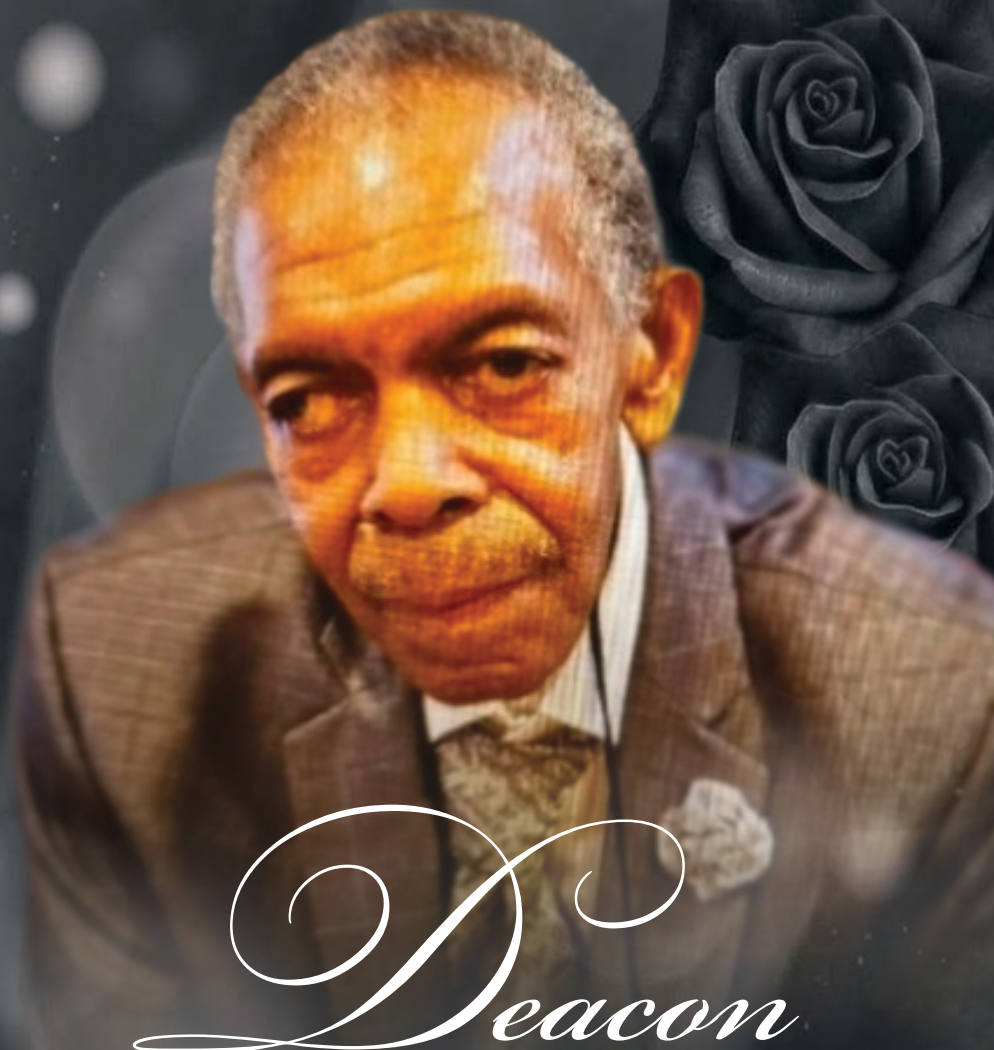


CELEBRATING

THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF



Deacon
ERNEST EDWARD LAWSON

SEPTEMBER 15, 1948 - OCTOBER 10, 2026

OUR BELOVED CHURCH FAMILY

Obituary

Ernest 'Shug' Edward Lawson was born on September 15, 1948, in Abbeville, Georgia to the late Robert Lawson Sr. and Geneva Lawson. Ernest grew up in the 'Lockhart' community of Sanford, Florida, while also spending a significant portion of his youth in Rochester, New York.

During the 1940s through the 1970s, the Lawson family was among the many seasonal agricultural workers who traveled north from Sanford to work on farms and vineyards in areas such as Rochester, New York, while maintaining strong cultural and family ties to their home in Sanford.

Sanford, particularly its historic African American community of Goldsboro, held a special place in Ernest's life. He was a proud graduate of Crooms High School, where he completed his education before entering adulthood.

