

A Father's Legacy

A great man with a giving heart,
Who taught us well from the very start.
Always willing to lend a hand,
Always there to help us stand.

His love was steady, strong, and true,
And his greatest gift was all he gave to you.
Eighty-nine years of memories and grace,
A lifetime of love no one can replace.

Though he has left this earthly way,
His words and lessons live each day.
For the man he was, we'll always be
Thankful for his love and legacy.

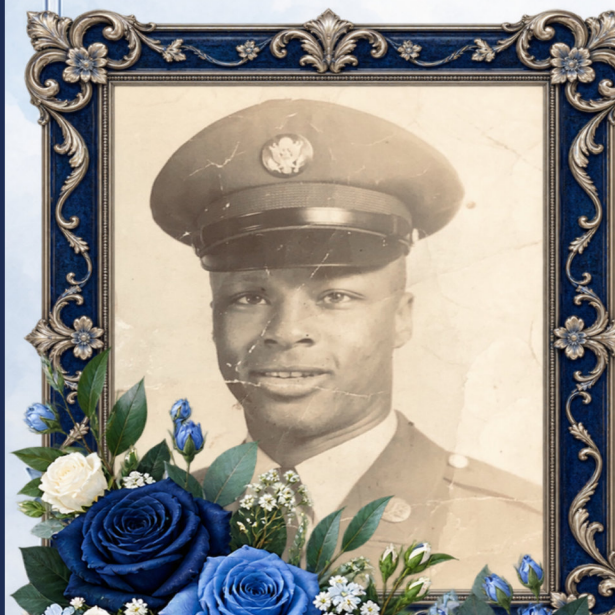
**His life was a blessing.
His memory is a treasure.
His love will live forever.**



In Loving
Memory

George
E. Pierce, Sr.

SUNRISE JULY 2, 1937
SUNSET SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



Celebration of Life Service

FUNERAL SERVICE:
Tuesday, September 29, 2026
Viewing: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Service: 6:00 PM

Christian Fellowship Center
343-359 Van Houten St., Paterson, NJ 07501
Pastor Joel D. Rudolph, Sr., Senior Pastor
Rev. Larry Pierce, Officiating

Forever Loved, Never Forgotten

Order of Service

Praise & Worship
CFC Praise Team

Processional

Presider
Jerry Wimberly

Opening Selection
Marlene Williams

Prayer of Comfort
La Shone Arnett

Scripture Readings
Old Testament - Min. Damion Campbell
New Testament - Elias Harris

Musical Selection
Consuela King

Remarks from Clergy
Pastor Joel D. Rudolph Sr.

Remarks & Reflections
To My Uncle- Allure Wilson
What A Man - Claretha Pierce
Continuing His Legacy - The Pierce Family

Reading of the Obituary
& Acknowledgement of Cards
Ché Vonne Bailey Johnson

Musical Selection
Christian Fellowship Choir

Message of Hope
Rev. Larry Pierce

Recessional



He Was Always There

He was a great man, strong and true,
Who gave his love to all he knew.
He taught us lessons, big and small,
And stood beside us through it all.
Whenever someone needed a hand,
He was there to help, to understand.
With a heart of kindness, love, and care,
He gave his time because he was there.
He taught us more than words could say,
By how he lived from day to day.
Through every season, every year,
His strength and love were always near.
Eighty-nine years of life and love,
A precious gift from God above.
Though we must say goodbye today,
The things he taught us will never fade away.
His hands may now be resting still,
But his love lives on, and always will.
In every lesson, every memory,
His presence remains a part of me.

**Rest peacefully, Dad.
Thank you for teaching us, loving us,
and always being there.**



Obituary

George E. Pierce, Sr.

Devoted Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Uncle

Life is a winding road filled with twists and turns. It is a landscape consisting of peaks and valleys, dotted with milestones along the journey that shape us into the person we are known to be at the end of our life. The path for George E. Pierce Sr. began on July 2, 1937, in rural Enfield, North Carolina, a place surrounded by white cotton and corn fields, dirt roads, and scented pine trees standing between earth and sky.

