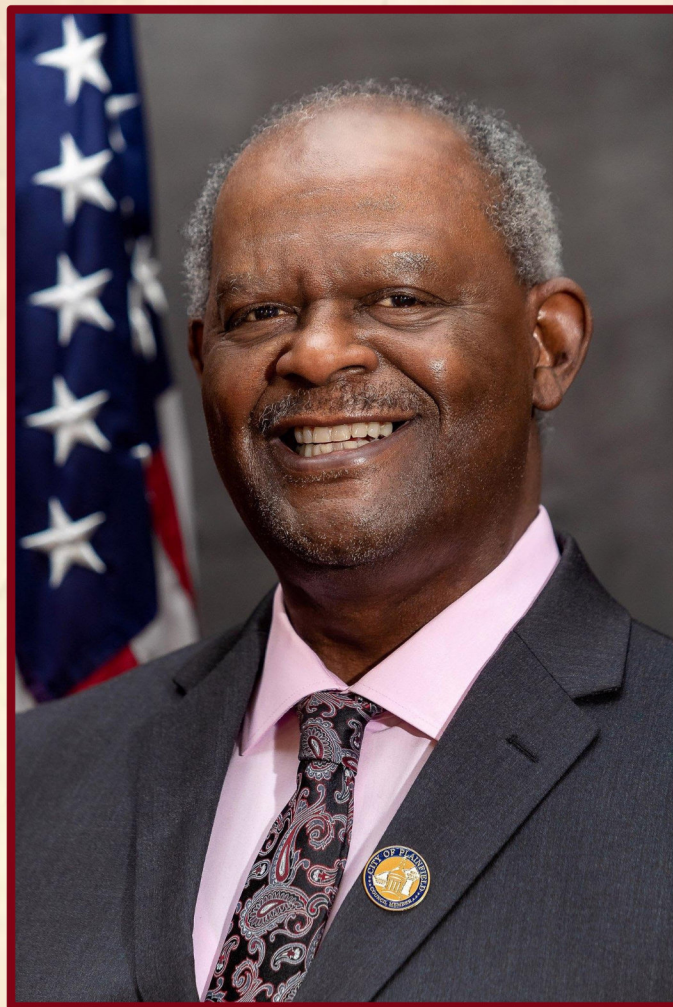


Celebration Of Life For
CHARLES
Louis McRae

Sunrise: August 22, 1953 - Sunset: September 11, 2026



Saturday, September 19, 2026 - 11:00 am

Covenant United Methodist Church
631 East Front St., Plainfield, NJ
Pastor Dr. Dale G. Caldwell
Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey

Order of Service

Reverend George Britt - Officiating

Pastor, Mount Teman AME Church, Elizabeth, NJ

Organ Prelude Mrs. Johnetta Bush

Processional Clergy and Family

Opening Hymn..... “Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Comfort Reverend Edward White
Associate Minister, Mt. Zion AME Church, Plainfield

Scripture

Old Testament..... Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.....Mr. Gregory McCoy, Nephew

New TestamentII Timothy 4:6-8...Rev. Tanisha McRae Townsend, Niece

Musical Selection Mrs. Christina Brown
“When Peace Like a River”

Acknowledgements/Resolutions..... Ms. Diane Woods

Tributes Please limit to 2 minutes

Dr. Ed Chappelle, Best Friend

Mr. Robert Greg, Polemarch, Kappa Alpha Psi New Brunswick Alumni

Mr. Anthony Howard, Best Friend

Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, “Little Brother”

The Honorable Adrian O. Mapp, Mayor, City of Plainfield

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Musical Selection Mrs. Christina Brown
“Goodness of God”

The Eulogy..... Reverend Reginald McRae, Brother

Recessional Clergy and Family
“Going Up Yonder”

Cremation to Follow Services

Obituary

In Loving Memory of Councilman Charles L. McRae

Charles L. McRae was more than a husband, father, Pop-Pop, brother, friend, mentor, community leader, and public servant. He was a man whose life was deeply rooted in family, service, and an unwavering commitment to the people he loved.

Born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Charles was the son of John McRae and Mildred Harvard and the grandson of Alice Harvard. He was the tenth of eleven children, an experience that taught him early the importance of family, responsibility, and having someone to look up to. Those lessons would remain with him throughout his life and ultimately inspire him to become a source of guidance and encouragement for others.

