

Home Going Service for

Sammy Lee Drakeford

Sunrise
September 19, 1928

Sunset
February 8, 2015

Services

Friday, February 13, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

535 East 22nd Street
Rev. Dr. Gadson L. Graham Way
Paterson, New Jersey
Rev. Barry Graham, Officiating

The Obituary

Sammie Lee Drakeford was born in Camden, SC, on September 19, 1928, to the late Willie Drakeford and Lelia Brown. God changed his citizenship on Sunday, February 8, 2015.

Sammie was educated in the Kershaw County Public School System and attended Mather Academy.

He was baptized at an early age at Parker Baptist Church in Camden, SC.

He was enrolled in the United States Army on May 3, 1950, and received an Honorable Discharge. Sammie served in the Korean War and received awards and medals, such as; a Purple Heart for wounds received in action; a Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award for satisfactory performance of ground duty; a Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Star; a National Defense Service Medal for honorable active service; and a Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active military service.

He moved to Paterson, NJ in the mid-1950s. He was united in marriage to Gwendolyn Batey Staton and they settled in West Orange, NJ.

Sammie received a Master Plumber's Certification as well as an Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Certification from Lincoln Technical School in 1961. Sammie continued throughout the years to gain knowledge by attending courses related to his profession and received many awards.

He was employed by Union Carbide in Morristown, NJ, from 1962-1985. Sammie was an entrepreneur and opened Service Unlimited in 1970. His business specialized in plumbing and refrigeration. He worked in the NY/NJ Metropolitan area. Sammie was well known by many and serviced all people, from the local ice cream truck owners to the wealthy in Llewellyn Park. He also worked for the East Orange Board of Education from February 1989 until 1997 as a plumber until he retired.

Deacon Drakeford was a member of Canaan Baptist Church, Paterson, NJ, where he sang on the Male Chorus, was a member of the Trustee Board and in 1992 was

ordained as a Deacon. He loved to hear the late Deacon Carter sing, “If I Got My Ticket Lord, Can I Ride.”

Deacon Drakeford is predeceased by his sons, Tony Drakeford and Kevin Franklin; three brothers, Gover, Will Jr. and Herbert Drakeford; four sisters, Alvesta Young, Loree Robinson, Emily and Georgiana Drakeford. He is also predeceased by his sisters-in-law, Pearline, Rose, Mary; and brothers-in-law, Albertus Young and Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Robinson.

Sammie leaves to cherish his memory: his loving wife of fifty years, Gwendolyn and five devoted children, Alvin Drakeford of Sacramento, CA, Donald Franklin of East Orange, NJ, Rev. Michael Franklin (Michele) Greensboro, NC, Christopher Drakeford of West Orange, NJ, and Rev. Lisa S. Webb (Victor) of Boonton Twp., NJ; brother, Henry Drakeford (Alma) of Decatur, Georgia; two brothers-in-law, Sherman Staton of Paterson, NJ, Arnold Staton (Euphema) of Little Ferry, NJ, and two sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Drakeford of Columbia, SC, Gloria Staton of Nutley, NJ; twelve grandchildren, Tony, Kevin Jr., Marcus, Philip, Darek, Justin, Jordan, Kelly, Tiffany, Alyssa, Kaire, and eight great-grandchildren; three lifetime friends, Wally (June) Haskins, Ronald Arnold and Henry Burns and a host of family and friends.





Order of Service

The Prelude	“Nearer My God To Thee”
The Processional	Clergy & Family
The Call to Worship.....	Rev. Barry Graham
The Prayer of Invocation	
The Hymn.....	Canaan Baptist Church Choir
The Scriptures	
Old Testament – Psalm 23	
New Testament – John 14:1-6	
Musical Selection.....	Min. Veronica O’Neal
The Prayer of Comfort	
Words of Comfort	Rev. Dr. Lester Taylor, Jr. Community Baptist Church, Englewood, NJ
Musical Selection	Canaan Baptist Church Choir
Remarks	from Canaan Baptist Deacon Board Deacon Michael Darby
Tribute by family and friends	(limit to two minutes please)
Resolutions, Acknowledgements Obituary	Judy Robinson
Musical Selection.....	Rev. Lou Norris, Shiloh Baptist Church
Eulogy.....	Rev. Barry Graham
Benediction	
Recessional	“I’ll Fly Away”

Repast

Served immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall

He Is Gone

You can shed tears that he is gone,
Or you can smile because he has lived,
You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him
Or you can be full of the love that He shared,
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember him and only that he is gone
or you can cherish his memory and let it live on,
You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what he would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.
Rejoicing; because he lived

David Harkin
The Family

I've Changed My Address

I've changed my address to Heaven

I've crossed the Great Divide.

I know there's no sorrow or crying,
Because I've reached the other side.

I am so happy to be here,
for the Lord Himself I see.

I've changed my address to Heaven,
That's the place where you'll find me.

I've changed my address to Heaven,
I bid this world goodbye.

I now live forever with Jesus in my new home in the sky.

I have no burdens or heartaches
and from tears I am now free.

I've changed my address to Heaven,
That's the place to find me.

I've changed my address to Heaven,
I'm safe forevermore.

For the Lord built a mansion
and my name is on the door.

You can find us walking together,
for where He is, I'll always be.

I've changed my address to Heaven,
That's the place you'll find me.

-Author unknown

Interment

Military Interment will be held February 19, 2015
William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery
Jackson, New Jersey

Pall Bearers

Family & Friends

Acknowledgement

*The Drakeford Family extends sincere appreciation for your prayers,
acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us in the loss of our loved one.
God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concerns.*

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

