

CALLED BY GOD. COMMITTED TO JUSTICE. GUIDED BY LOVE.
CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

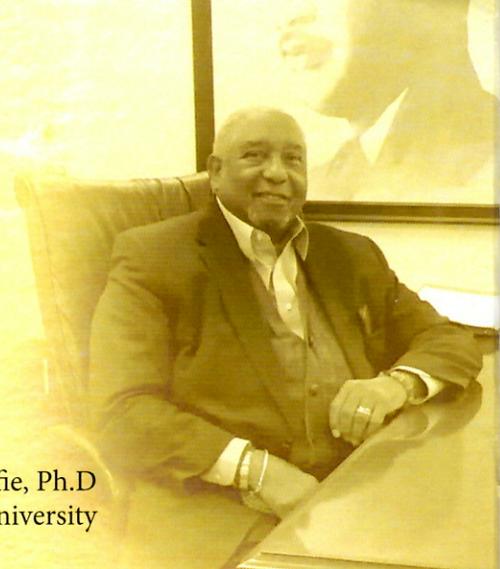


Reverend
Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr.

SUNRISE: JULY 29, 1940 - SUNSET: MARCH 5, 2026

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY CHAPEL
1 Booker T. Washington Boulevard
Tuskegee, Alabama

Order of Service



Officiant Rev. Cecil A. Duffie, Ph.D
Dean of the Chapel, Tuskegee University

VIDEO MONTAGE OF DR. LAFAYETTE, JR. SINGING FREEDOM SONGS

Processional..... The LaFayette & Bulls Families

Words of Welcome Dr. Mark A. Brown
Tuskegee University President and CEO '86, 10th President of Tuskegee University

Invocation..... Rev. Cecil A. Duffie, Ph.D

Trailer *When I Get Grown*

Musical Tribute..... Dr. Charles Neblett
Original Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Freedom Singer

Old Testament..... Psalm 27 Katé-Verdell LaFayette
Grandson of Dr. LaFayette, Jr.

New Testament John 14:1-3 Taylor A.V. Bulls
Niece of Dr. LaFayette, Jr.

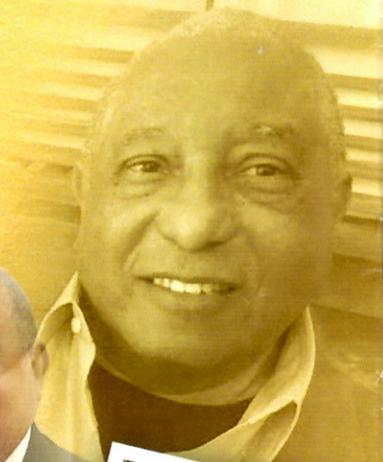
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Tuskegee University Golden Voices Choir

Tribute..... Ambassador Andrew Young
Former U.S. Ambassador to the United States and Former Mayor of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

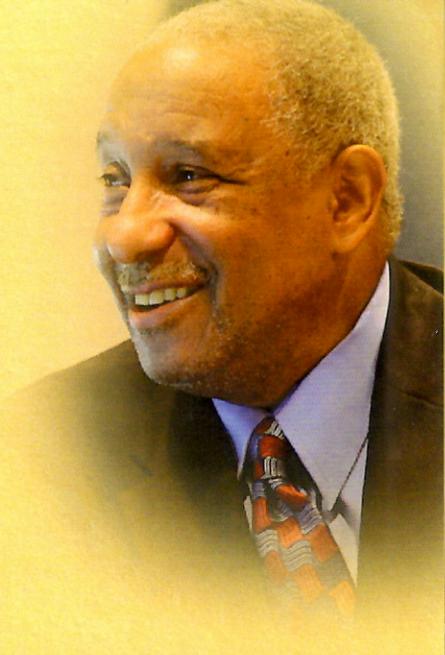
Remarks..... Rev. Dr. Bernice A. King
CEO, The King Center, Atlanta, GA

Remarks..... Martin Luther King, III
Global Humanitarian and Chairman, the Drum Major Institute, Atlanta, GA

Video Tributes..... Hon. Terri Sewell, United States Congress, Alabama District 7
Rev. Al Sharpton, President and Founder National Action Network
Allen Onyema, Esq., CEO of Air Peace - Nigeria