Following high school, Ernest spent time living in Rochester, New York, as a young man before eventually relocating to Paterson, New Jersey. New Jersey would remain his home for the rest of his life.

A dedicated and hardworking man, Ernest enjoyed a long and fulfilling career with the United States Postal Service, retiring in 2007 after 40 years of service. Never one to remain idle, he continued working for another 15 years at The Home Depot, where he was affectionately known by his coworkers as "Mr. E."

Ernest was a man of unwavering faith, deep family values, and quiet strength. He loved his family dearly, and above all, he loved God.

As a devoted member of Agape Christian Church in Paterson, New Jersey since 1993, Ernest faithfully served as a deacon and in many other capacities. He was deeply respected and admired by his fellow church members, friends, family, and coworkers alike.

Ernest possessed a generous and selfless spirit. He was always willing to lend a helping hand, offer sound advice, and provide support to those in need. He valued family, cherished spending quality time with loved ones, and appreciated life's simple pleasures, including good food and his favorite desserts, especially cheesecake.

A man who valued knowledge and personal growth, Ernest took pride in educating himself, dressing sharply in fine suits and footwear, serving God, and being a dependable pillar of strength and stability for those around him.

He was a humble soul blessed with wisdom, knowledge, and a unique perspective on life. Whether sharing thoughtful advice, interesting stories, or lessons learned through experience, Ernest had a way of leaving a lasting impression. His calm yet stern demeanor, often accompanied by a warm smile, was part of what made him so memorable.

Ernest was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Robert Lawson Sr. and Geneva Lawson; his brothers, Alfred "Fella" Lawson, Robert "Man" Lawson Jr., and Michael Lawson; and his sisters, Dr. Willie Ruth Merthie, and Willie Mae 'Honey' Lawson.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 57 years, Catherine Lawson, originally from Bolivia, North Carolina, whom he loved dearly; his four children, Sonya Lawson-Nicholas (Joseph) of Tannersville, PA, Karen Lawson of Charlotte NC, Robin Lawson of Southport NC, and Brian Lawson of Bogota, NJ; his two granddaughters, Ayesha Nicholas of Simpsonville, SC and Nayyirah Nicholas of Tannersville, PA; sister, Emma Jean Williams of Florida, along with a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, former coworkers, and all those whose lives he touched.

Ernest Lawson will be remembered for his faith, generosity, wisdom, strong work ethic, and unwavering love for his family. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched, the lessons he shared, and the memories he leaves behind.

Saturday, October 24, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.

Agape Christian Ministries Church

76 Ward Street, Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. James A. Kuykendall, Officiating

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Remarks

Acknowledgements & Obituary

Selection

Words of Comfort

Rev. Dr. James A. Kuykendall

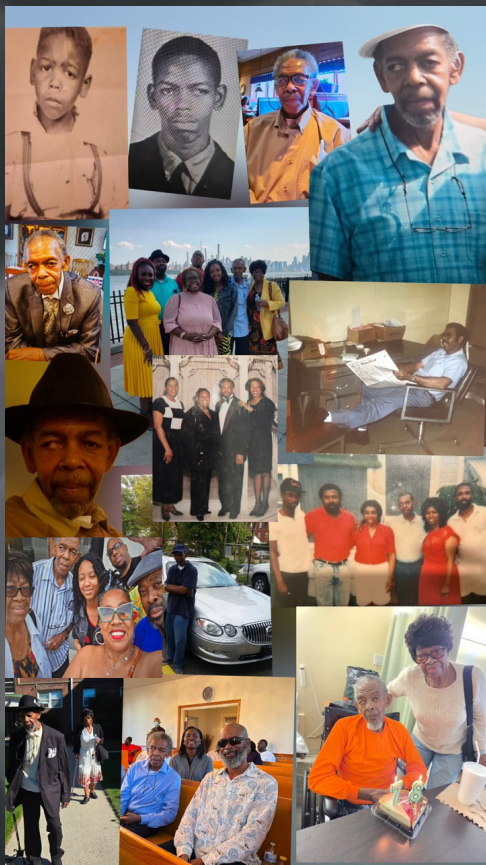
Recessional

Interment

Crest Haven Memorial Park

750 Passaic Avenue

Clifton, New Jersey 07012



Acknowledgment

The family wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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