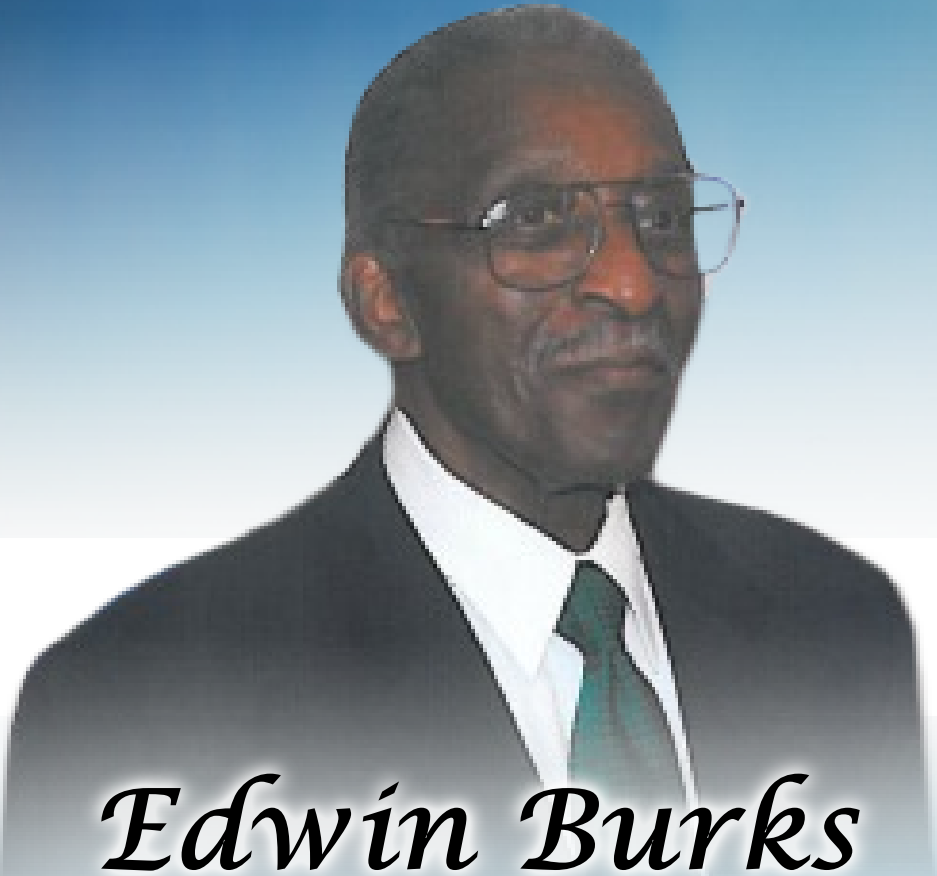


*In Loving Memory of*



*Edwin Burks*

*Sunrise*  
*December 11, 1926*

*Sunset*  
*June 9, 2014*

*Memorial Service*

*Sunday, June 15, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.*

**ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

224 West Kinney Street • Newark, New Jersey

*Rev. Dr. Perry Simmons, Jr., Officiating*

*“Let the Life I lived speak for me”*

## Obituary

**Edwin Burks**, 87, passed away peacefully in his sleep on, June 9, 2014. A beloved father and friend, Edwin served his church and community enthusiastically. Through his generous spirit, humorous outlook, and unrelenting optimism, Edwin was a role model and inspiration to many.

Born in Newark, New Jersey on December 11, 1926 to Cary and Lelia Mae Burks, Edwin was the eldest of two children. He matriculated from Central High School in 1945 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army. In 1958, he earned a B.S. Degree in Marketing from Rutgers University. Soon after, he enrolled in the U.S. Treasury Academy in Washington D.C., where he studied Criminal Investigation and Enforcement Law. Edwin was appointed as a Special Agent to the ATF Bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department. During his tenure, he was detailed to the U.S. Secret Service and IRS Intelligence. His federal service extended to appointments to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission as a Consumer Protection Specialist and to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as the New Jersey State Director. During his 26 years with federal government, Edwin received special commendations from U.S. Department of Justice for his investigation of organized crime, the NRA, and the Supreme Court of NJ. Other notable occupations prior to his retirement in 1986 include: Chief of Investigations for Dillon Security, truancy officer for the Newark Board of Education, and the first African-American supervisory corrections officer for the state of New Jersey.

In 1947, Edwin married the former Naomi McNear in Newark, NJ. Their union resulted in the birth a daughter, Lydia Karen, in 1954. After divorcing in 1969, Edwin was re-married to the former Elaine Davis-Courtney of Pittsburgh, who preceded him in death in 1993. The couple shared a mutual love of life, family, music, and travel. He shared an intense love of baseball with his father and had a special interest in the Negro Leagues. No one loved music more than Edwin. He attended jazz and blues festivals across the globe and amassed a large collection of spiritual, gospel, blues, and jazz recordings.

After years at Smyrna Baptist Church, Edwin united with Abyssinian Baptist Church in 1981, where he, like his father, served faithfully as a member of the Trustee Board. He also served as the Chairman of the Clara Will Gray Scholarship Committee.

Edwin is survived by his daughter, Lydia Palmer; his sister, Hazel Baker; three grand-daughters: Dawn Palmer, Ebony and Kaletta Courtney; one grandson, Jon Comans; one niece, Michelle Carrington; two great nieces, Charnette and Courtney Carrington; one great nephew: Randall Dirden; and a host of cousins and extended family.

# Order of Service

Processional ..... Clergy and Family

Invocation

Selection ..... “It’s Another Day’s Journey”

Scripture Reading - Anthony Harrell ..... Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Special Tribute ..... Dawn Palmer  
Courtney Carrington  
Deirdre Jones  
Charnette Carrington

Scripture Reading - Deadra Gibbons ..... I Corinthians 15:51-58

As I Knew Him ..... Family and Friends  
*Remembrance and Expressions*

Selection ..... “His Eye Is On the Sparrow”

Words of Comfort ..... Reverend Simmons

Closing Prayer

Selection



## *“A Million Times”*

A million times I needed you,  
A million times I cried.  
If love alone could've saved you,  
You never would have died.

In life I loved you dearly,  
In death I love you still.  
In my heart you hold a place,  
No one else will ever fill.

It broke my heart to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone.  
Part of me went with you,  
The day God took you home.

Your Sister

### *Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to all who provided comfort during Edwin's illness and to those who continue to provide support during our bereavement.

*In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that contributions be made to the Edwin Burks Memorial Scholarship Fund through Abyssinian Baptist Church.*

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

*“If you find something good in me, pass it on”*