Order of Service



- “Total Praise” Tuskegee University Golden Voices Choir
- Reflection..... Attorney Charles Bonner
Original Student from Selma Movement
- Reflection.....Attorney Bryan Stevenson
Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL
- Reflection.....Demark Liggins, Sr.
National President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Atlanta, GA
- Reflection..... Dennie Marshall
Chairman of the Board, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN
- Reflection..... Hon. Omar Neal
Longtime Friend of Dr. LaFayette and former Mayor of Tuskegee, Tuskegee, AL

“My Life is in Your Hands” Kimberly Pointer and Pianist Bill Perry
A TRIBUTE TO DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.
A Training in Kingian Nonviolence as Espoused by Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.
Facilitator
 Capt.(ret) Charles L. Alphin, Sr., Atlanta, GA

Presenters

- Dr. Lucky Shedrack Agedga, Lagos, Nigeria Ainka Jackson, Esq., Selma, AL
- Charles L. Alphin, Jr., St. Louis, MO Dr. Tangier Scott, Miami, FL
- Victoria Christgau, Hartford, CT Capt. (ret) Richard Tarlaian, J.D., Providence, RI

“In Bright Mansions Above” Tuskegee University Golden Voices Choir
 A Reflection on Life and What to Seek Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr.
A clip taken on August 12, 2017, in Hayneville, AL during a Celebration for Jonathan Daniels. On August 20, 1965, he was a 26-year old white Episcopal seminarian from New Hampshire when he was killed by a sheriff deputy while shielding 17-year old Black activist Ruby Sales in Hayneville.

Family Tribute.....Thomas Coverson, II
Nephew of Dr. LaFayette, Atlanta, GA

A Son’s Tribute Rev. Bernard LaFayette, III, Columbia, TN

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”Kwatasian Hunt, Ph.D and Bill Perry, Pianist
 EulogyDr. Charles Steele, Jr.
 President Emeritus of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Atlanta, GA

“Lord Make Me an Instrument of thy Peace”.....Tuskegee University Golden Voices Choir

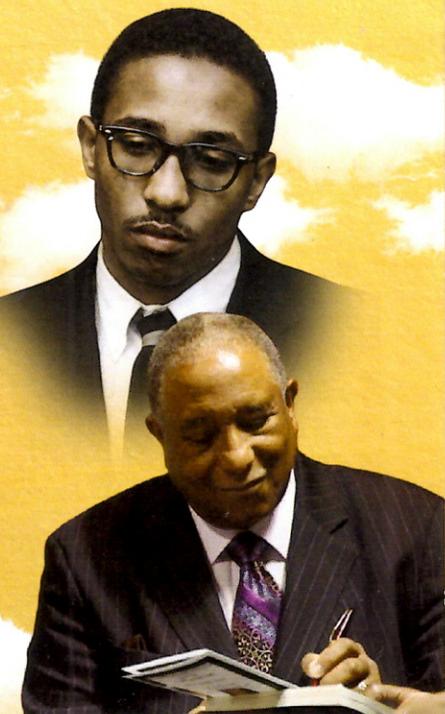
PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Words of Gratitude..... Kate Bulls LaFayette & George B. Bulls, II
Wife and Nephew of Dr. LaFayette, Jr.

AUDIO OF DR. KING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF “WE SHALL OVERCOME”

Recessional..... “We Shall Overcome”..... Everyone

“First thing is that you’ve got to believe in your heart that change can occur, in spite of the situation at hand. Because if you conclude that change cannot take place, then you become a part of the problem.”
 - REV. DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.





Onward

Though my journey here has ended, the work must go on. Live with courage. Stand for justice. Choose love. Build bridges, lift one another, and never lose faith in peaceful change. My legacy is not what I did;

but what you will carry forward.
Remember always... The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

- REV. DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.

EDMOND PETTUS BRIDGE

BERNARD LAFAYETTE

The Life and Legacy

*I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that Day, and not only to me
but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8



REVEREND
DR. BERNARD
LAFAYETTE, JR.

REVEREND DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE JR., a loving father, husband, civil rights leader, minister, and lifelong teacher of nonviolence, was called home on March 5, 2026, at the age of 85.

Born on July 29, 1940, in Tampa, Florida, Bernard was the eldest of eight children of Deacon Bernard LaFayette Sr. and Willie Verdell Forrester LaFayette. Raised in Tampa's historic Ybor City during the era of Jim Crow segregation, he developed an early awareness of injustice that would shape the course of his life.

