

Honorary Pallbearers

Xi Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Douglas Masonic Lodge #73 PHA

Former Students of

West Coffee Middle School

Coffee High School

Fitzgerald High School

Clark-Central High School

Acknowledgments from the family

The family of the late Dr. Robert Lee "Bobby" Lawrence, Jr. is grateful for all the acts of love, kindness, and sympathy shown to them during this time of bereavement. Your thoughtfulness, sympathetic smiles, silent embraces, prayers, and loving words have all helped to sustain us during this grief period.

May God bless you all.

The Family of Dr. Robert Lee "Bobby" Lawrence, Jr.

Interment

Douglas City Cemetery

1623 North Gaskin Avenue

Douglas, Georgia, 31533

Final Arrangements Entrusted To:

HARRELL'S FUNERAL HOME

400 E. CHERRY STREET ~ DOUGLAS, GEORGIA 31533

LICENSED DIRECTOR/EMBALMER, SIDNEY K. HARRELL

OFFICE: (912) 384-2251

WWW.HARRELLSFUNERALHOME.COM



Celebration of Life

For



Dr. Robert Lee "Bobby" Lawrence, Jr.

SUNRISE: September 5, 1958 • SUNSET: July 29, 2020

Saturday, August 8, 2020

10:00 AM

Douglas City Cemetery

1623 North Gaskin Avenue

Douglas, Georgia, 31533

Reverend Dr. Lewis Logan II, Eulogist

Gaines Chapel AME Church

1008 South Coffee Avenue

Douglas, Georgia, 31533

Obituary

On September 5, 1958, Dr. Robert Lee “Bobby” Lawrence, Jr. was born to the parentage of Mrs. Willie L. Hill (Lawrence) Sambula and the late Mr. Robert Lawrence, Sr. of Lanett, Alabama.

At an early age, this precocious, talented young man joined the Goodsell United Methodist Church under the pastorate of the Reverend L.A. Chastang, and there, his spiritual journey with the Lord began. Bobby, as he was affectionately called, worked faithfully in the church. He served as director of the youth choir.

Bobby attended and graduated from Lanett High School with academic and musical honors in 1976. He furthered his education at Troy State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education in 1979 and a master’s degree in Secondary Education in 1980. Bobby is recognized as the first African American drum major for Sound of the South, the marching band of Troy State University. He taught Drum Major Camps with marching Auxiliaries of America in 48 states.

Upon graduation from Troy State University in 1980, Bobby became a middle school band director at Douglas Middle School, located in Thomasville, Georgia. After completing one year of teaching, Bobby enlisted in the U.S. Army and, upon retirement, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He then became the director of bands at Sierra High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and served as a state officer in the Colorado Music Educators Association.

