

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



ELDER
MICHAEL

Jones

July 18, 1949 - April 29, 2022

Homegoing Service

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Viewing 9AM • Service 11AM

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church

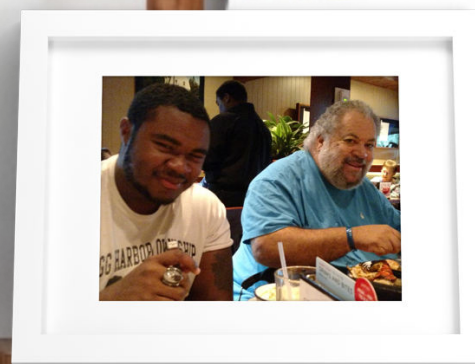
801 North Main Street, Pleasantville, NJ 08232



At Ease

*I've fought my last fight,
I've cried my last tear through the night.
No more pains with out explanation,
Everyday, I'm given the gift of relaxation.
Though my flesh is still here, my spirit has moved on.
The tears you've shared today, let them cause your soul to grow strong.
Don't cry over my absence but shed tears for my victory.
I will be with you all every time you tell my story.
I have made my peace with the father,
He has welcomed me home with opened arms.
He's carried me away from all hurt and harm.
I'm at ease with the call to rest,
I wasn't perfect but I did my best.
If I left you before an apology, know that
I never intended to cause you discomfort.
But I pray that this puts you at ease
That I have taken my offenses to the King, and he has wiped the slate clean.
I pray that you join him in doing the same thing.
For now, I leave you with only memories to hold onto.
I pray that you feel joy when they come to you.
Until we meet again,
May you experience joy in the midst of the sorrow,
May you experience courage in the midst of fear,
And may you experience the fathers guidance in the midst of confusion.
Until we meet again...*

-Written by: Jeffrey Hughes (Nephew)



HOME GOING CELEBRATION FOR
ELDER MICHAEL Jones
July 18, 1949 - April 29, 2022

ORDER OF SERVICE

Administrative Assistant Timothy Harris, Worship Leader
Pastor Joseph Lewis, Jr., Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Assisting

Processional

District Superintendents, Pastors and Elders
Administrative Assistant
Jurisdictional Prelate
THE FAMILY

Songs of Praise

Jurisdictional Choir

The Invocation

Superintendent Thomas C. Michael, Nephew

The Old Testament Reading
Pastor Ronald Kelly, Sr.
Psalm 23



The New Testament Reading
Minister Lester Bowser
St. John 14:1-6

The Song of Comfort

Minister Donald Hunt

The Jurisdictional Reflections

*Mother Deborah R. Kitchen, Jurisdictional Supervisor of the Department of Women
Superintendent-Designee Joseph Lewis, Sr., Representing Graves-Barton Memorial District
Pastor Dennis Wiggins, Jurisdictional Chairman of Pastors & Elders Council & Regional Chairman
Pastor Wayne Nelson, Jurisdictional Chief Adjutant, Representing the Adjutant Corp
Pastor-Designee Ben Graves, Graves Temple COGIC*

Instrumental Selection

Pastor Melvin Gould, Son in Law
Pastor of Gates of Heaven Outreach COGIC
Portsmouth, VA

The Family Tribute

Dr. Pamela Joyner, Former Transplant Coordinator
Grace Marie Gould, Representing the Grandchildren
First Lady Michelle Gould, Representing the Children
Apostle Donald P. Robinson, Cousin

Letter from President Joseph Biden, Jr.

Reverend Dr. Ida Frances Jones, Cousin &
President of the American Legion

Jurisdictional Resolution & Acknowledgments & Reading of the Obituary

Evangelist Brenda Kelly, Jurisdictional Secretary

The Presentation of the Eulogist

Administrative Assistant Timothy Harris

Solo

Superintendent Charles E. Giddins &
The Jurisdictional Choir

The Eulogy

Bishop Tyrone W. McCombs, Ph.D., Prelate
South Jersey Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Church of God in Christ

Recessional



REFLECTIONS OF *Life*

MICHAEL LEE JONES was born on Sunday, July 18, 1949, to the late Lottie M. Jones being the oldest child of 3 three children and the oldest grandchild of the Jones family in Jarrett, Virginia. On Friday, April 29, 2022, Michael, calmly and peacefully, took his last breath with his wife holding his hand at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veteran's Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia.