His grandmother, Rozelia Forrester, played a profound role in shaping his faith and calling. She often told him that he carried the "mark of a preacher" and should one day attend seminary. Bernard was present when New Hope Missionary Baptist Church was organized in his grandmother's living room in 1950, making him the youngest member of the church's founding group at the age of 10. The congregation nurtured the young boy's budding calling, even placing a small chair beside the pulpit so he could observe and learn from the preacher. Years later, he would fulfill the vision his grandmother saw in him when he became an ordained Baptist minister in 1969.

Bernard was proud to say that he began working at the age of 7. He delivered newspapers and coffee before school, earning the nickname "Mr. Coffee" as he carried coffee to market vendors early each morning. As a teenager he worked at Blue Ribbon Supermarket in Tampa, learning every aspect of the grocery business—from the butcher shop to produce stands to cashiering. Even as a young boy he showed generosity and compassion, often giving his coffee tips to classmates who did not have lunch money and sharing fruit from the family's yard with neighbors and friends.

A gifted student and natural leader, Bernard graduated from the all-Black Middleton High School in 1958. His leadership and work on the school newspaper earned him a full scholarship to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Yet when the time came to choose his path, the words of his grandmother remained with him. Honoring her wish that he pursue ministry, Bernard turned down the scholarship to Florida A&M and instead enrolled at American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, where his life's work would begin to take shape.

While in Nashville, Bernard became part of the generation of young leaders who helped transform America through disciplined nonviolent action. At American Baptist Theological Seminary, he shared a dorm room with a young student from Troy, Alabama who would later become Congressman John Lewis. Together they joined other committed students studying the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence under the guidance of Rev. James Lawson and Rev. C.T. Vivian. Alongside fellow organizers such as James Bevel and Diane Nash, Bernard became a leader in the Nashville Student Movement, which helped organize the historic lunch counter sit-ins that successfully desegregated Nashville's downtown businesses.

In 1960, Bernard helped co-found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), joining fellow activists such as Stokely Carmichael—who would later become a founding member of the Black Panther Party—and many others dedicated to dismantling segregation through disciplined nonviolent direct action. The work demanded extraordinary courage. Bernard participated in the Freedom Rides of 1961, where interracial groups challenged segregated interstate bus travel throughout the South. The riders were met with brutal violence, arrests, and imprisonment. Bernard himself would be beaten and arrested 27 times during the Civil Rights Movement, yet remained steadfast in his commitment to nonviolence.

In 1962, SNCC sent Bernard to Selma, Alabama, to help organize voter registration among Black citizens who had long been denied their constitutional rights. Working closely with local leaders such as Amelia and Samuel Boynton, he helped galvanize the community and lay the groundwork for the movement that would bring national attention to Selma. During this period Bernard survived a deadly tri-state assassination conspiracy organized by members of the Ku Klux Klan that targeted three civil rights leaders. The plot sought to take the lives of Bernard in Alabama and Benjamin Elton Cox in Louisiana; while both men survived their attacks, the conspiracy succeeded in claiming the life of civil rights leader Medgar Evers in Jackson, Mississippi.

The organizing work in Selma helped set the stage for the historic demonstrations that followed. After the fatal shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson in 1965, the movement culminated in the Selma-to-Montgomery marches, including the violent events of "Bloody Sunday," where peaceful marchers were attacked by state troopers. The courage and nonviolent discipline displayed by the movement helped awaken the conscience of the nation and ultimately led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

A LIFE OF COURAGE,



*“The value of life lies not in longevity,
but in what people do to give it significance.”*

- REV. DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.

Bernard later worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), serving as National Program Administrator of the Poor People's Campaign in 1968. In what would later be known as Dr. King's final hours, while staying at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. King spoke with Bernard about the need to “institutionalize and internationalize nonviolence.” Bernard embraced that charge as the guiding mission of his life. For decades thereafter, he dedicated himself to teaching what became known as Kingian Nonviolence and helping build what Dr. King called the Beloved Community.

