



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Alfred Blackwell

Sunrise
September 16, 1944

Sunset
November 24, 2021

Service
Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 1:00 p.m.

St. Luke Baptist Church

133-21 232nd Street • Laurelton, New York 11413

Bishop Dr. Michael A. Baston, Senior Pastor, Officiating
St. Luke Cathedral • Laurelton, New York



Order of Service

Processional Pastor and Family

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “Every Praise”

Scripture Readings

The Old Testament Psalm 121

The New Testament 1 Timothy 4:6-8

Prayer of Comfort

Selection “My Way”

Acknowledgements

Expressions of Love Ms. Lynn Delossantos
Min. Dr. Doris Shackelford
Friends and Family
Clergy

Obituary Prophetess Tasha Baston

Selection

Eulogy Bishop Baston

Viewing

Recessional

Interment

Forest Lawn Cemetery
Emporia, Virginia

Obituary

Alfred Blackwell was born in Emporia, Virginia on September 16th, 1944 as the youngest of three children to the late John Alfred and Della Jordan Blackwell where he was affectionately known as “Coon”. He was educated in Emporia and graduated from E. W. Wyatt High School. Upon graduation, Coon moved to Brooklyn, NY to begin his life as a young man. Shortly thereafter he was drafted into the U.S. Army and quickly rose through the ranks and earned the honor of serving as an Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery where he would conclude his military service.

Once Alfred returned to Brooklyn he would continue his service by joining a brotherhood like none other, the New York City Police Department. His 35 year career would begin at the 77th precinct where he met fellow officers and they would later be known as the Alamo. These officers exemplified loyalty and respect for one another and developed lifelong friendships that he cherished for 50 years.

Detective Alfred Blackwell would ultimately retire from the 81st precinct Community Affairs Unit in Bed Stuy, Brooklyn. At the 81st precinct, he was responsible for directing the “Summer Recreational/Tutorial Program” which provided jobs and a safe haven for children in the community during the summer months. He was instrumental in reinstating the Police Athletic League program. He chaired community programs such as Christmas in Bed Stuy, Adopt a Block, the annual Bed Stuy clergy breakfast and the annual senior citizen Thanksgiving dinner which served over 800 seniors each year. Detective Blackwell received many awards for his dedication to the community. Among them include the N.Y.C. Police Department Model Block Builders Award, City Council Citation for exemplary service to the community, the Officer of Year Award bestowed upon him by the N.Y.C. Department for the Aging and the Mayor of NYC. He was also profiled in “The Chief” and “Daily News” after receiving a Letter of Commendation from N.Y.C. Department of Consumer Affairs.

Al Blackwell would say that he was clean in his uniform, pants creased, shoes shining when he met Elizabeth at Greenpoint Hospital in Brooklyn. They would later marry and start a family in Laurelton, NY. Together, they would raise five children, Delores, William, Dawn, Dana and Kimberly. Poppa, as he is called by his youngest, would emphasize the importance of education to his children. He also told them that everyone makes mistakes but you have to get back up, turn the page and move forward.

Al was a life member of the Fraternal Order of Police and proudly displayed the decals on all of his vehicles. He was a Lord with Top Ladies of Distinction, an avid gun collector and member of the NRA; a faithful member of St. Luke’s Cathedral and active member of Brook’s Memorial Senior Center and still the president of the Roy Wilkins Senior Dolphins.

During his retirement, Al loved to travel and would be called Brother Chief and Simba in the countries of Kenya and Tanzania. He would often speak of his traveling adventures, especially that time he had to wrestle a polar bear in Alaska, and he had the tooth to prove it. When he wasn’t traveling he could be found at his Georgia home.

Al was known for a good story and one could be triggered at any time by the mere mention of the word Emporia. Even if you did not mention Emporia you were going to hear about his hometown.

Al was a straight shooter and said what he meant and meant what he said and when you left him you were not confused. He was the epitome of living life and he was always the life of the party sure to leave a lasting impression. He wanted everyone to eat, drink and have a good time when they were in his presence. He believed that if you work hard you can have the things that you want in life. He would say travel and see the world and do it first class.

Al lived life on his terms, the way he wanted to, without apology. He did it his way.

He leaves to mourn his loving and dedicated wife, Elizabeth Blackwell, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sister-in-law, uncle, nieces and nephews and a host of cousins and friends that have become family.

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

Acknowledgements

The family 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:

Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.



Angela Gilmore-Manning, President

Ph (718) 529-3030 • (718) 528-7765

Fax (718) 712-2108 • (718) 528-2575

Email: royl.gilmorefuneralhome@verizon.net

191-02 Linden Blvd. • St. Albans, NY 11412









