

*Celebrating The Life  
Of  
Donald Allen Bennett*

*Sunrise  
February 18, 1930*

*Sunset  
June 17, 2019*



*Friday, June 28, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.*

**Calvary Baptist Church**

66 South Grove Street  
East Orange, New Jersey 07018

*Rev. Dr. Joseph Oniyama, Pastor*

*Rev. Robin Greene, Officiating*

*Rev. Ralph C. Duke, Eulogist*

*Nathaniel Lewis, Organist*

## Obituary

Donald Allen Bennett was born on February 18, 1930 in East Orange, New Jersey. He was the fourth of nine children born to the late James Ollie Bennett and Laura Sears Bennett. Donald entered eternal rest on June 17, 2019.

Donald attended East Orange High School in East Orange, New Jersey, leaving early to work with his father and help support his family.

In 1951, Donald was drafted to the Marines during the first wave of integration in the United States Armed Forces. He proudly served for two years as a Engineer Spec during the Korean War and was honorably discharged as a Buck Sergeant in 1953. When Donald returned home from the Marines, he took over his father's painting and carpentry business, starting his career as a painter. Ten years later, he joined the International Union Painters and Allied Trades, integrating many jobs and paving the way for other black artisans. In 1974 he joined Brinx Coatings (union affiliated). After being bought out in 1983, he opened and operated D.A.B. Painters until 1998 when he became an independent contractor. Throughout his painting career he worked residential and commercial jobs throughout New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The job he was most proud of was the contract to paint his family church - Calvary Baptist Church in East Orange, New Jersey. During his career, he mentored many young men, including many of his nephews, teaching painting and carpentry.

Donald was united in holy matrimony to Pamela Bennett. This union produced one child, LaTanya Bennett Ford.

In 1979, Donald was one of the founding members of Jersey Ski and Sports Inc., a black ski club. The club skied throughout the United States and Europe. Donald also enjoyed traveling, roller skating, bowling and going to dude ranches. He was an avid football fan and New York Jets season ticket holder for 42 years.

Donald and Pamela settled in Franklin Park, New Jersey. There, he joined First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey where he was a member of the Veterans Ministry, and faithfully attended the Senior Ministry's Bible study every Tuesday.

Donald enjoyed spending quality time with friends and family. Each year at the annual Bennett Family Party, he always had "special envelopes" to all his nieces and nephews who were in school. He could always be found at a local coffee shop laughing and talking with his buddies. He will be remembered by his hearty laugh, cheerful demeanor and ability to quickly make new friends.

He was preceded in death by six of his siblings, Edith Bennett, Willie Bennett, Olive Feggan, Esther Johnson, James Archie Bennett and Carolyn Corpening, brothers-in-law, Fitzhugh Feggan, Theodore Garrett, Sr. and Arnold Talbot, Sr. and sister-in-law, Patricia Duke.

Donald is survived by: his loving wife, Pamela; daughter, and son-in-law, LaTanya and Edward Ford; granddaughters, Bria Ford and Brielle Ford; sisters, Delores Garrett and Laura Talbot; sisters-in-law, Doris Bennett, Rose Bennett, Philippa Holley, Priscilla Duke, and Phyllis Roldan; brothers-in-law, Ernest Holley and Gustavo Roldan; godchildren, Derek Garrett, Pamela Johnson and Paula Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, loving family and friends.

# Order of Service

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Hymn of Comfort.....“Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Ronaldo Cade

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23.....Troy Garrett

New Testament - Philippians 4:4-8.....Candace Duke

Selection .....“The Lord’s Prayer”.....William McLeod, Jr.

Obituary.....Theodore Garrett, Jr.

Acknowledgements.....Rev. Linda Rudrow

Remarks.....Delores Garrett

Randy Talbot

LaTanya Ford

Selection.....“Stand”.....William McLeod

Eulogy.....Rev. Ralph C. Duke

Military Honors.....Marine Corps

Recessional.....“Going Up Yonder”.....Clergy and Family

## **Interment**

*Heavenly Rest Memorial Park*

*East Hanover, New Jersey*

## ***Repast***

***Immediately following the Interment family and friends are invited back for the repast in the Church Fellowship Hall.***

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

### *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Donald Allen Bennett** will remember and cherish your many expressions of love, sympathy, and prayers so graciously extended.  
Thank you and may God bless you.

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