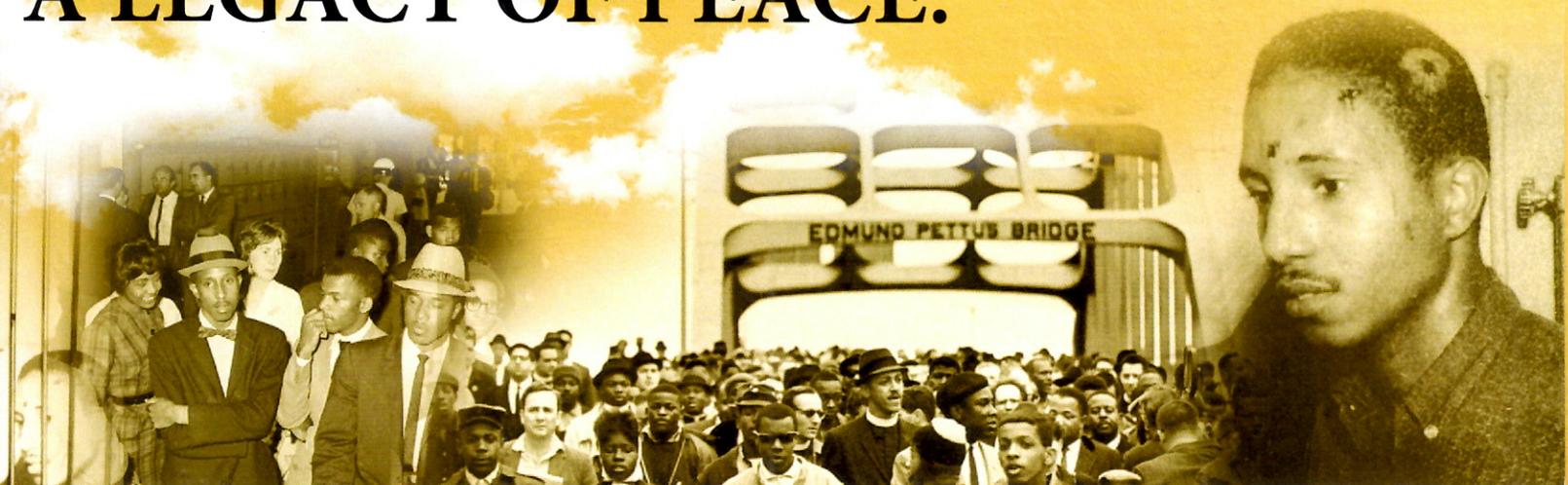
Bernard was once married to civil rights activist Colia Liddell LaFayette Clark. Two sons were born during that union: James A. LaFayette, Sr and Rev. Bernard LaFayette, III. Later, found the love of his life in Katherine “Kate” Bulls. They were married on November 29, 1969, and shared 57 years of love, devotion, partnership, and family. Their bond was a source of joy and strength, and together they built a life a rooted in faith, service, and enduring affection.

A distinguished scholar and educator, Bernard earned a Master of Education from Harvard University in 1972 and later received his Doctorate from Harvard University in 1974. Over the course of his career, he served in numerous academic and leadership roles, including positions at Gustavus Adolphus College, Alabama State University, Columbia Theological Seminary, Vanderbilt Divinity School, American Baptist College—where he later served as president—the University of Rhode Island, Emory University, and Auburn University. Through these roles he mentored countless students and leaders, helping new generations understand the discipline, strategy, and moral vision of nonviolent social change.

Bernard also traveled extensively throughout the United States and around the world teaching the principles of Kingian Nonviolence. Alongside longtime colleague and friend Captain Charles Alphin, Sr., he helped train activists, educators, community leaders, and students in countries across Africa, South America, the Middle East, and beyond. Wherever he went, he carried the message that lasting change comes through courage, love, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

During the 1980s, Bernard served as Senior Scholar in Residence at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta and as Dean of the Summer Nonviolent Institute at the King Center, both under the leadership of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. In these roles he helped carry forward Dr. King's philosophy by training new generations of leaders in the principles and discipline of nonviolent social change.

