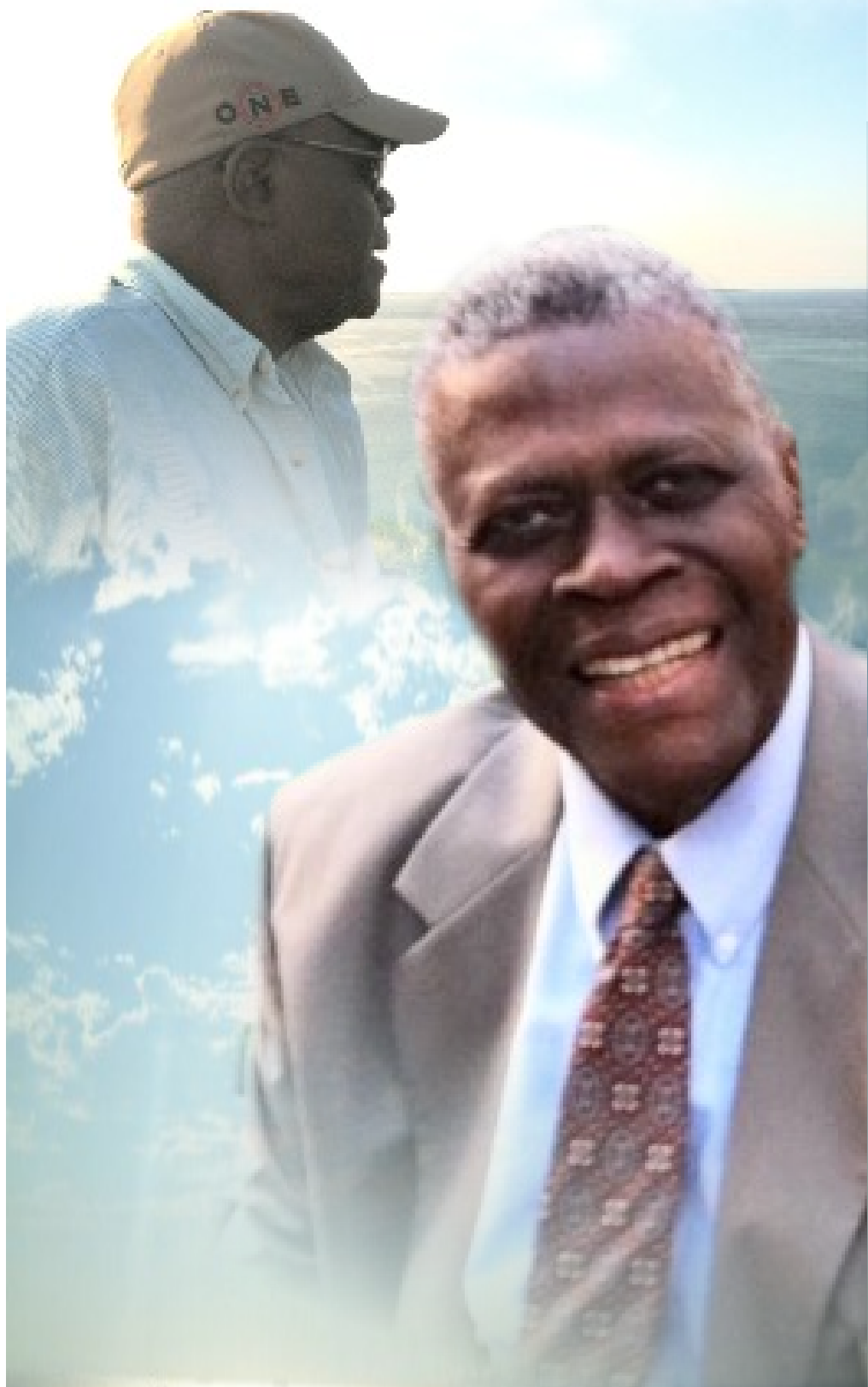


In Loving Memory of



Alfred James Browne

December 5, 1927 - December 14, 2013

"When Great Trees Fall"

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

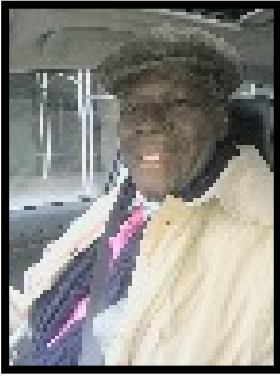
When great trees fall in forests,
small things recoil into silence, their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines,
gnaws on kind words unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed."

Reflections of Life



Alfred James Browne, 86, of Brooklyn, New York, passed away on Saturday, December 14th, 2013. Affectionately known as “Big Al” by his friends, “Fred” by his siblings and “Dad” by his loving family, his larger than life personality and indomitable spirit left its mark on friends, family, colleagues and strangers alike.

