

*Celebration  
of Life  
for*



*Oliver Walter Drakeford*

Sunrise  
June 5, 1934

Sunset  
July 2, 2019

## *Reflections of Life*

**Oliver Drakeford** was born June 5, 1934 in Kershaw County, South Carolina to the late Belton Drakeford and Ellen (Alexander) Drakeford.

Oliver affectionately known as "Big Honey," attended the Mathers Academy in Kershaw, where he played football.

After graduating high school, Oliver attended South Carolina State University for two years studying Agriculture. He joined the United States Army in 1956 and was honorably discharged in August 1962. Oliver relocated to Paterson in the 1960's where met and married Georgiana (Thornhill) at the New A.M.E. Zion Church in Paterson.

During his lifetime he was an active member of New A.M.E. Zion Church Paterson. While active in the church, he was a member of the Men's Chorus, the Zioners, and the Steward Board. Later he became a member of Faith Chapel Reformed Church Paterson, where he was a member of the Gospel Chorus. Oliver was employed by the SB Thomas Corporation which is famous for Thomas' English Muffins for 27 years before retiring. He loved to sing, draw and paint, and entered several contests while living at the Federation Seniors Building in Paterson, NJ.

Oliver was preceded in death by his wife Georgiana (Thornhill) Drakeford, parents Belton and Ellen Drakeford, one grandson Raymond Coleburn Jr., one sister Josie Brown, two brothers Randolph Coleman, and Curtis Drakeford and one son-in-law Raymond Coleburn Sr.

Oliver is survived by one daughter Wanda Drakeford, a step daughter Gloria Coleburn, two grandchildren Brandon and Briana Drakeford, three great-grandchildren Latoria Bailey, Oranetta McCoy, and Rashaun Gaskins. He is also survived by ten great great grandchildren and eight great great great grandchildren. Oliver is also survived by nieces, Dr. Deborah Brown (Cindie) of Michigan, Robinette Brown of Maryland, Gloria Clark (Raymond) Holly Hill S.C., Annette Stratford (David) of Camden S.C., and a nephew Coleman Drakeford Jr. (Mildred) of Camden, S.C., god-daughter Latoya McGuire and a host of great nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A special thanks to the many friends and neighbors that helped with his care Paula, Mabel, Mattie Baker, cousin Dorothy Shaw, and Dorothy Headspeth.

Thursday, July 11, 2019 - 12:00 Noon  
**ST. LUKE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
139 Carroll Street, Paterson, New Jersey  
Reverend Kenneth D.R. Clayton, Officiating

*Order of Worship*

**Hymn of Comfort**

#27 "Blessed Assurance"

**Scripture Readings**

Old Testament: Psalm 23

New Testament: Romans 8:28-31

**The Prayer of Comfort**

**The Prayer Response**

#333 "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

**The Hymn of Hope and Assurance**

#223 "The Solid Rock"

**Expressions of Sympathy and Comfort**

Guided

**Acknowledgements and Reflections of Life**

**Selection**

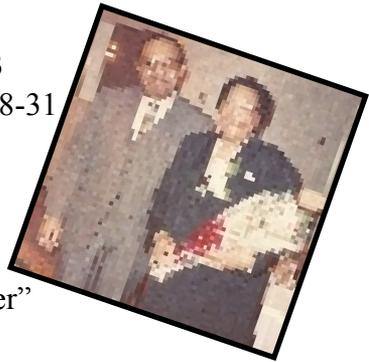
**The Message of Comfort**

Pastor Clayton

**Recessional**

**Interment**

Fair Lawn Memorial Cemetery  
22-21 Maple Ave., Fair Lawn, New Jersey



# 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 family of the late **Oliver Walter Drakeford** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

Professional Services Provided By

**CARNE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOMES, INC.**

*Caring for the Community Since 1937*

256 Rosa Parks Blvd. • Paterson, NJ 07501 • (973) 278-6330

143 Myrtle Avenue • Passaic, NJ 07055 • (973) 779-1892

To send online condolences, visit [www.braggfuneralhome.com](http://www.braggfuneralhome.com)



[www.honoryou.com](http://www.honoryou.com)

