

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY  
OF  
**JOHN HARVEY DAVIDSON, SR.**



**Sunrise**  
**August 5, 1923**

**Sunset**  
**September 9, 2018**

**Saturday, September 15, 2018**  
**10 o'clock am**

**Mount Olivet Baptist Church**  
**401 Avon Avenue**  
**Newark, NJ**  
**Rev. André Milteer, Senior Pastor**  
**Officiating**

# Obituary

*“If anyone should ever write my life story...”*

**John Harvey Davidson, Sr.**, was born to the late Deacon John Seaton and Lillie P. (Thigpen) Davidson on August 5, 1923 in Newark, New Jersey. He was favored by God’s mercy and called Home on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

He would follow strong Christian ideals taught firmly by his parents to an acceptance of Christ at an early age. He was baptized at the Mount Olivet Baptist Church in 1930 under the pastoral leadership of Reverend W.W. Fleming, which was followed with many years of membership and church service. Later in life, the Bethlehem Baptist Church of Newark, NJ, under the late Reverend Tony E. Jackson, Sr., became his new church home.

John was educated in the City of Newark, New Jersey, attending Franklin Elementary School, McKinley Junior High School and Barringer High School, where he graduated and lettered as a varsity Track and Field athlete and a Newark City Meet champion in the High Jump event.

He answered his country’s call to duty and completed a successful tour of service to the United States Army during World War II. Upon his Honorable Discharge from military service, he returned to New Jersey and married Susie V. Walton. In later years, he married Julia Perrin.

John continued the Davidson Family legacy of service to the Mount Olivet Baptist Church with many years of active service to the Trustee Board (Ministry). Never a “by-stander”, Trustee Davidson would be widely recognized over the years for his involvement in supporting church operations which included its vending machines and culinary services. He was also very instrumental in leading capital fund raising campaigns for a church relocation and building renovations through member donor plaque dedications throughout the sanctuary, as well as the publishing and printing of several commemorative souvenir journals in celebration of church milestones.

“Mr. JD” is how many knew him and called him with affection. The name would complement his reputation for a stylish and polished presentation and for many years it was prominently displayed on his car’s license plate for all to see. He traveled the world, yet loved his home state of New Jersey, enjoying areas adjacent to New York City down to Atlantic City.

During his life, he was employed by the US Veterans Administration, the US Postal Service, Bergen Liquors and from 1948, would remain employed by Ford Motor Company until his retirement. It was during his tenure with Ford Motor Company that he was also an avid labor unionist as a local member of the United Auto Workers of America (UAW) where he would most notably work closely with the organization in its support of union member attendance at the historic March on Washington in 1963. During his retirement years, John would enjoy part-time employment with the Garden State Parkway and the Clarence B. Wright Funeral Home.

He was pre-deceased by his sister, Beulah and her husband, Arthur Poyner and leaves to await the Lord’s return, his children, Shirley V. Fleming (Joseph), John H. Davidson, Jr. (Frances), Carmelita Winfrey (Robert), Kevin Davidson, Lisa Godfrey (Marcel) and Linda Darby (John). In addition, his spirit will live on through his twelve grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. And, there are many others that will cherish his memory including his family, friends and acquaintances.

# Order of Service

Musical Interlude.....Brother Shaquan Welch, Organist

Processional

Invocation

Hymn.....*Blessed Assurance*

Prayer of Comfort ..... Reverend Bernard D. Glee, Assistant Pastor  
Saint Paul Community Church, Harlem, NY

Reading of Scripture

Old Testament ..... Minister Thelma Turner Smith

New Testament.....Minister Diane Beckwith

Musical Selection..... Sister Darcell Bradsher

Acknowledgements & Messages of Condolence

Sister Frances Bradman  
Bethlehem Baptist Church

Obituary ..... Silently Read

Tributes ..... Deacon Malcom Silvera,  
Bethlehem Baptist Church  
The Honorable William D. Payne  
Brother Charles Frazier

Musical Selection .....Sister Golden Hymon

Eulogy ..... Reverend André W. Milteer, Senior Pastor  
Mount Olivet Baptist Church

Benediction

Recessional

**Interment**  
Glendale Cemetery  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

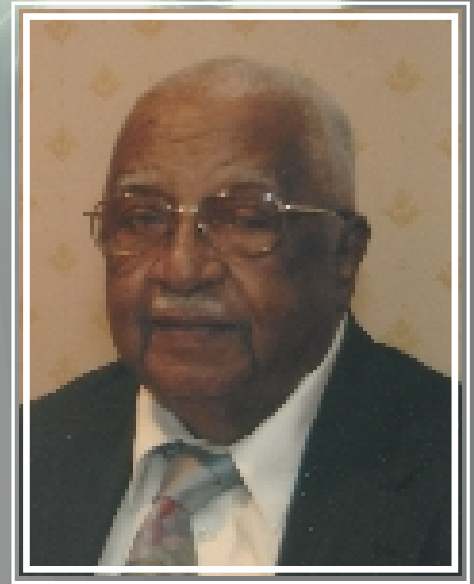
**Repast**  
Bethlehem Baptist Church  
587 4th St, Newark, NJ



**Pallbearers**  
Family & Friends

# I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has chosen for me.  
I took His hand when I heard him call;  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
I've now found peace at the end of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;  
Oh yes, these things, I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
Look for the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much;  
Good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.  
My years have been long,  
yet my time seems all too brief;  
Don't lengthen your pain with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and peace to thee,  
God wanted me now – He set me free.



## Expressions of Gratitude

**We, the family of the late John H. Davidson, Sr., wish to express our sincere gratitude to our friends and family who have prayed with and for us, sent cards, flowers and well wishes during this difficult time. We extend a very special thanks to our Mount Olivet Baptist Church and Bethlehem Baptist Church families, Valentina Daniels, Charles Frazier, the Honorable William D. Payne, Isabel Cruz, Rev. Bernard D. Glee, Deacon James Smith, Minister Thelma Turner-Smith, Wendell Smith, the staff of Forest Hill Healthcare Center and posthumously, the late Pastor Tony E. Jackson. May God shower his rich blessings upon you for your many selfless acts of kindness.**

**The Family**

Professional Services Provided By

*Clarence B Wright Funeral Home, Inc.*

579 Grove St, Irvington, NJ 07111

Phone: (973) 374-7058

