

*A Service of Memory
Celebrating the Life Of*
CLARENCE
Berkley Wright



Sunrise November 20, 1929 - Sunset September 17, 2026

Saturday, September 26, 2026 -10am

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
401 Avon Avenue, Newark, New Jersey
Rev. Andre' Milteer, Officiating Pastor

Obituary

Clarence Berkley Wright was born on November 20, 1929, in Newark, New Jersey, to the late James and Evelyn (Woolridge) Wright. Clarence was the youngest male of five siblings, all of whom preceded him in death.

Being born into the Woolridge family connected Clarence to Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, where he was a member for more than seventy-five years. It was there that Clarence was baptized into the family of God at an early age.

Raised in Newark, Clarence attended the city's public schools and graduated from Barringer High School. He later enlisted in the United States Army, where he served as a Sergeant and proudly played in the Army Band. His military service during World War II took him to Japan.

After completing his military service, Clarence pursued his lifelong dream of becoming a Mortician (Funeral Director). He attended the American Academy in New York City, graduating in 1955. He completed his apprenticeship with the David D. Woody Funeral Home in Newark, New Jersey. Clarence became one of the oldest African American funeral directors in the state and, well into his nineties, remained active in his profession.

On December 5, 1953, Clarence entered into Holy Matrimony with Edith Jane Matthew, his childhood friend. Their union was blessed with four children: Deborah Denise, Barbara Magnolia, Clarence Berkley, and Carl Richard Alexander.

Having grown up during the era of segregation and Jim Crow, Clarence became deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement. He participated in the historic March on Washington in 1963. He also served for many years as President of the NAACP in South Jersey, while residing in Cape May County.

Upon returning to Newark, Clarence continued his commitment to community service, working to improve the lives of working people and advocating for equality and justice. He achieved lifetime membership in Prince Hall Masonry and rose to the distinguished position of District Deputy Grand Master. He was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, where he served as a Past Worthy Patron.

Throughout his long and meaningful life, Clarence never forgot his roots. Whether championing civil rights, human rights, or religious rights, he remained committed to standing for justice and serving his community. His dedication to his family, his faith, his profession, and the causes he believed in will remain part of the legacy he leaves behind.

Clarence leaves to cherish his memory his four children: Deborah Denise; Barbara Magnolia Stevens (Warren); Clarence Berkley II (Lorraine); and Carl Richard Alexander (Wendy). He was a beloved grandfather to seven: Hanan Jones (Johron), Erica Wright, Aniq Harris-Jeffers (Kyle), Janay, Braun (Shawn) Simmons, Carl II, and Sterling Wright, and a great-grandfather to nine: Jaden Pierce, Zaria Harris-Jeffers, Janaan Jones, Zehirah Harris-Jeffers, Matthew Jones, Shawn Simmons II, Jania Hart, Amaura Simmons, and Nefertari Simmons.

He also leaves behind his beloved Aunt Rachel Anne Brooks of Virginia, a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, and his goddaughter, Vanessa Smith, along with countless friends, fellow members of his church and organizations, and others whose lives he touched throughout his remarkable journey.

Clarence Berkley Wright leaves a legacy of faith, family, service, perseverance, and a lifelong commitment to justice. His presence will be deeply missed, but his memory and the impact of his life will continue through the generations.



Order of Service

Music Prelude Organist - Melvin Calhoun

Opening Hymn “Amazing Grace” (John Newton)

Welcome Yvette Anderson - Mistress of Ceremonies

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Malcolm Smith
Life Transformation Church

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-18 Kyle Harris-Jeffers (grandson-in-law)

New Testament: John 14:1-6 Aniq Harris- Jeffers (granddaughter)

Music Selection Anchored in the Lord (Douglas Miller)
Pastor Warren Stevens (son-in-law)
Yaqar Family Worship Center

Tributes

Sam Arnold - President of New Jersey State Funeral Director Association
Chairman of the Board of Garden State Association
Edith C. Churchman - President of Garden State Funeral Directors Association
OKuapemman Union of New Jersey
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church - spoke person
Hanan A. Stevens-Jones (granddaughter)
Carl R. A. Wright II (grandson)

Condolences / Resolutions Yvette Anderson

Obituary Reading Yvette Anderson

Music Selection “Take Me To The King” (Tamela Mann)
Janice Aikens (niece)

Liturgical Dance Zaria Harris-Jeffers (great granddaughter)
and Sister Michelle Harris

Eulogy Rev. Andre' Milteer
Pastor Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

Benediction

Recessional Hymn "Center of My Joy" by Richard Smallwood

Interment: Fairmount Cemetery
620 Central Avenue, Newark, New Jersey

Military Honors Army

TRIBUTE TO MR. CLARENCE WRIGHT

From the Okuapemman Union of New Jersey

Today, the Okuapemman Union of New Jersey assembles here with grateful hearts to honor and celebrate Mr. Clarence Wright, an outstanding member whose dedication, commitment, and contributions have played a pivotal role in the building and growth of our Association.

