

In Loving Memory
of

Escoe W. Branner

Sunrise
June 16, 1918

Sunset
September 29, 2016



Service

Wednesday, October 5, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

201 Lenox Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Rev. Charles Curtis, Officiating

Obituary

On the morning of Thursday, September 29, 2016, the sun set on **Escoe Webster Branner**. He transitioned to the Land of Love peacefully after a near century of dedicated service to God and family in New York City.

Born June 16, 1918 in White Pine, Tennessee, he was the fourth of ten children to parents, Warren and Mary Branner. He was raised on a farm, where he learned the value of hard work, perseverance and respect. He enlisted in the US Armed Forces in March 1941. During his tenure as a Staff Sergeant, he served in New Guinea, the Philippines and Australia. Due to an injury, he returned to the states in 1944 and received an honorable discharge in October 1945. He valued education and made a point of earning his GED.

While attending Salem Church of White Pine, he met the love of his life, Ms. Edith Mae Evans (Branner). They were married in April 1946 and subsequently relocated to New York City where he was employed with the United States Postal Service. His career as a postal worker spanned 34 years; a job he loved and retired from in 1980.

His marriage to Edith Evans, among other blessings, produced four loving children, Jerry, Patricia, Beverly and Paul. Sadly, Edith made her transition in December 1972. After her passing, he thought the world would end and that God had left him. However with prayer, he realized that God had a plan for his life. Upon returning home from Edith's funeral in Tennessee, he didn't think that the family would celebrate Christmas that year. Yet when he awoke the next morning, he was so happy that his children had put up a tree and decorated the house. "That was one of the best days of my life!" he said each time he shared the story.

As the patriarch of his family, Dad's proudest accomplishment was fulfilling his role as a supportive father. He was a doting grandfather and great-grandfather and was affectionately referred to as "Papa". He was always open to conversations and offering his perspective about life and the importance of doing what you are called to do. In the fall of 1973, Dad met Eva Williams who later became his longtime friend and companion. He embraced her family as his and she was a loving mother figure to us as well. Dad worked diligently with the Washington Houses Tenant's Association for over 20 years. During his tenure he was highly respected as a supervisor and trained others with techniques to maintain a safe community. He believed that everyone deserved safe and decent housing. Throughout his service he was presented with numerous awards honoring his dedicated service to the Washington Housing community.

Dad was a long-standing member of Mount Olivet Baptist Church where he loved the Sunday Service and Wednesday Noonday Prayer. He generally started his day with a copy of the New York Daily News and was a die-hard NY Mets fan. He was often seen wearing a cap that displayed the title Proud US-World War II Veteran in remembrance of his service.

Predeceased Family Members, Always to be remembered: parents, Warren Charles Branner and Mary Bible Branner Stewart; siblings, Rementa Branner Simonton, Alvin Branner, Arnold Branner, Ruby Kate Branner Giles, Dorothy Imogene Branner, and James Dale Branner.

Dad is survived by: children, Jerry Wayne Branner, Patricia LeVerne Branner Pierce, Beverly Diane Branner and Paul Webster Branner; sisters, Lobelia Martin of Knoxville, TN, Anna Lynn Hatten of Indianapolis, IN, and Margaret Branner his beloved sister-in-law of Kingsport, TN; his beloved nieces and nephews; grandchildren, Senghor Sisiwe Hill, Quincy Demaro Branner, Ayana Shabazz Manzanares and Liana Irene Pierce; great grandchildren, Quincy Kingston Branner, Elia Yasmeen Manzanares and Daze Otto Cooper; extended family members and friends, Lee Brisbane, the Hill family, Bubba Alvin Keitt, family and friends of George Washington Houses, the Williams family; and a host of others near and far.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Prayer

Acknowledgements

Remarks

(Two minutes please)

Obituary

(To be read silently for one minute)

Selection

"Jesus The Light of the World"

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Interment Private

Family

*Repast Family and friends will gather immediately after the service
in the Fellowship Hall for a short gathering:*

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

201 Lenox Avenue, New York, NY 10027

Flower Bearers
Family and Friends

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave". The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you".

-Mary Stevenson

Acknowledgement

The Branner Family would like to thank everyone for your prayers, help, comfort and companionship during this difficult time. You may have sent a card, text, spoken a kind word, or given a warm embrace...we thank you!

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