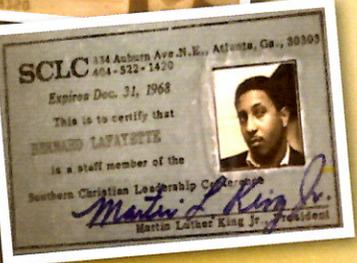
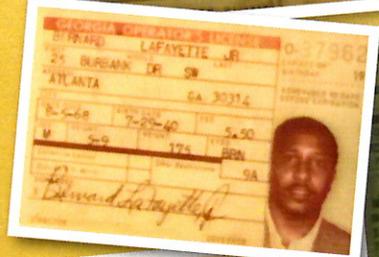
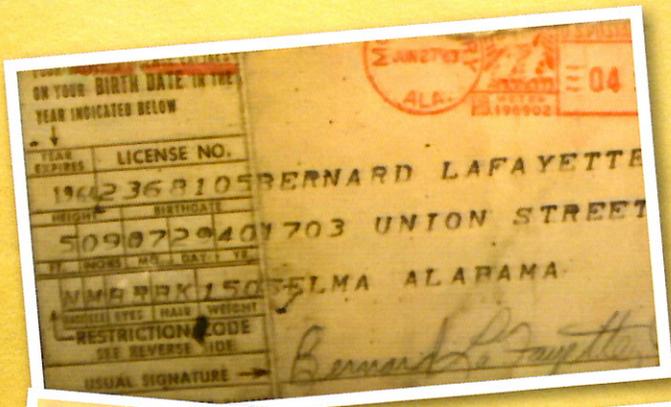
A LEGACY OF PEACE.



Even in his later years Bernard remained devoted to educating young people about history, justice, and the ongoing work of building a more peaceful world. He continued speaking to students, sharing stories of the Civil Rights Movement, and encouraging new generations to carry forward the lessons of nonviolence.

To his core, Bernard loved God, his wife, his family, and his life's work. He also loved fellowship, storytelling, Cuban food from his Tampa roots, and a good round of golf wherever his travels took him. His life touched thousands across the nation and around the world, and his legacy lives on not only in the history he helped shape but in the people, he mentored and the communities he strengthened.

Rev. Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. lived a life of faith, courage, scholarship, and service. His witness reminds us that love is stronger than hate, that nonviolence is stronger than fear, and that the arc of the moral universe, though long, bends toward justice. He will be loved and remembered.



Those left to cherish his loving memory...

HIS WIFE, Kate Bulls LaFayette (56 years);

HIS CHILDREN, Rev. Bernard LaFayette III (Kimberly); and his daughter-in-law, Tyesha LaFayette;

HIS GRANDCHILDREN, James LaFayette Jr., Jeremiah A. LaFayette, Joshua LaFayette, Bernard A. LaFayette, IV (Jamiyla), Yugene A. LaFayette (Talesa), Candace-Omnira K. LaFayette, Katé-Verdell J.A. LaFayette (Mya), Zavier Chandler (Betty), Zien Chandler, Quintinn Van Alstyne (Jennifer), and Maya Scruggs;

HIS GREAT-GRAND CHILDREN, Annia LaFayette, April LaFayette, Adiaha Stephens, Anjaylia LaFayette, Yugene LaFayette Jr., Emani Chandler, Darius Chandler, Akilah Bibb, Jael Gaines, Avaiah Robinson, Ziyheir Chandler, Zuri Chandler, Nova Hines, Maliky Allen, Zakai Chandler, and Leshawn Van Alstyne;

HIS GREAT-GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, Carrington Bibb, Rory Bibb, and Anthony Van Alstyne;

HIS SIBLINGS, Rozelia Kennedy (John), Brenda Austin (Renaldo "Ray"), Geri Coverson (Rev. T.R.), Michael LaFayette (Lori), and Victoria Harris (Rubin);

HIS NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Kate Bulls' Family - Jolai Elsberry Jenkins, Albert C. "Snapper" Bulls, III (Linda), Leslie K. "Cookie" Williams, Terra "Candy" Davis (J. Mason, III), George B. "Lil' George" Bulls, Sr. (Linda);

Rozelia Kennedy's Family - Bakari Kennedy (Tiffany), Kolade Kennedy (Kimberly), Femi Kennedy (Charlotte Cydrus), Patrick Kennedy, Sr., and John L. Kennedy;

Brenda Austin's Family - Ralynda Austin (Orlando Bacon);

Victoria Harris' Family - Carla V. Williams (Jerry Williams) and Gerald D. Davis Jr.;

Geri Coverson's Family - Talitha Anyabwelé (Javonté), Andrea Coverson (Joshua), and Thomas Coverson II;

Michael LaFayette's Family - Erica Kelly (Madkin Kelly);

