

In Loving Memory of *Elbert Russell, Jr.*



Sunrise:
August 9, 1929

Sunset:
November 4, 2020

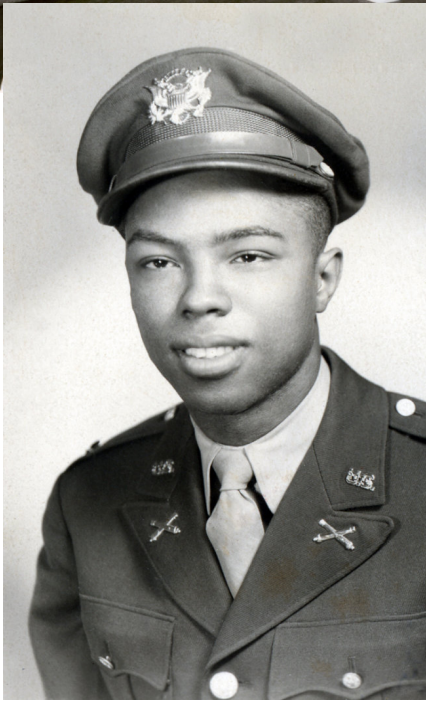
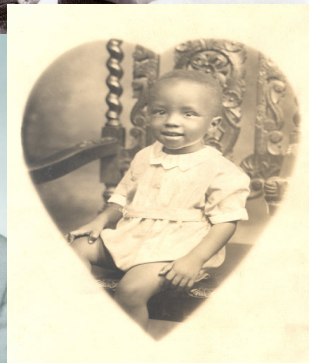
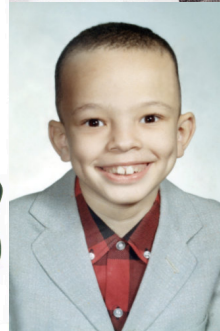
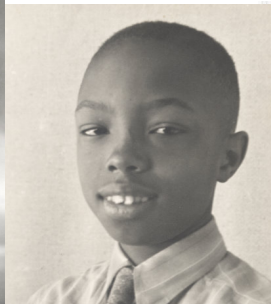
HOME GOING SERVICE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 - 12:00 PM

ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH
336 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050

Reverend Wilson, Officiating

If we knew it would be the last time, we would see you fall asleep,
We would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.
If we knew it would be the last time, we see you walk out the door,
we would have given you a hug and kiss and call you back for more.
If we knew it would be the last time, we would hear your voice lifted in praise,
we would record each action and word, so we could play them back every day,
If we knew it would be the last time,
we would spare an extra minute or two, to stop and say
"We Love You", instead of assuming you would KNOW we do.
If we knew it would be the last time, we would be there to share your day,
We assumed you would have so many more, so we let this one slip away.
For surely there is always tomorrow to make up for an oversight,
And we always get a second chance to make everything right.
There will always be another day to say, "our love you's",
and certainly, there is another chance to say, "anything we can do?"
But just in case we might be wrong, and today is all we get,
We would like to say how much we love you and hope you never forget.
Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance to get to hold your loved one tight.
So, if you are waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes, you will surely regret the day,
You did not take the extra time, for a smile, hug, or a kiss
And you were too busy to grant someone their one last wish.
So, hold your loved ones close today, whisper in their ear,
Tell them how much you love them and hold them dear.
Take time to say, "I'm Sorry, please forgive me, thank you, or it's okay."
And if tomorrow never comes, you will have no regrets about today.

Love Always, your Children and Grandchildren



Order of Service

Visitation and Viewing

Processional

Opening Prayer Reverend Wilson

Scripture Reading..... Reverend Wilson

Old Testament

New Testament

Musical Selection..... Patricia Walton

Tributes Family and Friends

Musical Selection..... Edward Gorham

Obituary Anaya Russell

Musical Selection..... James Varner

Eulogy Reverend Wilson

Recessional

Interment

Rosedale Cemetery

Orange, New Jersey

Pallbearers

Byron Russell

Eric Russell

Ryan Marsh

Deshawn Marsh

Miles Anderson

Gregory Peterman

Obituary

ELBERT RUSSELL, Jr. aka SUGARMAN

August 9, 1929 to November 4, 2020

Elbert Russell, Jr. was born August 9, 1929 to Effie D. Russell and Elbert Russell Sr, at Orange Memorial Hospital in Orange, New Jersey, just 82 days before the start of the Great Depression. His parents were originally from Chickasaw County, Mississippi. Sometime in the early to mid-twenties, they along with their young daughter Harriet were part of the Great Migration of Blacks from the Jim Crow South. They moved North to provide greater opportunities for themselves and their offspring.