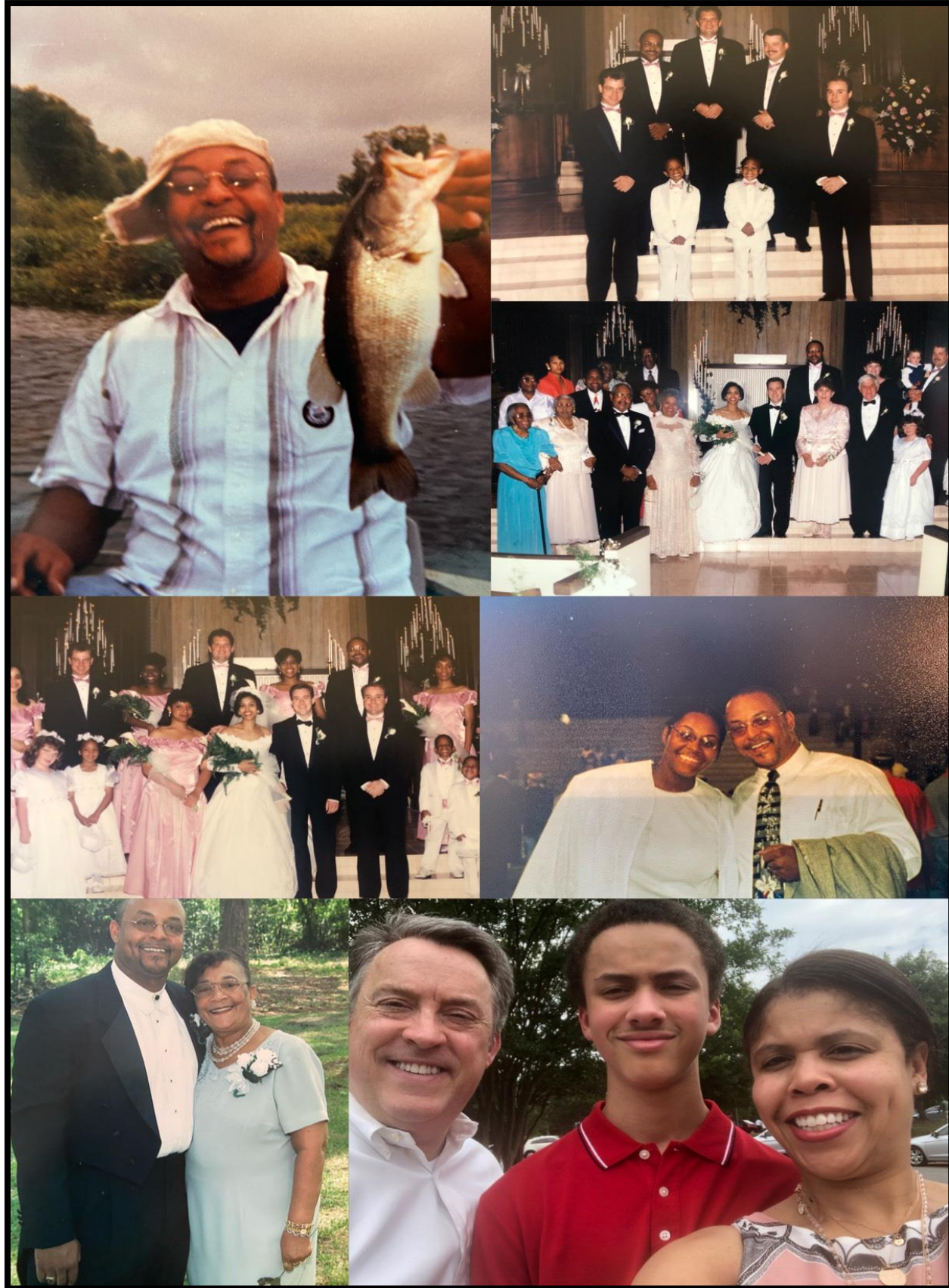
In 1992, he became the assistant band director at Coffee High School, where he founded the Coffee High School Jazz Band “Trojectory,” which released the album “One Trojectory” in 1996. Bobby also became the first band director at West Coffee Middle School, leading them to 24 Superior Ratings and 2 Excellent ratings in State Large Group Concert Band Festival, winning four national competitions and performing in the renowned Carnegie Hall in the Spring of 2001.

Summer of 2004, South Carolina State University came calling, and Bobby spent the next five years as Coordinator of Music while completing his doctorate degree. Upon completion of his doctorate, Dr. Robert Lee “Bobby” Lawrence, Jr. accepted the role as Director of Bands/Co-Chairman of Fine Arts Department for Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia. During his time there, he developed a band program from 18 students to over 175 students, which included four concert ensembles, one percussion ensemble, one brass ensemble, and two jazz ensembles.

Precious Memories



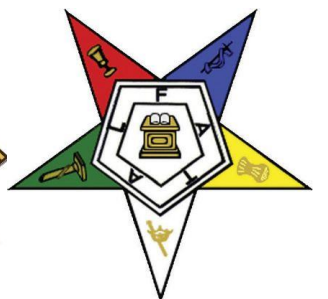
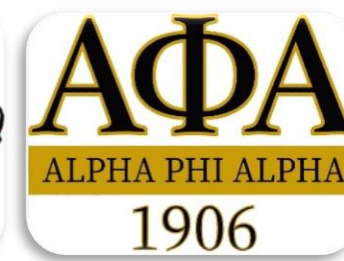
Precious Memories



After a decade in Athens, Bobby spent one final year of teaching at Fitzgerald High School before deciding to retire in Douglas, Georgia. He was a member of the Xi Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Douglas Masonic Lodge #73 PHA, King Chapter #104 HRAM, Grand Inspector General Robert J. Walters Consistory #356, Temple Al Kerka #194, and the United Supreme Council 33rd Degree. Bobby's hobbies consisted of fishing, cooking, working in the yard, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Preceding him in death are Willie Hill (grandfather), Irene Hill (grandmother), Robert L. Lawrence, Sr. (father), Clarence L. Sambula (stepfather).

