

God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace bethine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

Honorary Pallbearers

Douglas Male Chorus | Alma Male Chorus

Active Pallbearers

Harold Crawford | Jimmy Baker | Dedric Hardy
Derrick Powell | Isaac Hutchinson | Rodney Minor

Interment

Rose Hill Cemetery
500 E. 20th Street
Alma, Georgia 31650

Acknowledgements

When it seemed that our loss was too great to bear, we looked up and our friends were there; with flowers and cards, words written and spoken, with smiling faces and hearts open, We sincerely appreciate the thoughtfulness of our family and friends for their many acts of kindness, remembering us in our hour of sorrow with many prayers words, thoughts, deeds and all expressions of sympathy Keep us in your prayers as we will keep you in ours. God Bless.

We thank the DaVita Dialysis of Albany, Georgia, and Douglas, Georgia staff for their commitment and dedication to Daddy's healthcare. To the Evergreen Assisted Living Facility (Denise Wang & Staff) and Margeret Jo Hagg Alzheimer's Outreach (Marjorie & Staff) for the Adult Day services. Ms. Shirley Grimsley, his personal Uber for countless memories of transportation. Mr. Walter Rouse for professional personal grooming. Dr. Aristotle Cochon for the initial healthcare. Daddy's four Horsemen Ms. Tameka Kates, personal nurse/daughter whom he says talks too much, Andrea Felton, Marion Ryant, NaTasha Holmes, and the Jackson Family.

~ The Family

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



In Loving Memory of



Deacon
GEORGE MERRITT

Sunrise: September 28, 1943 - Sunset: October 9, 2024

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

At 3:00 PM

Rev. J. Stephon Deen, Eulogist

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

708 E. 12th Street

Alma, GA 31510

Life Reflections

Precious Memories

Order of Service

Deacon George Merritt, age 81, departed peacefully on October 9, 2024, at his home in Albany, Georgia. He was born on September 28, 1943, to the late Robert Lee Merritt and Cleotha Richardson Merritt. George enjoyed church, singing for the Lord, and entertaining his loved ones. He attended Alma High School in Alma, Georgia.

Throughout his life, George labored alongside his Grandpa and later worked for Crowders Chicken Farm, Amoco Gas Company, Campbell's Soup Trucking Company, and Golden Poultry, where he retired.

George's spiritual journey began at First African Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Kelly. He was a dedicated member of St. Mary Mora Missionary Baptist Church, serving under the late Reverend David Newsome.

His love for music began at an early age, especially playing the piano, and he used his musical talents to bless churches across the region. He was a founding member of the J & M Special gospel duo with the late Reverend William Jackson, singing for the Lord with passion and dedication. George was also a member of various gospel groups, including "The Holy Lights" of Ocilla, Georgia, Douglas Male Chorus, Alma Male Chorus, St. Peters Male Chorus of Waycross, Georgia, and Lenox Church of God. His love for the Lord and music never wavered, and he continued his musical ministry until falling ill in 2021. "Serving for the Lord" was George's daily walk, and he will be remembered for his devotion to sharing the word of God through his music and ministry. His legacy will continue through the many lives he touched with his faith, love, and music.

George was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dorothy Ewing Merritt, his parents, five sisters: Ruth L. Merritt-Smiley, Pearlene Merritt, Betty Jean Merritt-Rooks, Jenelle Smith, and Brenda Merritt-Wilcox; two brothers, Edward "Bobo" Merritt and Robert T. Merritt; and a bonus brother, Reverend William Jackson.

George leaves behind a loving family to cherish his memory, including his five devoted daughters: Littla Cleotha Merritt-Hayslip and Minister Carrie Diane Merritt Williams (James), both of Albany, Georgia; Chanell "Flossie" Smiley (Thomas) of Alma, Georgia; Minister Shawanda Merritt-Porter (Miguel) of Douglas, Georgia; and Carolyn Merritt of Jacksonville, Florida. He is also survived by one son, George Smiley (Stacy), of Jacksonville, Florida; three step-children, Alexander and Latrice Ewing of Tifton, Georgia, and Anthony Ewing of Fitzgerald, Georgia. His three sisters also survive him: Patricia Merritt Wooden of Alma, Georgia, and JoAnn Merritt Odom (Raymond) of Douglas, Georgia; and two brothers: John "Billy Joe" Edward Merritt (Verna) of Atlanta, Georgia, and Leon (Marion) Merritt of Jacksonville, Florida. Additionally, his extended family includes sisters-in-law Evelyn Anderson (Doug) and Sherry Sue Davis of Fitzgerald, Georgia; Jacob Ewing (Doris) of Tampa, Florida; Clara Jones of Savannah, Georgia; and Linda G. E. Moss of Ocilla, Georgia. One god-son, Gregory Jackson of Douglas, Georgia, along with fifteen grandchildren, twenty-eight great-grandchildren, and his beloved four-legged companion, Milo, will forever remember him.



Bishop Richard Denning, Presiding

Processional.....Ministers & Family

Final Glimpse

Invocation.....Minister Hattie Holland

Selection.....Alma Male Chorus

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Minister James Williams

New Testament.....Minister Barbara Paulk

Selection.....Minister Kentaiwon Carter-Durham

Reflections.....Please Limit Two Minutes

As Church Member.....Deacon James Deen

In place of reflections, please use the memory box placed at the entrance of the sanctuary to write a memoir for our family

Selection.....Minister Michael Wesley

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Sammie Pringle

Selection.....Alma Male Chorus

Eulogy.....Reverend J. Stephon Deen

Acknowledgements.....Harrell's Funeral Home Staff

Committal Service

Benediction