Born on December 5th, 1927 in Georgetown, Guyana, Alfred was the eldest child of Israel and Victorine Browne. Alfred spent his early years in the village of Golden Grove, Demerara / Mahaica. After attending the Golden Grove Methodist School, he moved to Georgetown proper and enrolled in Enterprise High School in 1941. During this period in his life, he lived with his paternal Aunt Baa, who along with her sister Jean, doted on young Alfred.

In 1947, Alfred immigrated to America and was reunited with his parents and siblings. At the age of 23, he enlisted in the army and served his new country in the Korean War. Upon his honorable discharge, Alfred took advantage of the GI Bill and attended City College of New York, where he was president of the Jazz Club, the History Club, the campus chapter of the NAACP, and joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. Alfred earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1957. During this time, Alfred met and married the beloved Alma Cecile Roberts. Their union of 47 years, produced 6 children and 5 grandchildren, and lasted until her passing in 2004. Prior to this union, Alfred had one son who gave him four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

After two years of post-graduate study at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, Al embarked on a career as a bacteriologist with the Pabst Brewing Company. From the mid-1960's, through the mid-80's, he had a supplemental career as an equal employment compliance officer in the construction industry. For the better part of 25 years, Al Browne had 2 jobs and two very different careers, one as a Quality Control Technician, and the other as a fearless advocate for fair hiring practices in the building trades. Along the way he honed his talents and lent them to his greatest passions in life, education, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, shrewd investing in the stock market, and motivating the people he encountered to improve their position in life by improving themselves.

Al joined the Progressive Omegas over forty years ago. This partnership, was founded to give close-knit brothers of Omega Psi Phi the opportunity to invest in fellowship. For more than three decades, Al served as Treasurer and Investment Chairman. In March 2013, he received the first and only Distinguished Service Award from Progressive Omega. He has always been a dedicated member of Omega, a Life Member (LM511) and a member of Kappa Omicron and a charter member of Iota XI Chapter. As a partner and brother in Progressive Omega his phenomenal brilliance was an inspiration.

Although a significant portion of his daily life involved work and travel, Alfred found time to appreciate the art of fine living. It was not unusual to find him dressed impeccably, sipping a vintage wine and listening to an old jazz record or classical standard while having a debate with one person and talking to another on the phone. He believed in possibility and potential and never allowed negativity to interfere with his world view.

After retiring from Pabst, Alfred went to work for the City of New York as a Supervisor in the homeless shelter program. Once again, he used his life experience and positive outlook on life to counsel the people who came through the program. By the time he officially retired, Alfred had influenced the lives of countless people, encouraging some to go back to school, helping others obtain work with decent pay and benefits in the building trades, and showing others how to invest their money in the stock market. Everyone looked up to Alfred and he rarely disappointed them. His boundless optimism was tempered by a steadfast refusal to accept anything but the best outcomes for his friends and loved ones.

Alfred is survived by his sisters, Ethel Sewer (Percival) and Carol Parker; four daughters, Ruth Browne, Victoria Browne-Moore (Reginal), Anucha Browne, and Andee Browne-Tatro (Drew); three sons, Tyrone Browne (Cyd), Stanley Browne (Amanda) and Gamel Browne; and grandchildren, Roy Alfred, Spring Cecile, Alejandra Ruth, Dakota James, Gabrael Browne, Delasie Demour, Trudy Diane, Devin Alteo and Kenson Michael. He is also survived by in-laws Stanlyn Killen, Cheryl Brown (Leonard) and Charles Render; great grandchildren, many cousins, nieces, nephews and dear friends. He joins in eternal peace his beloved wife, parents, brothers, sisters, many other relatives and dear friends. While we mourn him in death, we will always celebrate a life well lived, and a legacy that will endure.

Saturday, December 21, 2013 - 9:30 a.m.

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, New Jersey

Order of Worship

Rev. Dr. Mark V. C. Taylor, Pastor

PreludeOmega Psi Phi

Procession And Scriptural Admonitions

Prayer Of Comfort:.....Rev. Dr. Mark V. C. Taylor

Musical Selection.....Leonard Brown “After The Rain”
by John Coltrane

Scripture Lesson:

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

SelectionRenske Ferrell “How Great Thou Art”

Obituary.....Stanley Browne

Remarks..... Ruth Browne
Vicki Browne-Moore
Anucha Browne
Reginal Moore
Cyd Browne
Amanda Browne

EulogyRev. Dr. Mark V. C. Taylor

SelectionFaye Brown “It is well”

RecessionalOrganist

The Interment and Benediction at Graveside

*Fairmount Cemetery
Newark, New Jersey*

Repast

Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church
88 Lyons Avenue • Newark, NJ



Together again in Peace and Happiness

Thank You

Our family would like to thank
all of our friends for their love and support
during this most difficult time.

Your thoughts and prayers have been,
and always will be, greatly appreciated.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