Joyce Davis' (Deceased Sister) Family - Craig LaFayette (Michel), Jay Suber (Jazlyn), and Jasimon Richardson (Wayne);

GREAT-NIECES & NEPHEWS:

Kate Bulls' Family - Albert C. "Albee" Bulls, IV, Leslie B. Harris (Mike), George B. "G-2" Bulls, II (Tiffanne), Taylor A.V. Bulls, Salena F. Bulls, and Carson Maria Jenkins;

Rozelia Kennedy's Family - Christopher Kennedy, Jackie Kennedy, Mathias Kennedy, Antonio Kennedy, Angelina Kennedy, Angelo Kennedy, Patrick Kennedy Jr., Kayonna Kennedy, Celina White (Andrew White), Malaysia Kennedy, and LiNitra Kennedy;

Brenda Austin's Family - Yanna Rae Cruseaux and Amaya Bacon;

Victoria Harris' Family - Gelonni D. Davis and Nakia V. E. Williams;

Geri Coverson's Family - Alyce Highsmith, Amina Anyabwelé, Amiri Anyabwelé, and Abbas Coverson;

Michael LaFayette's Family - Salia Kelly and Michael Kelly;

Joyce Davis' (Deceased Sister) Family - LeJeune Miller, Sibonaé LaFayette, Charles Suber, Jeremiah Suber, Malachi Suber, Phai Suber, Justin Suber, Justice Suber, Wayne Richardson, Jr., and Wesley Richardson;

GREAT-GREAT NIECES:

Kate Bulls' Family - Jillian A. Harris and Mikaela A. Harris;

GODDAUGHTER:

Omari Neal

PRECEDED IN DEATH:

His parents, Deacon Bernard LaFayette, Sr. and Willie Verdell Forrester LaFayette; his son, James A. LaFayette, Sr.; his brother, Harold Lee LaFayette; his sister, Joyce Davis Wright; his great-grandchild, Amethyst LaFayette; along with in-laws, Althea Bulls Williams, Albert C. Bulls, Jr. and Anona Blanchet Bulls, George Simmons Bulls and Carolyn Pride Bulls, Ethel Bulls Elsberry, Gail Renéé Bulls Jenkins, and Randolph Sampson Bulls.





Conference
July 18- 21, 2000
Durban, South Africa

Acknowledgment

THE FAMILY OF **REV. DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.**, ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GRATEFUL AND SINCERE APPRECIATION, YOUR EXPRESSIONS OF KINDNESS, THOUGHTFULNESS AND MOST OF ALL YOUR PRAYERS THAT HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO US DURING OUR TIME OF NEED.

Pallbearers

ALBERT C. BULLS, III
ALBERT C. BULLS, IV
GEORGE B. BULLS, SR.
GEORGE B. BULLS, II
THOMAS COVERSON, II
BAKARI KENNEDY
REV. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, III
BERNARD A. LAFAYETTE, IV
JAMES LAFAYETTE, JR.
JEREMIAH A. LAFAYETTE
JOSHUA LAFAYETTE
KATÉ-VERDEL J.A. LAFAYETTE
YUGENE A. LAFAYETTE

Honorary Pallbearers

CHARLES ALPHIN, SR.
FEMI KENNEDY
SHANE LEE
JONATHAN LEWIS
OMAR NEAL
ALLEN ONYEMA, ESQ.
BILL PERRY
JEREMY PONDS
CHARLES STEELE, JR.
RICH TARLAIAN
AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG

Ushers

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TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
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ALLEN ONYEMA, ESQ.
CEO OF AIR PEACE - NIGERIA
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LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK

Interment

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2013 WEST MONTGOMERY ROAD
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, AL 36088

Planning Committee

CHARLES ALPHIN, SR. - GEORGE B. BULLS, II
TAYLOR A.V. BULLS - THOMAS COVERSON, II
TERRA DAVIS - ROZELIA KENNEDY
OMAR NEAL - LESLIE K. WILLIAMS

Peace

We cannot achieve world peace
without first achieving peace
within ourselves... inner peace.

In an atmosphere of
hatred, anger, competition and violence,
no lasting peace
can be achieved.

These negative and destructive forces
must be overcome by
compassion, love and altruism,
which are the essential teaching of
the Buddha.

Tenzin Gyatso
H.H. the XIVth Dalai Lama

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