

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY

OF

Simon Ellis
McRae



Alpha
January 20, 1949

Omega
February 12, 2024

Saturday, February 24, 2024
2:00 P.M.

HOST CHURCH / LOCATION

Bethlehem Missionary Church

15 East Plant Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787
Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Taylor, Sr. – Pastor

Eulogist – Pastor Charles H. Dorsey, III
Senior Pastor – True Word Ministries, Inc.

SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Postell's Mortuary – Orlando, Florida



Order of Service

HOST CHURCH

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Taylor, Sr. – Pastor

Officiating – Pastor Charles E. Williams, Jr.

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church / 1110 Drew Ave. / Orlando, FL 32805

Eulogist – Pastor Charles H. Dorsey, III

Senior Pastor – True Word Ministries, Inc.

Music provided by

Bethlehem MBC Women’s Gospel Choir

Processional Officiants and Family

Opening Prayer Pastor Charles E. Williams, Jr.

Scripture Readings..... Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Taylor, Sr.

Old Testament

New Testament

Musical Selection – Bethlehem MBC

Precious Memories / Reflections

(limit to 3 minutes each, please)

As a RAFMAN – President Arthur Jarvis

As a Friend – Deacon Melvin Henry

Open to Family & Friends

Musical Selection – Bethlehem MBC

Acknowledgments & Resolutions

Postell’s Mortuary

Reading of the Legacy *(silently to soft music)*

Musical Selection – Bethlehem MBC

Eulogy – Pastor Charles Dorsey

Committal Service –

Pastor Charles E. Williams, Jr.

Recessional

A Repast

You are invited to join the family for a time of fellowship here at the church, immediately following the service.

Interment

Monday, 2/26/2024 • 9:00AM at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, 5525 U.S. Highway 1, North Mims, FL 32754 with full honors

A LEGACY™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs...

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

— 2 Cor. 5:8



Simon Ellis McRae



Simon Ellis Mose McRae was born to his proud parents Duncan McRae and Mozell Moore McRae, on January 20, 1949, in Wheeler County, Glenwood, Georgia. He was the youngest son of ten children, an adventurous child and full of energy. These traits followed him for most of his life, until age, as it does all of us, started to slow him down.

Simon grew up in the church under his mother and father's watchful eyes, until his father passed away when Simon was only fourteen years young. Simon spent many years as a member of Spaulding Grove Missionary Baptist Church, in Alamo Georgia, where he always remembered that this is where his strong roots in faith were established. Simon continued in the way he was raised to go, and attended church wherever in the world he found himself. At the time of his demise, he was a member of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando, under the teaching and guidance of Senior Pastor/Teacher Charles A. Williams, Jr..

Simon attended Wheeler County Training School until his senior year in high school when the schools of Wheeler County Georgia were desegregated. He then attended and obtained his high school diploma from Wheeler County High School (the word "training" was removed). After graduation, Simon set out to conquer the world, albeit, he was not quite sure, at his young age, just how to do this. So he spent some time in both Atlanta and Miami. Soon thereafter, he was drafted into the United States Army. Knowing that he did not want to be in the Army, Simon became very proactive and voluntarily enlisted in the United States Navy where he served three years. During those three years, he was deployed to Vietnam, among other locations. God and many prayers blessed his endeavors and he returned home, having successfully completed his first assignment. Feeling that he had "escaped" from military life, Simon received an honorable discharge that lasted for a short three years. Simon realized that military life was a true calling and thus Simon *re-enlisted* in the Navy after three years of civilian life.

Simon took his military career seriously, and earned the rank of E7, Chief Petty Officer, before his retirement 23 years later. There are many more accolades Simon received, but space does not allow us to tell it all. Suffice it to say, our Simon was well accomplished and highly decorated. After retirement from the Navy, he invested yet another twenty-three years with Stericycle, Incorporated, a medical recycling conglomerate, where he rose quickly above the ranks to retire as an

accomplished Service Manager, having been responsible for the states of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

In his down time he loved gardening, and would grow spectacular vegetables, fruits, sugar cane and trees. His early Georgia roots ran deep within him, so one year when his sugar cane ripened, he actually went through the process of making syrup. He could spend hours in his garden, totally at peace. He also loved people, especially his family. If there were any family events on the radar, regardless as to where it was being held, Simon was going to be there. And this love of people enabled him with the canny ability to talk to anyone. There was a family joke that Simon would "talk to a stop sign!" It was simple and clear that Simon never met a stranger.

Simon was previously married to Dorothy Waller, who preceded him in death.

