



Rev. James Woodrow Allen

September 28, 1930 - June 7, 2016

Remembering.

James W. Allen, “Woodrow” was born on September 28, 1930 and was the first child born to James Sylvester Allen Sr. and Lillie Mae Swayzer Allen of Wisner, Louisiana. James received Christ at an early age and was baptized by the late Reverend Martin Cooper of the Holly Grove Baptist Church. He received his primary education from Holly Grove School, while taking voice lessons from his grandfather the late renowned music educator Elijah Swayzer. James used his innate and refined gift to sing gospel throughout his entire life. As a young man, James worked on his father’s land within the Holly Grove Settlement.

In 1951, James relocated to Oakland California, and began working at the Pacific Rubber Company. Having a desire to make a better life for himself, he enlisted in the United States Army and relocated to Germany during the Korean War. While stationed in Germany, he earned the following medals: the Army Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

In 1956, James married Julia Hampton and from this union they were blessed with nine children. James, a faithful husband and father, worked hard to support his family. For several years, he worked as a Carpenter while holding

another position at the Del Monte Cannery. In 1962, he received a GED equivalent from Oakland High Adult School. In 1965, he obtained a job at the University of California, Berkeley (Cal) as a maintenance worker. He later transferred to the position of Landscaper. While a landscaper at Cal he was interviewed by the university's newspaper, he was quoted, "The Bible is the greatest book of all time". No matter where he went he was never afraid to share his love of the gospel of Jesus Christ. After 30 years of service, he retired from Cal.

Upon retirement, James maintained a very active lifestyle by devoting his time as a Chaplain for Highland Hospital and visiting local convalescent homes to minister to the sick and shut in patients. As an entrepreneur, he created his own business called the "Penny Market" and would often solicit help from his grandchildren to assist with pricing and selling items.

He loved God, his family, the church, and the community that he lived in. He taught all of his children the following core values: Love God, love thy neighbor as thyself, forgive those who offend you, and money management skills. He taught his children and most grandchildren to recite the Lord's Prayer at an early age. Some of his favorite Bible scriptures were Psalms 1, Psalms 27:14, and II Timothy 4:7. He was a strong proponent in ensuring that his children received a higher education that would allow them to make a better contribution to God, themselves, and their families. He would always acknowledge and reward his children's good behavior and academic achievements in school. He blended religion, education, and recreation. On Saturday mornings, James would line his children up for military style exercise routines from jogging around the backyard, to performing pushups, and jumping jacks before assigning them their weekly chores. On Sunday mornings, he would have everyone in the household wake up early to have family prayer before attending Sunday School and Church Services. After Church, James could be seen spending quality time with his family at places

like Children's Fairyland, Alameda Beach, Knowland Park or jogging Lake Merritt with all his children trailing behind him.

In 1982, he received his Ministerial Certificate. In 1984, he worked in the prison ministries with Allen Temple Baptist Church and John C. Quinn Out Reach Ministry. He also worked as a Chaplain with the Youth Authority of Stockton. He studied at Shiloh Bible College before he was ordained as a minister at Union Baptist Church in 1989. He was a very active and faithful servant of God throughout the community until his health declined in 1999. Nonetheless, he still maintained his faith and was a man that sought after God's own heart and actively prayed for healing and direction until his time of death.

Reverend Allen is preceded in death by his parents, James and Lillie Swayzer Allen; his wife, Julia Allen; his sisters, Sally Allen, Shirley Bennett, and Leaster Allen; as well as his brothers, Jimmy and Elijah Allen; his son Rodney Allen, Sr.; and his daughter, Patricia Spearman.

Left to cherish his memories are: daughters, Lillie Allen, Sherry Allen, and Cynthia Allen; his sons, Leroy Hampton, Charles Milton, Dennis Allen, and Michael Allen. Reverend Allen also leaves behind his 28 grandchildren, 44 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great grandchildren.

Reverend Allen was a devout Christian and an extraordinary man, the patriarch of his family. He is the last survivor to close the book on his family's generation. He will be cherished and missed greatly by all who knew and loved him.

Cemetery Details

Lone Tree Cemetery

24591 Fairview Ave
Hayward, CA 94542

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center
1331 San Pablo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 525-1331
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomelegacycenter.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 15. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (PT)

Greater St. Paul Church
1827 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Oakland, CA 94612

Burial

JUN 15. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (PT)

Lone Tree Cemetery
24591 Fairview Ave
Hayward, CA 94542

Tribute Wall



“ Harris Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. James Woodrow Allen



Harris Funeral Home - June 14, 2016 at 02:05 AM

CM

Praying for the family

Clarinda Mcelroy - June 14, 2016 at 02:04 PM

TN

What a beautiful video and tribute! Mr. Allen is smiling from the heavens I know he's pleased! "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"

~2 Timothy 4:7



tia veretta norman - June 14, 2016 at 07:08 PM

MO

A tribute so beautifully done. He accomplished so much and enjoyed his life and remembering the priceless memories. He truly had a blessed life with his family, friends, and most of all, GOD. Rest in peace, Mr. Allen

Mary Okamoto - June 15, 2016 at 12:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Rev. James Woodrow Allen.



June 15, 2016 at 01:08 PM

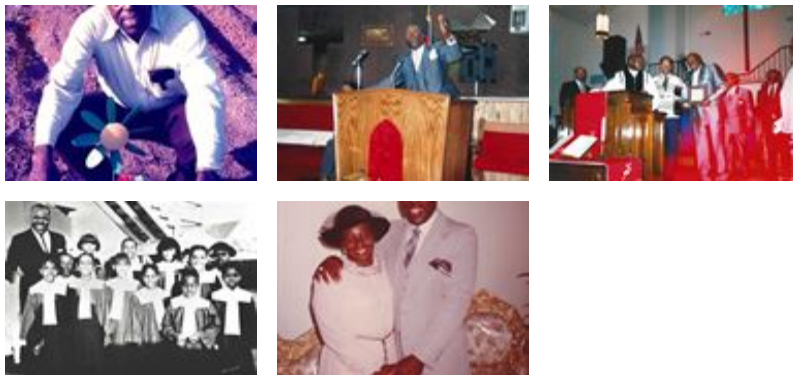


“ *Family you have my deepest sympathy. Rev. Allen used to visit and preach at Union Baptist, Oakland, CA when I was a young girl back in the 70's. He would always sing that, song about "making sure your anchor holds, until you reach the solid rock." Everytime...I just knew he was gonna sing that song...and he, always did. That was so funny to me as a 10yr old, but as I have grown...I love this song and will forever attribute my fondness for it to Rev Allen. I met his daughter Sherry a few years ago and when she told me who her dad was...I shared my story with her. We laughed out loud. She immediately knew what I was talking about. RIP Rev. Allen your anchor held steadfast. Amen*

Janice Johnson - June 15, 2016 at 11:35 AM



“ *44 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Harris Funeral Home - June 14, 2016 at 01:43 AM



Rest in peace James. You were such a good man.

Carmen Lugo - June 14, 2016 at 02:47 PM



“ 31 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Harris Funeral Home - June 13, 2016 at 02:36 PM