



Fred Francis Silkett

July 20, 1923 - July 8, 2011

Reverend Fred Francis Silkett, a longtime resident of Berkeley, CA, was born July 20, 1923 at his Aunt Eunice Williams' home on East 11th Street, Oakland CA to the parentage of Mr. F. Silkett and Gertrude Francis Silkett. He received his early education at Lincoln Elementary School (now known as Martin Luther King, Jr.) in Berkeley.

Fred relocated to Los Angeles and was reared by his grandmother, Mary Francis and attended Jefferson Jr. High School. He returned to Berkeley and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1941. Fred loved his grandmother dearly. Everything he ever did that was right, he learned from her. She was a Christian woman, and he tried doing what was right because of her—possibly leading him into the ministry.

In 1943, Fred joined the Merchant Marines, as a seaman for 15 years. He then became employed by Herrick Memorial Hospital for several years. He retired from Kaiser Cable Company in San Leandro as a cable puller.

He met and married his first wife, Leaner Arnfield, who passed after an illness.

In 1955, Fred obeyed the gospel and united with St. Paul AME Church in Berkeley. He was called to the ministry, attending seminary at Bay Cities Bible Institute. He was ordained and licensed to preach the gospel at St. Paul AME

Church.

He met and married Helen Alice Johnson on January 29, 1967, who after a long illness was called home to be with the Lord October 27, 2006.

Reverend Silkett pastored 2 churches—St. Paul AME, Vallejo and Everett Chapel AME in Oakland. When he retired as a pastor, he returned to his home church, continuing his faithful Christian work, serving as an Assistant Minister, until his health diminished.

Reverend Silkett made his transition to eternal life on Friday, July 8, 2011, in Hayward CA. He was a jolly man, who, in spite of all he was going through, you would not hear him complain. He would say, “If I had your hand, I’d be on top of the heap.” He mentored many young men—treating them as the sons he never had. We will miss Rev’s kind spirit and his boisterous laughter that would fill the air.

Reverend Silkett was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, both parents, stepfather, Richard Lloyd Gumbs, and brother, Norman Gumbs.

Cemetery Details

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

5810 Midway Road
Dixon, CA 95620

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 21. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Paul AME Church
2024 Ashby Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94703

Service

JUL 21. 1:00 PM (PT)

St. Paul AME Church
2024 Ashby Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94703