

CELEBRATING THE LIFE

OF

George

Stakley, Jr.

Sunrise

February 18, 1936

Sunset

May 12, 2023

*“Of all his accomplishments,
SFC George Stakley would tell anyone
without hesitation that his family tops them all.”*

Saturday, May 20, 2023

1:00 PM

Crestview Community Center

1446 Community Drive
Crestview, FL 32539
www.cityofcrestview.org

OFFICIATING

Rev. Annie Riley, Pastor – Mt. Zion AM E Church, Crestview

INTERMENT

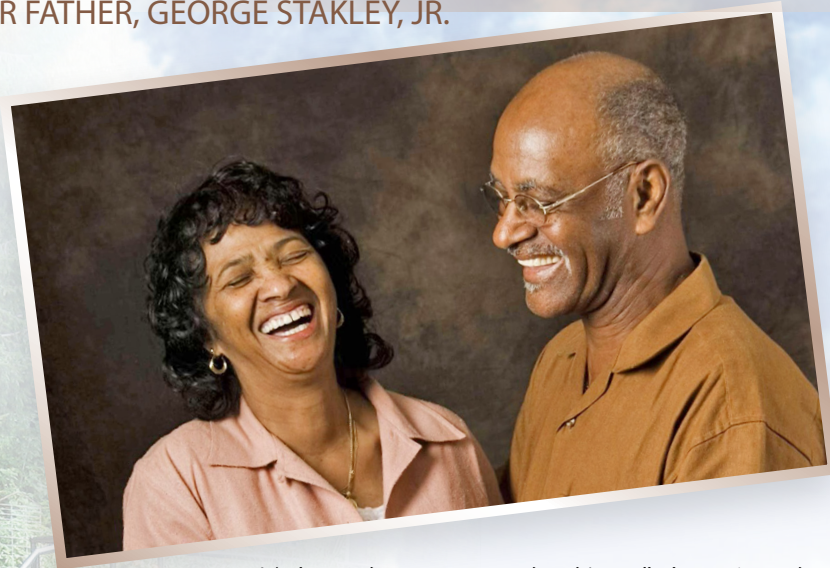
Springhill Cemetery, 121 Blakely Ave., Crestview, FL 32536

Arrangements Entrusted to McKinnie Funeral Home – Crestview, Florida

“SARGE”

YOUR SPIRIT

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FATHER, GEORGE STAKLEY, JR.



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

When we see a red bird chirping on a nearby branch,
we will know it is you singing to your children.
When a butterfly brushes gently by us so care-freely,
We know you are assuring us you are free from pain.

When the gentle fragrance of a flower catches our attention,
we will know it is you reminding us
to appreciate the simple things in life.

When the sun shining through our windows awakens us,
we will feel the warmth of your love.
When we hear the rain patter against our window sill,
we will hear your words of wisdom.

And we will remember what you taught us so well,
that without LIFE's challenges we cannot grow strong.

When we look out to the sea, we will think of the ENDLESS love for your family.

When we think of the mountains, their majesty and magnificence, we will think of the courage for your country.
No matter where we are, your spirit will be beside us all; for we know that no matter what, you will ALWAYS be with us.

REST IN HEAVEN, DAD, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN. WE LOVE YOU!

– your children Angel, Yvette, George III, Dion, Katrinia, and Roderick

Order of Service

Officiating – Rev. Anne Riley (Pastor Mt. Zion AME Church)

Music – The Crestview Community Choir

Musical Prelude.....Community Choir

Processional / Farewell Glance Family and Clergy

SelectionCommunity Choir

Scriptures

Old TestamentRev. Dwight Dewitt Baggett

New TestamentRev. Darryl Hooks

PrayerRev. Russell Hughes

SelectionCommunity Choir

Words of ComfortRev. Cecil Williams

SoloKashira Casey

Tributes and Reflections (limit your remarks to 2 minutes each, please)

From a Church Member – Sherry Flavors

From an AMEC Lay Organization Member – Joe Johnson

From a Community Member – Oscar Winston

From a Former Army JROTC Student – CW3 (Retired) Joanne Durm

From a Family Member – Uncle Clyde Hayes

From a Family Member – Herbert Pate

From a Grandchild – Angel Harris

From a Child – Roderick Stakley

Resolutions and Acknowledgments Valerie McLaughlin

Solo / Selection Carey and Marcus Flavors

Eulogy.....Rev. Anne Riley Pastor, Mt. Zion AMEC

Recessional..... Family and Clergy

Musical Postlude

A Repast

Immediately after the Interment at Springhill Cemetery, a Repast will be held at Mt. Zion AME Church, 502 McDonald Street, Crestview, Florida 32536.



Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my Redeemer.

– Psalms 19:14

A Legacy™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs . . .

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

— Revelation 21:4

MR. *George Stakley, Jr.*
SFC / LEADER / HUSBAND / FATHER / MENTOR



George Stakley, Jr. was born to the late Hattie May Jones and George Stakley, Sr. on February 18, 1936, in Crestview, Florida. He was preceded in death by his four siblings: Willie James Crenshaw, Rose Marie Paris, Evelyn Jones, Charlean Jones, and his precious daughter Cassandra Stakley. In 1964, he united in holy matrimony to Donna Kay Pate Stakley who went to be with the Lord in 2008.

Growing up, (Sergeant First Class) SFC Stakley was the middle child with three sisters and one brother. He was raised in the church and was baptized at Macedonia Baptist Church in Crestview, FL. He later switched denominations and became an very active member African Methodist Episcopal Church because of his wife.