He is survived by his wife, Mary (Bryan)Lawrence; children, Edwina Lawrence of Atlanta, Georgia, Robert Lawrence III (Assada) of Atlanta, Georgia, Stuart Lawrence of Seattle, Washington, Rylee Lawrence of Douglas, Georgia and Anthony Crowell of Portland, Oregon; mother, Willie L. Sambula of Lanett, Alabama, stepmother Vernon Lawrence of Birmingham, Alabama; grandchildren, Aubrey Hines, Brandon Lawrence, Ayden Lawrence, Jackson Willis, Khaleesi Willis, and Sebastian Lawrence; sister, A. Michelle Sutton (Stephen) and nephew, Jackson Sutton.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional.....Clergy and Family

 Ringing of Bell (7 Times)

The Invocation..... Reverend Dr. Lewis Logan II

The Scripture Reading:

 Ecclesiastes 3: 1-3.....Edwina Lawrence

 John 14: 1-3.....Edwina Lawrence

Solo.....Minister Kentaiwon Durham

Reflections.....Two Minutes Please

 As a Professional

 As a Church Member

 As a Friend

 As a Father

Solo.....Soloist

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Lewis Logan II

Acknowledgements.....Harrell's Staff

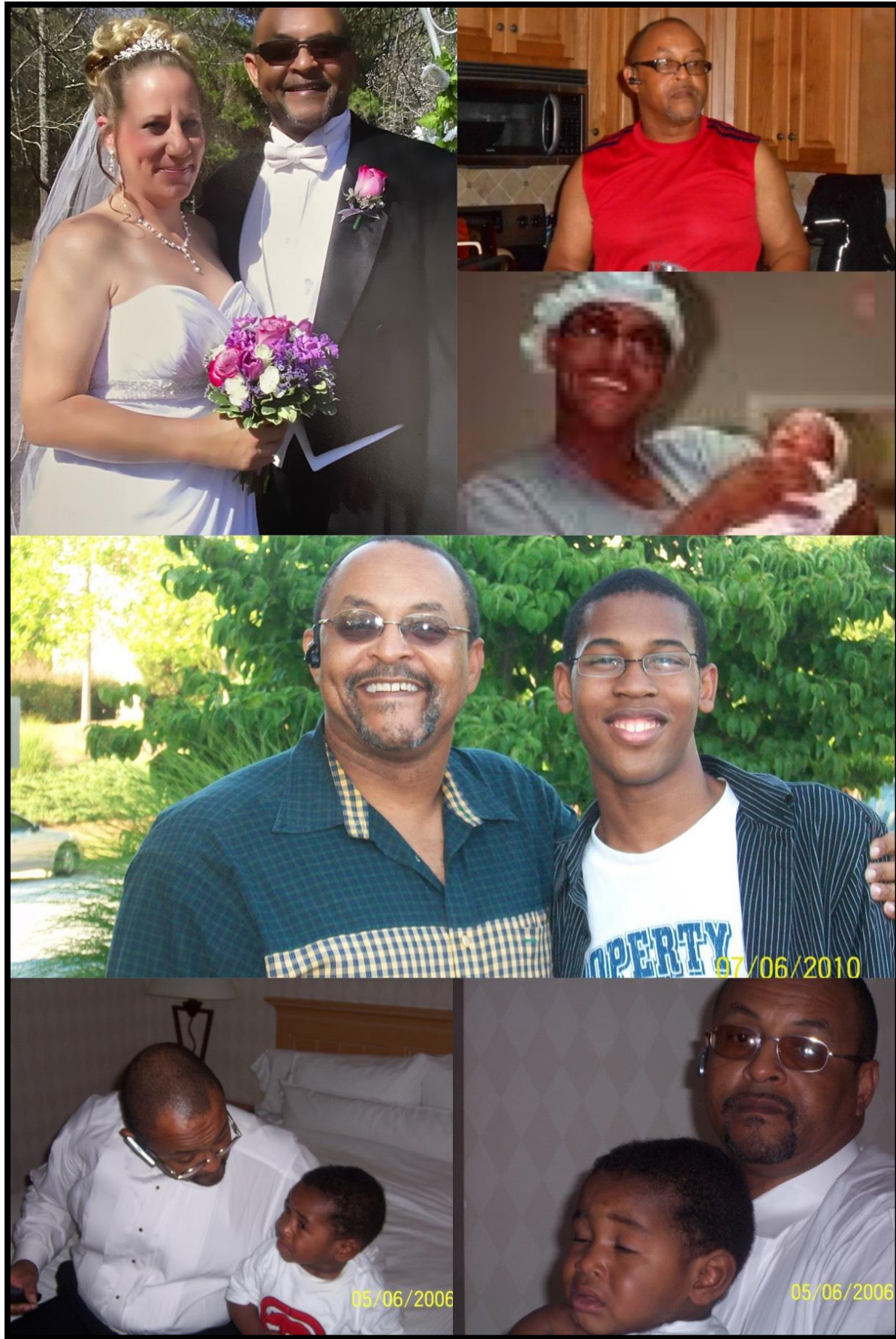
Committal Service

Benediction

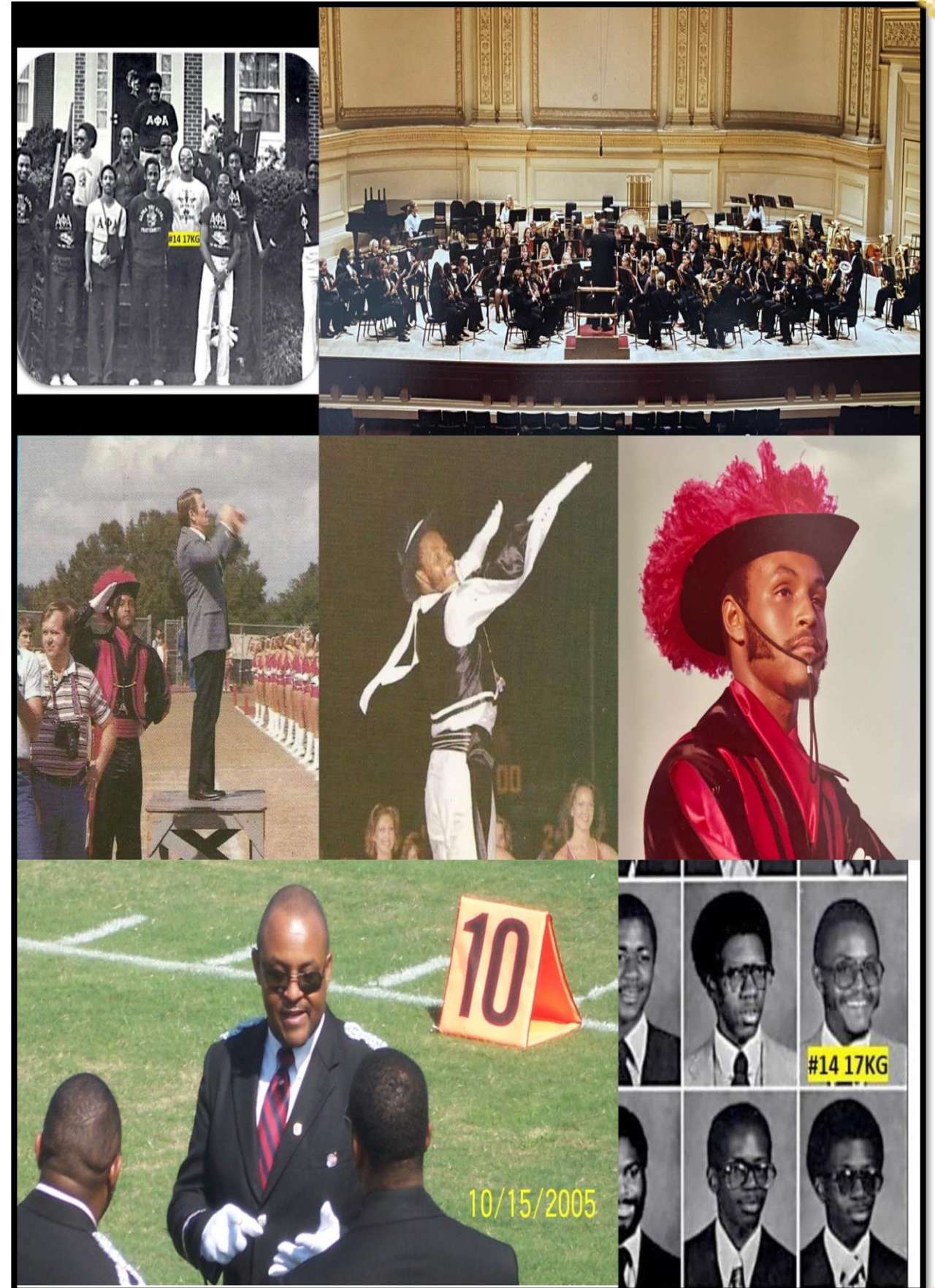
Precious Memories



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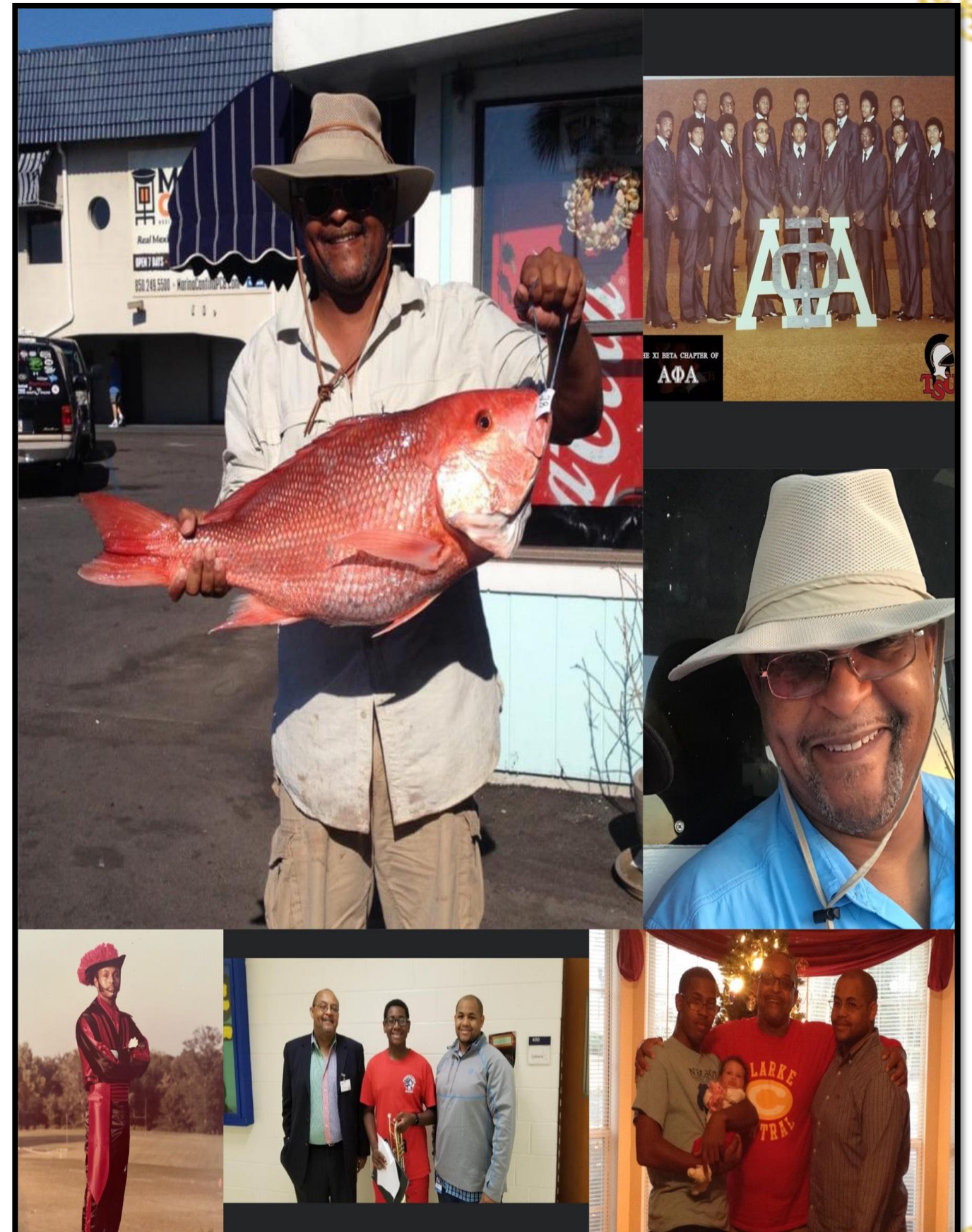
Precious Memories



Precious Memories



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Precious Memories



Precious Memories



Mother to Son

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.