Simon and his high school sweetheart, Orita Williams, were reunited after twenty-seven years apart. They were married six months after reuniting, and have been wed for the past twenty-eight years. In recent years, although one could not tell, Simon had began to experience some challenging and draining health issues. The Master saw that he needed rest, so on Monday, February 12, 2024, the Master weighed Simon's anchor, and took him home.

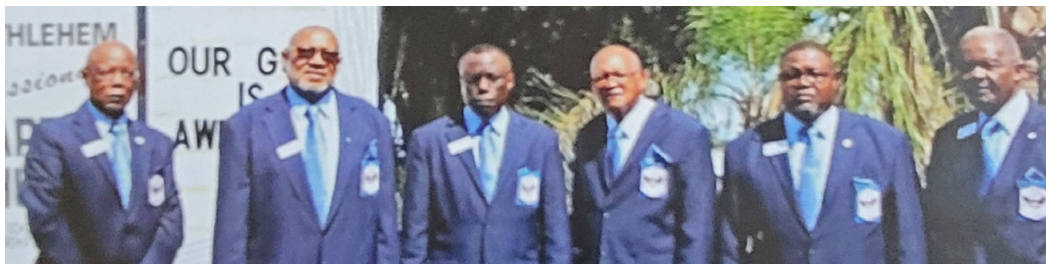
Simon was preceded in death by three of his **brothers**, Don Sr., Curtis McRae, and Adolphus Hogan, and two **sisters**, Daisy Whitfield, and Nellie LeValle.

He leaves behind to cherish beautiful memories of a life well-lived: his **beloved wife** – Orita Williams McRae; six **children** – son, Kevin (Kim) McRae, and their children: Kevin "KJ", Khristian, Ashley and Johnathan, **daughter** – LaShon McRae (Earl) McFayden, and their children: Michael and Nyla, **daughter** – Angela McRae (John) Thomas, and their children: Johnathan, Donovan, Jaden and Ja'Niyah, **daughter** – Dolores Woods Mitchell, and her children: Kelly and David, **daughter** – Chiquita (Jermaine) Waller, and their children: Derquan and Kierra, and **daughter** – Angela "Ann" Waller;

three **sisters** – Margie Reese, Florine Brantley, and Shirley (Joseph) Trobridge; one **sister-in-law** – Alma Williams of Boston, MA (and her 4 children – Wayne, Charles, Annette, and Marcus); one **brother** – Clyde McRae; **special niece and nephew** – Elaine (John) Wooten and Ronnie (Linda) MacArthur; and a host of other **nephews, nieces, cousins, family members, and many dear friends.**

Simon also has the RAFMAN Club family in which he has spent many years serving among this brotherhood of Retired Air Force, Marine, Army and Navy Veterans. They were family to him in many ways. There is a plethora of friends and family not called by name here, but we know that we ALL will miss his unforgettable presence.





Your Spirit

— Written by Tram-Tiara T. Von Reichenbach

I know that no matter what, You will always be with me.
When life separates us, I'll know it is only your soul
Saying goodbye to your body,
But, *your spirit* will be with me always.

When I see a bird chirping on a nearby branch
I will know it is you singing to me.
When a butterfly brushes gently by me so care freely,
I will know it is you assuring me you are free from pain.

When the gentle fragrance of a flower catches my attention,
I will know it is you reminding me
To appreciate the simple things in life.

When the sun shining through my window awakens me
I will feel the warmth of your love.
When I hear the rain pitter patter against my window sill
I will hear your words of wisdom,
And will remember what you taught me so well –
That without rain trees cannot grow,
Without rain flowers cannot bloom;
Without life's challenges I cannot grow strong.

When I look out to the sea
I will think of your endless love for your family.
When I think of mountains, their majesty and magnificence,
I will think of your courage for your country.

No matter where I am, Your spirit will be beside me;
For I know that no matter what, you will *always* be with me.



I AM
FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.

I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, to laugh,
To love, to work or play.

Tasks undone must stay that way
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savoured much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your hearts and share with me,
God wants me now, He set me free.

If the Son therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed. — John 8:36

Honorary Pall Bearers – The RAFMAN Club

Pall Bearers – Grandsons, Neighbor – Louis Starling, Jermaine Randolph [Family Member]

In Appreciation

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent those beautiful flowers, that we saw sitting there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words in your text and many phone calls as many friends did say.
Perhaps you were not here at all, just thought of us today.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much for your part.

We take comfort in 1 Corinthians 2:9.....

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man,
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

– the Family of Simon E. McRae



Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:

POSTELL'S MORTUARY

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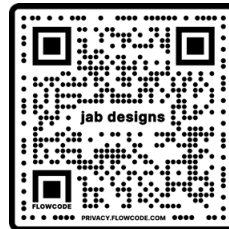
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