

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Harold O. Elam



DECEMBER 28, 1928 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

"I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY RACE,
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH." II TIMOTHY 4:7



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 - 11:00 AM

New Hope Baptist Church

144 Norman Street • East Orange, New Jersey

OBITUARY

Harold O. Elam was born December 28, 1928, to Arkie and Frank Elam in Chase City (Mecklenburg County), Virginia. There he completed Thyne High School and shortly thereafter joined the United States Army. During this time, he served in the Korean War. Following the war, after saving many lives and protecting our country, he was honorably discharged in 1950.

Following his stint in the military, he moved to New Jersey. He found employment as a baker at Tip Top Bakery in East Orange, New Jersey, and then became a mail loader with the United States Post Office in Newark until he retired. Harold belonged to many African American leadership groups, such as the Blackhorse Men of the South and Prince Hall Masonic Lodge. He was notably recognized for his many contributions to the community.

Harold met and married the only love of his life Alternise Elam (Burgman), on South Clinton Street in East Orange. They shared forty-four years of marriage until her health failed in 2005 at the age of 71. From that union, two children were born: Dwayne Elam and Tammy Banks (Elam).

Harold was a dedicated member of High Hope Missionary Baptist Church in East Orange, New Jersey. Other members would affectionately refer to him as “Deacon,” although he never officially accepted the honor. He just wanted to help and serve God.

Harold enjoyed eating hot dogs and sweets (cakes, ice cream, and soda – Pepsi, to be exact).

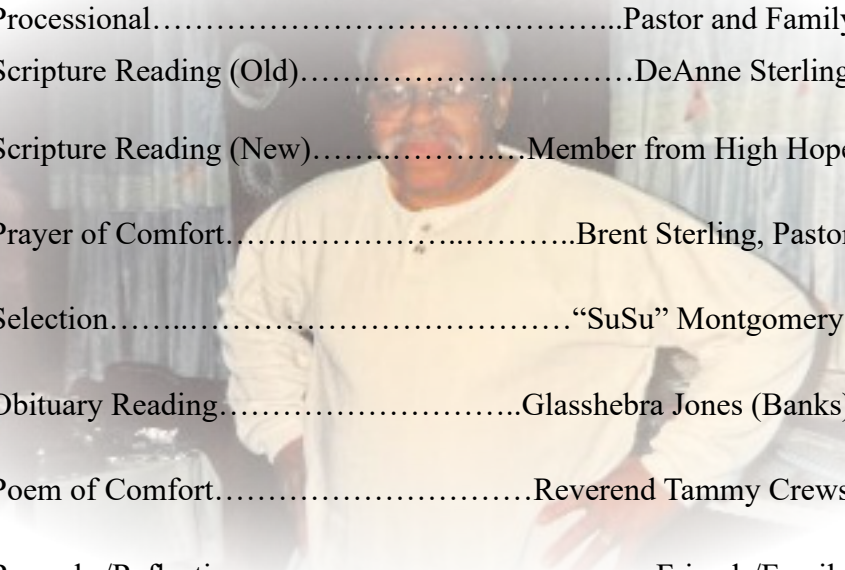
He enjoyed listening to gospel music and reading the Bible and often reflected on things that happened during the war. Whenever the television was on, you would find him watching cowboy shows; he would watch reruns for hours. One ironic thing about Harold is that he never learned how to drive a car and walked everywhere. Even when folks would offer a ride, he told them ‘no thank you, keep going’ because he never wanted to bother anyone. Harold enjoyed watching football so much that he hooked other relatives to the sport, including his cousin, Edna Baugh.

Harold had a corny sense of humor affectionately remembered by his daughter, Tammy. Growing up, she remembers him always giving to folks and offering help whenever he could. Although he was a quiet and calm man, he would speak up when necessary with great words of wisdom. He never had favorites, as he loved everyone. Whenever you would ask how he was doing, he would often reply, “pretty good or pretty fair.”