Growing up in South Orange, NJ, Elbert Jr. was always surrounded by family. His mother Effie was one of nine siblings and of those nine, four migrated North for greener pastures with their families. Family gatherings were always a staple in Elbert's life, from an early age. Also, at a young age, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and became a Lifelong Member of First Baptist Church in South Orange, NJ.

The Russell Family took up residence in a cold water flat apartment over Bunny's Saloon in South Orange. Elbert Jr. matriculated through the South Orange school system, starting at First Street Elementary School and graduating from Columbia High School in 1947. When it was time to pursue his higher education, he chose a Historically Black College/University to pursue his degree for Math and Engineering.

After being awarded an Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship, he was accepted to, and attended West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia. As a sophomore, he pledged to join KAPPA ALPHA PSI Fraternity and was accepted as a proud member of the Brothers of the Red and White.

Following graduation from West Virginia State University in 1951, Young Russell received his Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army and was immediately sent overseas where he fought in the Korean War. After serving in Korea, Elbert aka, Sugarman, returned home to South Orange, only to find that his mother and father had vacated the old Cold Water Flat over Bunny's and purchased a beautiful home in East Orange, NJ.

Sugarman put his engineering degree to good use once returning home, landing a job with Emerson Electronics, and then later being employed By Lockheed Electronics in Watchung as a mechanical engineer. Along the way, he met Anna Thelma Draughon. They fell in love, married in 1958 and from this union 2 boys, Byron and Alan and twin girls, Elaine and Arlene were born. They established a home in Plainfield. In addition, prior to marrying Anna, Elbert had another son, Leon Wicks, from a prior relationship.

While living in Plainfield, Sugarman took an interest in the community. He ran for and was elected to the Plainfield City Council, where he served as the 4th Ward Councilman. Unfortunately, his union with Anna dissolved in 1973, after 15 years of marriage. Elbert Jr. vacated his Council Seat and transferred to Lockheed in Sunnyvale, California, where he lived and worked for the next 3 years before returning home to New Jersey. While living in California, Elbert developed a passion for the game of golf.

After returning to New Jersey in 1976, Sugarman married Sandra Marsh. With this union, a blended family formed adding two children, Arnold and Valarie. They settled in Maplewood. He was forced to retire early from Lockheed in 1990 after the ending of the Cold War and worked various Jobs, including as an Internal Revenue Service Agent in Manhattan, New York.

In 1995, Elbert and Sandra founded, owned and operated Kiddie Quarters Inc., which is still in operation today. Sugarman retired from working at Kiddie Quarters in 2015 and was settling into retirement with extensive plans to continue enjoying family, friends and loved ones.

Elbert was preceded in death by his wife Sandra earlier this year; his sister, Harriet in 1963; his father Elbert Sr. in 1973; and his mother, Effie in 2003. Left to mourn Elbert Russell Jr's passing are his sons: Leon Wicks (Ann), Byron Russell (Anna), Alan Russell (Christyle), Arnold Ellington, and daughters: Elaine Russell, Arlene Russell, and Valarie Ellington. Grandchildren: Eric Russell (Jennifer), Anaya Russell, Ezekiel Gorham, Isaiah Gorham, Chase Russell, Mahalia Gorham. Great Grands: Dominic James Russell and (to be continued). Also, a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews, as well as a multitude of friends and acquaintances will miss the kind words and magnetic smile of our SUGARMAN.





Miss Me, But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road
and the sun has sent for me,*

*I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
why cry for a soul set free.*

*Miss me a little - but not too long
and not with your head bowed low.*

Remember the love we once shared,

Miss me - but let me go.

*For this is a journey we all must take
and each one must go alone.*

It's all a part of the Master's plan.

A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart,

go to the friends we know

And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds

Miss me - but let me go

Never Say Goodbye

There can be no goodbyes for us
It would be too painful
Our connection still lives on
Although you are far from here
We miss the times we once had
But one day, once again
We will hold you close and laugh with you
We just wish we knew when
Each moment till that day arrives
Until our time is through
We will miss you more than words can say
And always think of you
We will look for you among the stars
And each dawn's pastel sky
And whisper words of love to you
But never say goodbye.

Acknowledgement

A Message from the Family Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece, If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words
As any friends could say, Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us this day. Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much, Whatever the part
The family of the late Elbert Russell Jr.

Professional Services Provided By

WOODY "HOME FOR SERVICES"

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