George was born to parents who were sharecroppers, John and Maggie (Parker) Pierce, during a time of segregation and racism. He would become the sixth of seven children. Growing up, George loved going to school. However, the unfair constraints placed on his parents as tenant farmers made it difficult to attend. At a very young age, he would often have to provide labor on someone else's land to help keep the family afloat.

At the age of 22, Enfield, North Carolina, became a hometown memory. He was drafted into the United States Army and served in Berlin, Germany. He was assigned to Company F 40th Armor (a heavy tank company), as an auto mechanic. After his time in the military, George was honorably discharged and relocated to Paterson, NJ. It was here that George would spend the remainder of his life's journey making a living, building relationships, and establishing a family.

On April 19, 1963, he married Claretha McKenzie. Together, they were blessed with six children, creating a loving and vibrant household. They would also open their hearts and homes to their three nieces and one nephew when George's beloved sister passed away. Later, in their 60's they would continue to open their hearts and home again and adopt a young child, for a total of 11 children.

Despite the many educational obstacles placed in George's path, he was able to earn his GED. Through hard work and determination, he rose to the positions of foreman and warehouse manager at Modern Creative in Elmwood Park, NJ, and Art Deco in Wayne,

NJ. He retired in the 1990s after working for more than 25 years. After his retirement, he served the community as a crossing guard, stop sign in hand, making sure every child crossed safely. Later, he took on an even more meaningful role, becoming a caretaker for several of his grandchildren, pouring the same patience, steadiness, and love into them that he shared with everyone around him.

Known for his macaroni and cheese, multi-layered cakes, and butter beans, George was a man of many talents. A self-taught cook, baker, and renovator, he poured creativity and care into everything he touched. In his two-family home, he carved out space, quite literally, for the many children who lived there, shaping a place that was as welcoming as it was full of life.

A man of faith, George was a longtime member of Canaan Baptist Church in Paterson and later joined Christian Fellowship Center, where he worshiped alongside his wife and family. For the last few years of his life, George battled Parkinson's disease, which severely inhibited his mobility. However, no matter how his body was affected, he worked diligently not to wallow in self-pity. He made his transition to Glory on September 20, 2026. To cherish his memory, he leaves his dedicated wife of 63 years, Claretha (McKenzie) Pierce. Their children: Shirley Pierce, Vanessa Pierce, Michele (James) Griffin, Gwendolyn (Harvey) Shields, Dr. Pamela Bailey, George (Kateecha) Pierce, Keith (Stephanie) Pierce, Catina (Todd) Harris, Malcolm Pierce, and a daughter-in-law, Keisha Browning Pierce. His grandchildren: Quasheema Pierce, Shamika Lassiter, Tahesha Pierce, Ché Vonne (Nicholas) Johnson, Ashley Pierce, Brauyna Dungee, Calah DeBerry, Celine Shields, Elijah Pierce, Elias Harris, Pierce Griffin, Jaiden Pierce, Sanaa Shields, Samantha Pierce, Emma Harris, Trinity Pierce, and Noah Shields, great grandchildren: Malachi Weaver, David Hammons, Aaliyah Phillips, Carter Pierre, Cadence Johnson, Novalee Cady, and Fenimore Cady, a cherished nephew, Larry (Gretchen) Pierce, sisters and brothers in-laws: Lillie Mae Wimberly, Dr. Robert (Pearlie Mae) McKenzie, Carolyn (Julius) Grant and an abundance of extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Undean Debrow, Bethola Thomas, Isaac Pierce, Magaline Pierce, John Henry Pierce, and George Charlie Pierce; his daughter, Diane Patterson; his son, Jerry Pierce; and his grandson, Joseph Pierce. Like the North Carolina pines that dot the landscape of his hometown, George will forever be remembered as a man who stood tall and strong. His legacy of kindness, resilience, and unwavering support will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

In faith, we find comfort knowing that George has been welcomed into God's eternal embrace. His soul now rests in peace, forever surrounded by God's grace.