While SFC Stakley was born in Crestview, FL, he went to elementary and middle school in Chicago and graduated from high school at Washington High in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon graduation, SFC Stakley enrolled at Morris Brown College, but felt moved to join the military in 1954. It was not long into his military service that SFC Stakley started to travel the world, visiting places he never dreamed were possible. In 1958, he did two tours in Germany, in 1962 he spent 16 months in Korea and from 1968 to 1971, he completed two tours in Vietnam. He also had the opportunity to travel to Japan, Italy, England, and France. One of his fondest memories was visiting Jericho, he described it as “one of the most beautiful places in the world.”

When SFC Stakley joined the military, he did it to change his life, to challenge himself, and to accomplish something. He has said on several occasions that without the military, he never would have found his gift as a public speaker and community leader. While in Vietnam, SFC Stakley was a Sergeant First Class which meant that he was the platoon leader. This was not an easy feat for an African American man in the late 1960s. SFC Stakley was the leader of 20 soldiers, two Black and the rest were White from the South. However, he led by EXAMPLE and treated everyone in his platoon the same with care and fairness. He was such a good leader that several soldiers put in requests to be transferred to his platoon. (Additionally, he embodied a vital characteristic for a leader and a soldier: emotional stability. Keeping one’s composure during battle can be the difference of life or death.)

After serving in the Army for 20 years, SFC Stakley retired and was immediately given a job as the Army JROTC instructor for Crestview High School, where his talents for public speaking and leadership

flourished. After 24 years of teaching at Crestview High School he retired but kept himself busy with family and community engagement. Not only was he a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, also he received three bronze medals, and a Superior Award for fighting in Vietnam.

He was a member of the local Carver Hill Historical Society, who specialize in preserving the history of Crestview. He was an officer in the AMEC Lay Organization and he was on the Steward Board. He was chairman of the Housing Board in Crestview and on the School Advisory Council. He also held the seat as 2nd Vice President of the Okaloosa branch of the NAACP. He was a charter member American Legion Post 395, Crestview, FL. He joined the Crestview Kiwanis and becoming an active member, later becoming the first African American President. He was well known throughout Crestview as a hard-working and strongly opinionated man.

SFC Stakley was also known as a family man and a devout Christian. Of all his accomplishments, SFC Stakley would tell anyone without hesitation that his family tops them all. With his wife of 44 years, Donna Kay Pate Stakley, he raised six children – Angel, Yvette, George III, Dion, Katrinia, and Roderick. Donna and SFC Stakley provided a tremendous example of a loving partnership to their children and grandchildren through mutual respect and love. SFC Stakley encouraged all his children to strive for the best and make the world a little bit better. Whether it was a graduation, marriage, or promotion, he was always there to celebrate their accomplishments. SFC Stakley continued this encouragement with his grandchildren as well.

While he was able, they could look forward to looking out into the audience and seeing his beaming face. SFC Stakley would brag to anyone who listened about what the Stakley clan was accomplishing. He also taught each of them that the way you present yourself plays a big part in how you are perceived by others. While SFC Stakley was a sharp guy who took pride in how he looked, he also placed great importance on carrying oneself with respect and dignity.

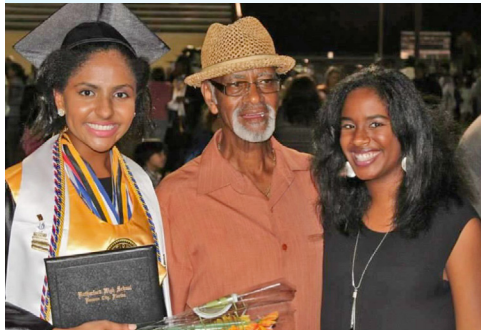
George Stakley, Jr. left us to be with the Lord on May 12, 2023.

George is survived by **six children** – Angel (Chris) Neal of Orlando, FL, Yvette (Allen) Kelly of Lynn Haven, FL, George (Alecia) Stakley III of Crestview, FL, Dion (Robyn) Stakley of Crestview, FL, Katrinia (William) Hamilton of Hattiesburg, MS, and Roderick (Caree) Stakley of Fayetteville, AR; **grandchildren** – Darrell (Shameka) Harris, Angel (Hiwot) Harris-Sidelil, George Stakley IV, Bria Kelly, Xavier Holmes, Alayna Kelly, Lauren Stakley, Sean Kimbrough, Brooke Stakley, and Kendall Stakley; four **great-grandsons**; **uncle** – Clyde Hayes of Crestview, FL; and a host of other extended family members, and many friends.

Yet we have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy!

— Isaiah 26:19 NLT





“Family tops them all!”



Active Pall Bearers

Hosea Pate • Alex Pate • Hiwot Sidelil
Isiah Herrera • Jordan Thomas • Lt. Colonel Meeshack Lee

Honorary Pall Bearers

Gerry Darrell Harris • George Stakley IV • Xavier Holmes
Sean Kimbrough • Darrell Harris • Kendall Stakley

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Interment Springhill Cemetery

121 Blakely Ave. – Crestview, FL 32536



Scan the QR-code for a digital copy of this program, and to zoom in on photos.

In Appreciation

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has shown us love and support during this difficult time. Your kind words, thoughtful gestures, and unwavering prayers have been a source of comfort and strength for our family. We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. We would like to thank the staff of Superior Residences of Niceville, Eden at Crestview, and Emerald Coast Hospice for compassion and kindness provided to our loved one. May God bless all of you for your kindness and generosity.

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

Arrangements Entrusted To

McKinnie Funeral Home

Jethrow McLinnie, Sr., L.F.D. • Adrienne McKinnie, Business Manager, Notary / Licensed Preneed Agent
398 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue • Crestview, Florida 32536 • (850) 682-3335

more than a program **jab designs** orlando (407) 381-9339

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