Charles shared 43 years of his life with his beloved wife, Sylvia McRae, in the community he proudly called home, Plainfield, New Jersey. Together, they raised their two daughters, Courtney L. Smith, Esq., and Dr. Stephanie L. Dingle, and built a family of which he was immensely proud. Through his daughters, Charles welcomed his sons-in-law, Earnest Smith and Yannick Dingle, and was blessed with two grandchildren, Sydney Smith and Bryson Charles Dingle, his namesake.

To Sydney and Bryson, he was lovingly known as Pop-Pop, a role he cherished deeply. Sydney held a particularly special place in his heart as his first grandchild and his only grandchild for eight years. He lovingly called her his angel, and the bond they shared was unbreakable. When Bryson arrived, Charles embraced the joy of becoming a Pop-Pop again, and having his namesake carry his name was especially meaningful to him, representing a beautiful connection between generations and a legacy that would continue long after him.

Charles' family was large, and the bonds formed among he and his ten siblings remained an important part of his life. To his numerous loving nieces and nephews, he was affectionately known as Uncle Chuckie. His role as an uncle was another expression of the warmth, guidance, humor, and love he shared so generously with his family. He was preceded in death by his sisters Beatrice Joy Bradley, Lucille Alice Graham, Lenora Roberts, and MarthAnn Baldwin, and his brothers Ronald McRae, Norman McRae, and Thomas Hairl McRae. He leaves to cherish his memory his sister Ruth Harris and his brothers John Hairl McRae and Reginald McRae, along with his wife, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family, and countless friends who became family.

For Charles, Plainfield was more than a place to live. It was home. It was where he raised his daughters, built lasting relationships, and devoted himself to the community he loved. As an active member of the Third Ward, he believed in the continued growth and progress of Plainfield and demonstrated that belief through years of civic and community involvement.

His service included leadership as President of the Cedarbrook Block Association, President of the Cedarbrook Elementary School PTA, Chairman of the Plainfield Citizen Budget Advisory Committee, 2nd Vice President of the Plainfield Democratic City Committee, and a member of the Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment. His commitment to the community eventually led him to serve as Councilman Charles L. McRae, representing the Third Ward and later serving as Council President and Vice President.

For Charles, public service was never simply about holding a position. It was about showing up, listening, taking responsibility, and working to make a difference in the lives of others.

That same spirit of service extended into his commitment to mentoring young men. As a charter member and founder of the Eta Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity at Rutgers University and a charter member and founder of the New Brunswick Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Charles helped create spaces where young men could find guidance, brotherhood, and encouragement. His involvement with the Kappa League and the Diamond Foundation further reflected his belief in the importance of mentorship and opportunity.

Charles was particularly proud of his work with the Diamond Foundation, where he served as Chairman and later as a board member. A scholarship awarded annually in his name to an accomplished graduating high school senior represents one of the legacies closest to his heart. He was honored that his name could help open a door for another young person to pursue a dream.

Those who knew him through public service may remember Councilman Charles L. McRae, but those who loved him will remember Charles.

They will remember his voice, his laughter, his stories, his strength, his determination, and the love he gave so freely to his family and community. They will remember the husband Sylvia loved, the father Courtney and Stephanie looked to, the Pop-Pop Sydney and Bryson adored, the Uncle Chuckie his nieces and nephews knew and loved, the brother who shared a lifetime of memories with his family, and the mentor who believed in the potential of others.

Charles leaves behind a legacy that cannot be contained by titles or accomplishments. It lives in his family, in the community he served, in the young people he mentored, and in the opportunities created because he believed in giving others a chance.

His influence will continue through his children and grandchildren. His name will continue through his namesake. His service will remain part of the story of Plainfield. And his memory will live on in every person who was fortunate enough to know him.

Charles L. McRae lived a life of purpose. He loved deeply, served faithfully, mentored generously, and gave his time and talents to something larger than himself.

He was a husband.

He was a father.

He was a Pop-Pop.

He was an uncle.

He was a brother.

He was a mentor.

He was a leader.

He was a friend.

He was Councilman Charles L. McRae.

And to those who loved him most, he was home.

May his memory forever be a blessing, and may the legacy he built through love, service, family, and mentorship continue for generations to come.

Rest well, Councilman Charles L. McRae.

Your name will be carried forward.

Your love will be carried forward.

Your service will be carried forward.

Your legacy will be carried forward.

And you will forever be carried in our hearts.



Blessed Assurance

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

2

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

3

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*



Acknowledgements

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness
shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!*



Brown's Funeral Home

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Diane L. Gentles - Manager NJ Lic. No. 4087
Justin Gentles, Funeral Director NJ Lic. No. 5399
Karen Zavala, Funeral Director NJ Lic. No. 5497



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