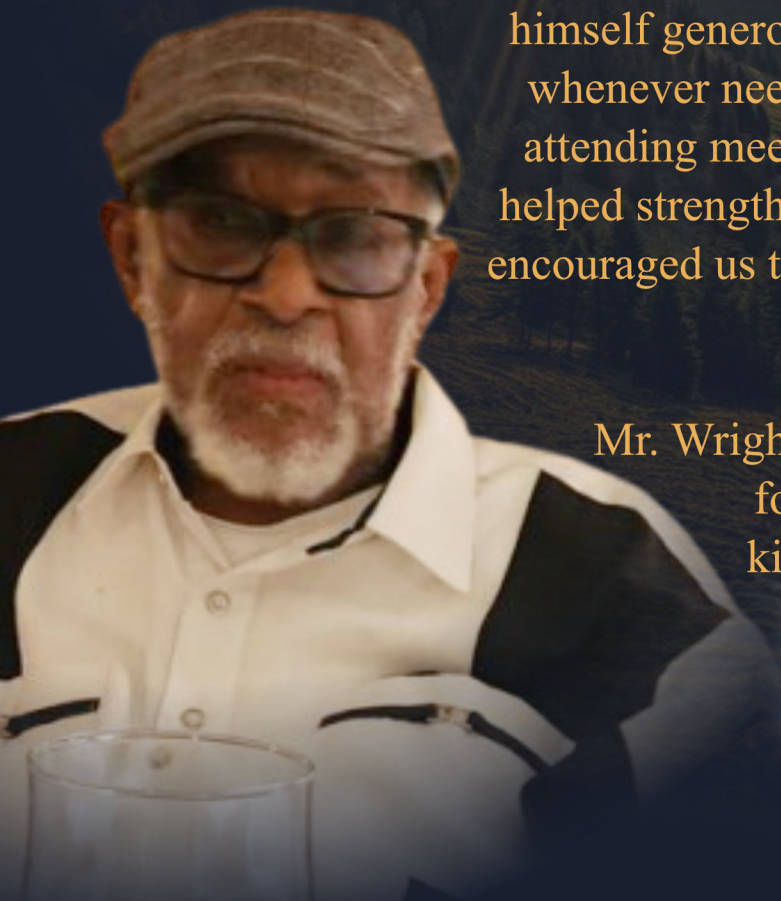
From the early days of our Union, Mr. Wright demonstrated a strong commitment to the ideals of unity, cooperation, fellowship, and service. Through his time, wisdom, encouragement, and active participation, he helped lay a foundation upon which our Association continues to grow. Mr.

Wright was very generous and a true lover of Ghanaian culture and traditions. He traveled with our association on numerous trips to different cities in the country to celebrate the Ohum/Odwira festivals. He was a regular sponsor of our cultural activities.

Mr. Wright understood that an organization becomes strong when its members are willing to work together for the common good. He gave of himself generously, offering guidance and support whenever needed. His contributions went beyond attending meetings or participating in activities; he helped strengthen the bonds among our members and encouraged us to remain connected to our heritage and to one another.

Mr. Wright has departed this life but will never be forgotten. We will remember his love, kindness, and wonderful sense of humor.

Our dear friend,
rest well in eternal peace.



Lifetime Of Memories









Dads Journey

Don't think of our Dad as gone away,
His journey's just begun,
Life holds so many facets
This earth is only one.
Just think of our Dad as resting
From the sorrow and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort,
Where there are no days and years.
Think how Dad must be wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
Can really pass away.
And think of Dad as living
In the hearts of those he touched,
For nothing loved is ever lost,
And he was loved so much.

Pallbearers

Robert Moore (Danny) – nephew
Kyle Harris-Jeffers - grandson-in-law
Johron Jones - grandson-in-law
Carl R. A. Wright II - grandson
Tyrone Moore - nephew
Jaden M. Pierce - great-grandson

Acknowledgement

The family of CLARENCE BERKLEY WRIGHT sincerely appreciates all of your prayers and expressions of sympathy. We would also like to extend our heart felt gratitude to New Jersey State Funeral Director Association and Garden State Funeral Director Association. Additionally, we thank Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, for assisting with the final services and coordination. Your thoughtfulness has helped to make our burdens easier and lighter. We pray God's blessing upon each of you.

Professional Services Provided By

Clarence B Wright Funeral Home, Inc.

579 Grove St, Irvington, NJ 07111

Phone: (973) 374-7058

