



Herbert A. Alexander

October 29, 1928 - February 13, 2020

Herbert Allison Alexander was the fifth and last child born to the union of Sidney H. Alexander, Sr. and Maggie Mae Swope on October 29, 1928 in Pueblo, Colorado. He was educated in the public schools of Pueblo. He also attended the University of Southern California and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Music and Business Administration.

Young Herbert was an outstanding musician and was known throughout Pueblo for his gift of voice and of playing the trumpet. As a teenager, he was employed by Radio Station KGHS to perform live, singing for a 30-minute session on a daily basis. He kept this job for years which allowed him to come in contact with many local and national musicians at that time. He even formed a band, "Herb's Band", and played in local clubs and lounges. Some of the highlights of his musical career was playing with Johnny Otis and Dave Brubeck. Music was Herb's passion and he continued to sing his entire life. He loved to sing jazz, blues, light opera, and gospel. While in Michigan, he was a proud member of the Talmadge Turner Choir, Brazeal Dennard Chorale, the 4th Episcopal District A.M.E. Michigan Conference Choir, and numerous other Church Choirs.

Herbert accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at an early age and joined St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Pueblo, Colorado. He was actively involved with the youth at St. Paul. He sang in the Youth Choir and participated in all of the activities and events sponsored by the Christian Endeavor. Herb was a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church his entire life. As an adult,

he held many offices as he served on the Trustee Board, the Lay Organization, and the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Herb was also actively involved in the Lay Organization of the AME Church and served as President, Vice President, or Parliamentarian in many of the Churches where he belonged. He joined St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Detroit, MI in 1999.

Herbert was drafted into the armed services of the United States of American during the Korean War; he served in the Army. While in the service, he traveled to Japan, Korea, and Alaska. He was honorable discharged and returned to civilian life in Los Angeles, California. Shortly after his discharge Herb met and married Ruth Jones. One daughter, Yvonne Angela, was born to this union.

Herbert's education and business skills enabled him to find employment in various positions in a variety of different companies/corporations. He worked at the Colorado Fuel and Steel Mill in Pueblo, CO; Airport Glass Company in Los Angeles, CA; Chrysler Corp. in Los Angeles, CA and Detroit, MI; and the City of Detroit, MI. He also managed the Law Office of Carrie Gray in Detroit, MI and for a few years, he processed Mortgage Loans in Detroit, MI.

Herbert was a very civic minded individual and was concern about civil rights. He was the youngest President of the NAACP in Pueblo, Colorado. He was elected to serve at age 18 and under his leadership, the NAACP successfully boycotted against discrimination at the local Drug Store's soda counter and at the local Movie Theatre. Herb was a strong supporter and advocate for civil rights.

While attending a Michigan Annual Conference in the late 1980s, Herb met and befriended the Conference Delegate from St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Downtown Detroit, Gail I. Parks. This friendship was blessed by God, endured the test of time, and eventually evolved into marriage. It was the faithfulness of Gail that added additional years of joy and happiness to the life of Herb. It was also her care and commitment that made Herb's last days peaceful. They were husband and wife for twenty-plus years.

Herbert had a special way that warmed the hearts of all who knew him. He

never met a “stranger” and formed numerous friendships and acquaintances while on the job and as he travel through life. He was a warm and wonderful friend known for his caring and giving spirit. Those qualities made him the person that he was and has left us with so many beautiful memories.

Herbert departed this life at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan on February 13, 2020. He peacefully made his transition from earth to glory at 11:30 pm.

Herbert was preceded in death by his parents, Sidney H. Alexander, Sr. and Maggie Mae Alexander Levy; siblings Gracielee Alexander Garner, Sidney H. Alexander, Jr., John Davis Alexander, and Lawrence Vernon Alexander; Granddaughter Cassaundra Motley; and Great Grandson Kyambé Karon Cleaves.

Herbert leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Gail; his loving daughter, Yvonne Alexander of Los Angeles, CA; goddaughter, Zaundra (Charles) Cole of Reston, VA; granddaughter Shaia Doolin of Shawnee, Kansas; six great grandchildren, Saliyah Henderson, Wanté Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Taynayia Burton, Zaundra Henderson, and Nicholas Alexander Doolin; brother/sisters-in-laws Gregory (Stephanie) Parks of Clermont, FL, Sheryl (Gregory) Whittler of Houghton, MI, and Karen Robinson of Detroit, MI; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and other extended family members and friends.

Please feel free to leave the family an everlasting note of condolence on our Tribute Page.

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

1200 Elmwood Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family and Friends Hour

FEB **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
2260 Hunt Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Funeral Service

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul A.M.E. Church
2260 Hunt Street
Detroit, MI 48207

Tribute Wall



“ *Herbert A. Alexander*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Herbert A. Alexander*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Distinguished Service Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Herbert A. Alexander.*



February 19, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ *Reflections of Glory Wreath was purchased for the family of Herbert A. Alexander.*



February 19, 2020 at 05:09 PM