

# *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid 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 found that peace at the close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!  
-author unknown

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of the late **Deacon Johnnie B. Jackson** wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.  
May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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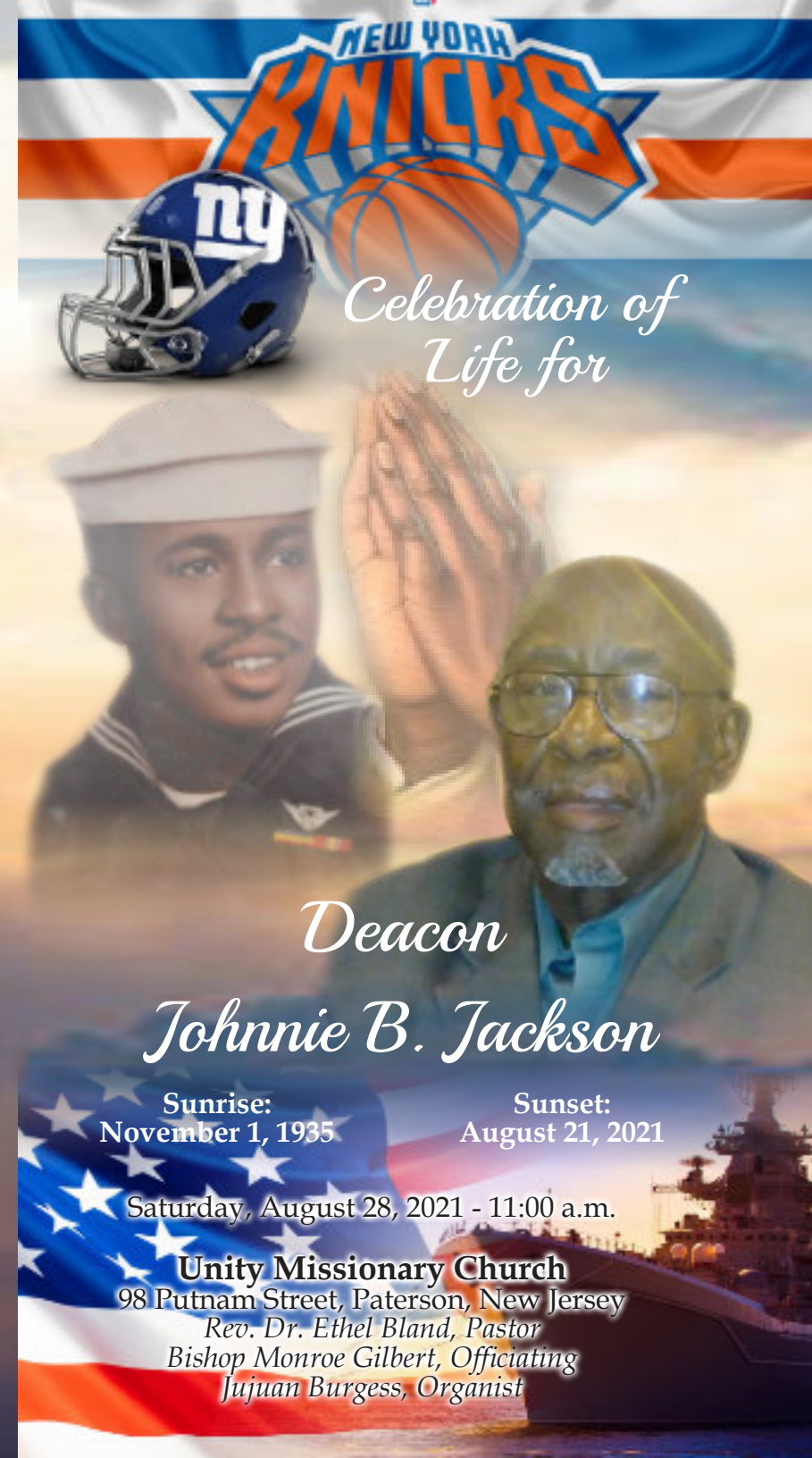
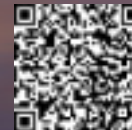
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*Celebration of  
Life for*

*Deacon*

*Johnnie B. Jackson*

Sunrise:  
November 1, 1935

Sunset:  
August 21, 2021

Saturday, August 28, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.

**Unity Missionary Church**

98 Putnam Street, Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. Ethel Bland, Pastor

Bishop Monroe Gilbert, Officiating

Juajuan Burgess, Organist

## Obituary

Johnnie B. Jackson was born on November 1, 1935 to Sarah Evelyn Jackson and Allen Jackson in Macon, Georgia. Johnnie loved football and played for the Ballard Hudson Maroon Tigers. He graduated from Ballard Hudson High School Macon, Ga in 1953.

Shortly after graduation, Johnnie enlisted in the U S Navy. He was stationed and remained in San Diego, California until he completed tour of duty. During this time, he married Thelma Dansby of South Carolina. Seeking work, Johnnie moved to Paterson to join his father, Allen at Cerami Pontiac in Paramus, NJ where he was employed for 40 years. During his tenure, he served as Mechanic, Service Manager and Foreman of the Service Department.

In 1975, he joined the Unity Missionary Church Paterson. His family was among the founding members. He was the Chairman of the Deacon Board for over thirty years, and affectionately became known as “Deac.” In 1978 Bishop Albert Bland placed Deacon Jackson in charge of the Building Fund because he trusted him to make sure the new Church was built. Deacon Jackson worked hard with the members to make sure that a beautiful edifice was completed. Deacon Jackson would always make sure the senior citizens in the Church had Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Deacon Jackson had a favorite song, “He’s Sweet I Know”, that his father used to sing before his passing. He had a different level of joy when he would sing that song with the Senior Choir. Deacon Jackson was a faithful member of the Unity Male Chorus up until his health began to fail him. Deacon Jackson loved Unity so much that he would give the shirt off his back just to help somebody. Deacon Jackson always would say If anybody asked you about me, just tell them that I’m

just a child of God.

Johnnie enjoyed family outings, cigars, NY Knicks, and football especially when he had the chance to watch his grandson play for Kennedy High School. On any given Sunday he would watch the NY Giants and surely let everyone know that the Giants are the best NY area Football team.

Deacon Johnnie B. Jackson transitioned to eternal life on Saturday, August 21, 2021, surrounded by his sons and close family members.

He was preceded in death by a son, Melvin Jackson.

He leaves to cherish fond memories, a daughter, Sylvia Battle of Stone Mountain, Ga.; sons, Gregory N. and Ronald L. Jackson, of Paterson, NJ; two grand-daughters, Sara Woodruff of Washington DC, and Asha Woodruff of Long Beach, California; one grandson, Tyquese Jackson of Paterson, NJ; Unity Missionary Church family; by the friends and family here today; and those who called with condolences and sent the flowers you see before you. He was loved by many and appreciated by most.

The family would also like to give a special note of honor and respect to the Rev. Dr. Ethel M. Bland for her years of guidance and support.

*He firmly believed in doing all that you can do to be the best you can be. There is nothing too hard for God. Isaiah 41:10.*

## Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings  
Old Testament  
New Testament

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgments

Remarks

Reflections of Life

Selection

Words of Comfort  
Bishop Monroe Gilbert

Recessional

Interment George Washington Memorial Park 235 Paramus Rd. Paramus, New Jersey
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