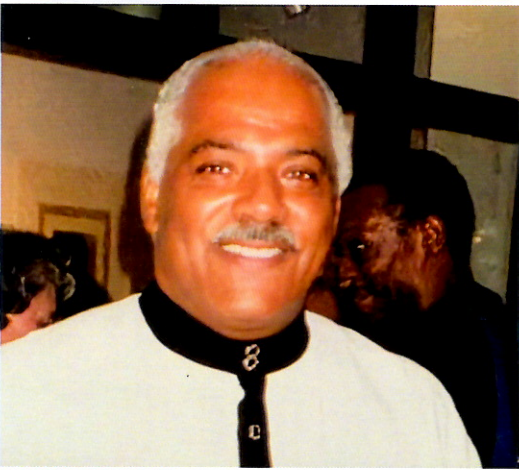
When they moved to Tuskegee in the year 2000, Mike began attending services at St. Andrew's (where Brenda was confirmed as a child). After attending services for several years, then Rector, The Rev. Fr. Liston A. Garfield, and Mrs. Carolyn Walcott Ford urged Mike to take Episcopal confirmation classes. On January 20, 2008, Mike proudly became a confirmed Episcopalian (The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Bishop of Alabama, officiated). Until he became ill (Alzheimer's), Mike was an active member of St. Andrew's and proudly served as Chairman of its Usher Board. He truly loved the congregation and the fellowship.

Mike was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Sue Ann and beloved father Irvin Clark Robinson; his brothers Clark, Tony, Chris and Donald. Mike is survived by his adoring wife of 34 years, Brenda Dowdy Robinson, his brother, Allan F. Robinson (Romona Mingo Robinson); his sisters: Diane Marie Robinson, Sue Ann Miller, Therese Robinson Hayes (Leroy), and Ophelia Robinson; sister-in-law, Mary Jane "Jaye" Robinson, and a host of beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and very close friends. Mike lived a life not defined by loud achievements, but by an ever-present quiet grace. He treated people with respect and warmth. His kindness and compassion just came naturally, and it was endless! Mike was a fun-lover, a good poker player, and a great cook; he was a devoted Christian, and a loving husband, brother, uncle, cousin and friend. Thank you God for giving him to us for 78 years!

# *"The Early Years and Family"*







# *"Good Times, Good Friends and Family"*

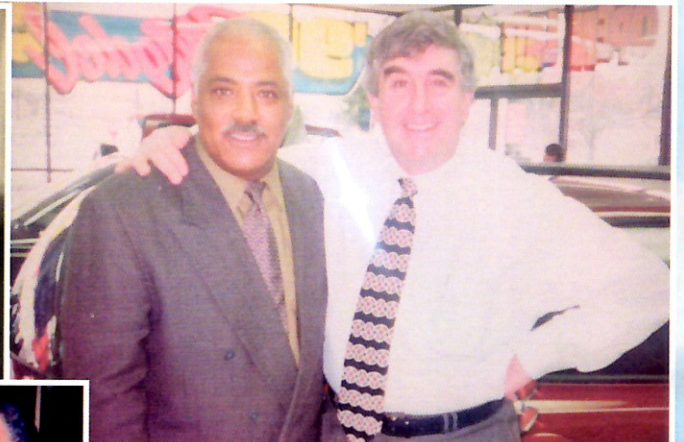


Morehouse Alumni Homecoming celebration, 2015









## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Dr. Norman Taylor  
Dr. Al Robinson  
Dr. John Robinson  
Dr. Charles Thompson  
Mr. James C.B. Samuel  
Mr. Douglas Jones  
Mr. Garland Wise  
Mr. Noah Hopkins  
Mr. Dee C. Madison

## *To My Husband*

*I thought of Mike with love today, but that is nothing new.  
I thought about him yesterday, and days before that too.*

*I think of him in silence. I often speak his name.  
All I have are memories, and his picture in a frame.*

*His memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part.  
GOD has him in His keeping but I have him in my heart.*

*God keep you, my love, until we are together again in Paradise.*

## *Acknowledgments*

The family of Michael Robinson gratefully acknowledges the many kind expressions of support, love and concern. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for each and every kind word, thought, prayer and outpouring of love for our beloved **Mike**. May God continue to bless you and yours always!

We thank the staffs of The Peoples Funeral Home and McQuick Printing for their support and guidance.

**Final Services Entrusted To:**  
**PEOPLES FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
500 Fonville Street • Tuskegee, AL • (334) 727-0140