

Celebration of Life
for



Henry J. Pryor

Sunrise

July 8, 1924

Sunset

March 2, 2011

Service

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

Heard African Methodist Episcopal Church

310 Eighth Avenue • Roselle, New Jersey

Rev. Vernon H. Peters, Pastor

Obituary

Henry "Hank" Tower Pryor was born on July 8, 1924 to Henry and Nellie (Langhorne) Pryor, the third of four children, in the Village of South Orange, N.J. He was educated in the South Orange school system and was a 1943 graduate of Columbia High School.

During his high school years, Hank was an outstanding athlete, playing football for Columbia H.S. in South Orange as a half back and special teams returner under the late Coach Phil Marvel. He also excelled at basketball and track, and was later inducted into the Columbia High School Hall of Fame (1995). His athletic prowess led him to Rutgers University, New Brunswick, where he continued to stand out on the football field. He was recruited by the Green Bay Packers of Wisconsin, but could not play professionally due to the Korean War.

Hank enlisted in the military after high school. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps in a segregated unit in the Pacific Theater on Tarawa, the Gilbert Islands and the Marshall Islands, as a rifleman, a 90mm anti-aircraft gunner and a Military Policeman. Hank entered Rutgers in 1946, as an Army ROTC student, and continued his outstanding football achievements. Ultimately, he was inducted into the Rutgers Football Hall of Fame in 1994. A campus leader, he was president of the Military Honor Society, a member of the Cap and Skull Honor Society, the Gamma Sigma Fraternity and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was a graduate of the Rutgers University Class of 1950, with a Bachelor's Degree, and received two Master's Degrees from Seton Hall University. His fields of study were History, Political Science and Education. On March 5, 1951, Hank was back in active duty, serving in the U.S. Army in the First Cavalry Division, fighting in Korea, and became a first lieutenant. After Korea, he stayed with the Reserve for active duty with the 41st Civil Affairs Company and earned the rank of captain, receiving an honorable discharge in 1957. He continued to serve in the Army Reserve and achieved the rank of full colonel, retiring in 1978. His military career spanned over 40 years.

Hank married the love of his life, Carolyn Mae Polk Pryor, a daughter of the late Olive Mae (Bond) and Dr. Charles Carrington Polk, on Aug. 4, 1951. They lived in Okinawa, Japan and Roselle, N.J., before settling with their four children in Cranford, N.J. in 1965. They were happily married for 42 years before Carolyn passed in 1993.

Hank began his career as an elementary school teacher at School No. 1 and School No. 13, and taught History at Jefferson High School, all in Elizabeth. He also taught History at Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, where he was the first dean of Students. Then, he was an adjunct professor at Union County College. In 1968, he became the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program Director at Union County College, Cranford, N.J., a position he held for 28 years, before retiring in 1996. He touched the lives of many within this program, which enabled underprivileged and minority students who were otherwise unable to afford the tuition, to attend college. Under his guidance and tutelage, they were able to complete what they once believed to be an unreachable dream. A member of Heard A.M.E. Church since the 1950s, Hank was a Trustee Emeritus (2006), honored as Father of the Year (1990), and served as a volunteer at the church Food Pantry for several years. Ever community minded, he served with many organizations and boards, including the Union County Anti-Poverty Council.

Hank was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them: The Loyal Son of Rutgers Award (1997), The Role Model Award from the Roselle Branch NAACP (2001), Recipient of multiple N.J. E.O.F. Professional Association awards (1980, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1995). Certificate of Appreciation from the Superior Court of New Jersey Union County Vicinage for 20 years of distinguished service to the Cranford Juvenile Conference Committee, (1999), The Martin Luther King Award from the Cranford Juvenile Conference Committee for his outstanding work with young people. Hank was also honored to serve as the grand marshal of the Cranford Memorial Day Parade in the 1990s.

A humble, dedicated family man, Hank will be remembered as a devoted husband, father and grandfather and for his wit, sense of humor, and love of history. He was an avid sports fan, and a season ticket holder of Rutgers Football and Rutgers Women's Basketball. He loved his hot tea, sweets and television. His favorite shows included sports, The History Channel, Turner Classic Movies, Judge Judy and Jerry Springer.

Hank is survived by his children, Charles (Gail), Howard, Barbara, and Roger (Lisette); six grandchildren, Brittany and Garrett Pryor, Aaron Hardy, and Maia, Zuri and Alexi Pryor; his sister, Nell (Pryor) Ware; his sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Cornelia Jean Pryor, Dr. Gene Ann Polk (Dr. Edwin C. Horne), Barbara (Polk) Riley and Josephine (Polk) Matthews; nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends. In addition to his wife, Carolyn, Hank was predeceased by his brothers, Robert Pryor and Lloyd Pryor, and brother-in-law, Bill Ware.

Hank will always have a special place in our memories and our hearts.

Order Of Service

- Musical Prelude Michael Reeves
- Processional Clergy and Family
- A Parting View
- Congregational Hymn..... Choir - “One Day At A Time”
- Scriptures Clergy
Old Testament
New Testament
- Solo “If I Can Help Somebody”
Reverend Michael Eubanks
- Prayer of Consolation Reverend Robert Taylor
Saint Luke’s A.M.E. Zion Church
- Family Tribute.....Howard Pryor
Barbara Pryor
Roger Pryor
Grandchildren
- Reading of the Obituary Carol Penn
- Reading of Cards and Acknowledgements Sondra Riley
- Reading of Resolutions Joannette Keyes, Church Secretary
- Solo “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” - Cyriese Downer
- Eulogy Bishop Wayne L. Johnson, Pastor
Bibleway Deliverance Center – Roselle, NJ
- Choir Selection “We’ll Understand It Better By And By”
- Recessional Clergy, Family, Friends
- Interment Fairview Cemetery • West Broad Street • Westfield, NJ
- Immediately following the interment, family and friends are invited to return to
Heard A.M.E. Church where a repast will be served.***

Services Entrusted To:
G.G. Woody Funeral Home, LLC
206 East Eighth Avenue • Roselle, NJ 07203
www.ggwoodyfuneralhome.com

“Where Our Sympathy Expresses Itself Through Sincere Service”



Henry and Carolyn Together Again

In Loving Memory of Henry T. Pryor

March 2, 2011

God saw you were getting tired, and a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around you, and whispered, "Come to Me."
With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away,
Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.



Pall Bearers

Garrett Pryor	Clint Pryor
Anthony Ware	George Riley
Glenn Riley	Chris Horne

Family Photo Slide Presentation By

Lissette Pryor	Brittany Pryor
Karen Riley	George Riley
Barbara Pryor	

Acknowledgement

The family of **Henry T. Pryor** wishes to thank you for your kind words, expressions, and prayers during this our hour of bereavement. We will always keep you in our prayers.