Harold leaves to cherish his memory his daughter, Tammy Banks, son-in-law, Bernard Banks, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, close cousins, Esther Elam and Carol Elam Nesmith, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Alternise, son, Dwayne, and siblings Andrew Claude Elam (nicknamed Peter), Mauline Rose Elam, and Lila Burwell (nee Elam).

ORDER OF SERVICE

Pastor Brent Sterling, Officiating



Processional.....	Pastor and Family
Scripture Reading (Old).....	DeAnne Sterling
Scripture Reading (New).....	Member from High Hope
Prayer of Comfort.....	Brent Sterling, Pastor
Selection.....	“SuSu” Montgomery
Obituary Reading.....	Glasshebra Jones (Banks)
Poem of Comfort.....	Reverend Tammy Crews
Remarks/Reflections.....	Friends/Family (Two minutes)
Selection.....	Brent Sterling, Pastor High Hope
Eulogy.....	Brent Sterling, Pastor High Hope
Farewell/Closing Prayer.....	Brent Sterling, Pastor High Hope

INTERMENT

Glendale Cemetery
28 Hoover Avenue
Bloomfield, New Jersey

REPAST

Bella Italia
535 Central Avenue
Orange, New Jersey



LIFE WELL LIVED

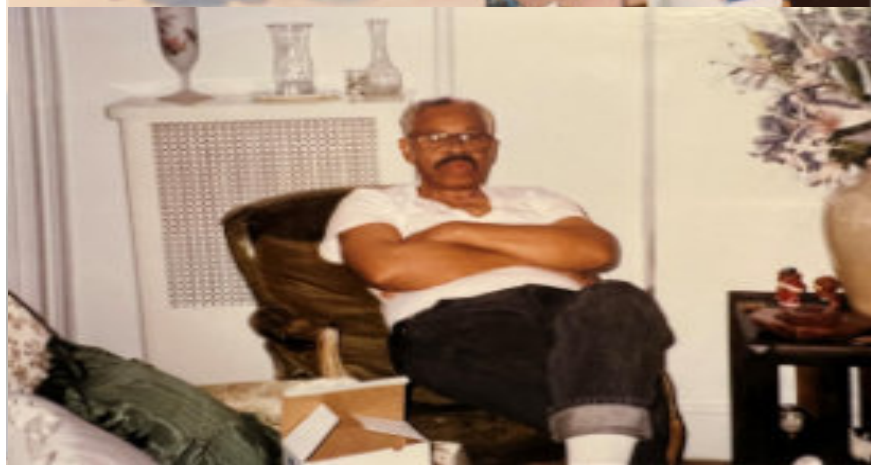
*A life well lived is a precious gift,
Of hope and strength and grace,
From someone who has made
our world a brighter, better place.*

*It's filled with moments,
Sweet and sad with smiles and sometimes tears,
Friendships formed, good times shared,
and laughter through the years.*

*A life well lived is a legacy
of joy and pride and pleasure,
a living, lasting memory our grateful hearts will treasure*

– Unknown.





PALLBEARERS
Family and Friends

NO NEED TO WORRY, NO NEED TO CRY

No need to worry, no need to cry nor
question God and wonder why. My heart's
at peace you're wondering how because
my soul is with Jesus and I'm resting now.

The services I gave for my family and
friends were services of love, even to the
end. Loved one's now look to Jesus for He
knows best. He carried me home for I
needed the rest. Family don't you cry and
don't be afraid for me, already a way has
been made. Keep trusting in Jesus and
doing His will, through Jesus my presence
you will always feel. Yes, my heart's at
peace and my soul's at rest and you
wonder how; it's because I'm with Jesus
and I'm resting now. I'm in a better place
as long as I'm with Jesus. I'm resting, just
like a white dove I've flown away yet.
I'm resting now.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The Elam family would like to express their thanks for
all the love, kindness, and friendship shown to them at
this sad time and for your attendance here today.*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