Michael attended Mary Oaks School in Jarrett, Virginia having 3 grades in the classroom. He graduated from the Edward W. Wyatt High School in Emporia, Virginia and was drafted into the United States Army where he spent 3 years, including several tours in Vietnam. Being Honorably discharged, Michael returned to his home state.

Michael worked for the United States Postal Service while attending Norfolk State University majoring in Business Administration. He loved creating things and working with his hands, and later became a foreman at RML Construction Company, building customized homes.

In 1988, Michael met Deborah Marie Graves and then the two were married in 1990 in Pleasantville, New Jersey. They began their new lives and blended 2 families together in Virginia. Michael had the biggest heart, and his opinion sometimes matched his big heart. If you were in need, he would always try to give what he could to help you.

Michael loved spending time with his family and giving them all advice. At Christmas time, the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of the family felt as if they had their own personal Santa Claus because of his size and beard. He would pick gifts that he thought they would like the most, and they did.

His name in the family was "Uncle Mike" to the nieces, nephews, and cousins and POPPY to the grandchildren.

Michael began his spiritual journey at Morning Star Baptist Church in Jarrett, Virginia where he accepted the Lord as his personal savior. He taught Sunday School and sang on the choir as he grew up. Michael began to grow more spiritually which also strengthened his love for GOD and ingrained the path that he was taking. He always attended and belonged to a church, but his faith in GOD began to grow more and more.

In 1995, Michael had a major heart attack, leaving him totally and permanently disabled. Even though the doctor gave him that news, he NEVER gave up on life and believed that GOD would give him a new heart, and that's just what GOD did. In the year 2000, a miracle took place. He received a heart transplant after being on the transplant list for 6 days! He said that it was like GOD turned on a light switch and said LIVE!! He was granted 22 more years of life. WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!!!



ELDER MICHAEL *Jones*

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In 2004, Michael and Debbie moved to New Jersey and because of his love for his family they made many trips back to Virginia seeing family and friends. He loved to travel and, with Debbie driving, traveled all over the United States. GOD granted him a second life and he enjoyed it to the fullest.

Michael continued to study and grow in his spiritual life. In 2009, he became an ordained Deacon in the Graves Temple Church of God in Christ. He thought it was the greatest honor in being a servant. In 2012, he received his Ministerial License and enjoyed teaching the word of GOD. In 2017, Michael received the first **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** in recognition of his service as **ADJUTANT BROTHER** in the South Jersey Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction's Adjutancy Corp. That same year, he became a **NATIONAL ADJUTANT** for the **CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.** In 2018, Michael became an ordained Elder in the Graves Temple Church, South Jersey Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and the National

Church of God in Christ. He believed that whatever you do in life, give it your best. His journey was sometimes rocky, but with the help of the Lord, he pressed toward the mark of the high calling.

Some of his last words were that He was **READY** to go home. He had his ticket in his hand and got on the train to **GLORY!!**

He leaves to remember his presence, his caregiver and loving wife, Evangelist Deborah Graves-Jones. His children Michael Jones Jr. of Colorado, Tayanda Jones of Suffolk, VA, Evangelist Michelle (Pastor Melvin) Gould of Portsmouth, VA and Minister Shawntell Small of Mableton, GA. Brother, Dwayne Jones of Chesapeake, VA, and sister, Deborah Jones of Virginia Beach, VA. Aunts, Doris Clark of Norfolk, VA and Anita Jones of Fredericksburg, VA. A loving mother in law, Mother Esther C. Graves of Pleasantville, NJ. 4 sisters in law, 3 brothers in law. 9 grandchildren, 1 great granddaughter and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Lovingly Submitted by the family



Pallbearers

Lionel Avant (Cousin)
Joey Avant (Nephew)
Michael Hicks (Cousin)
Jeffrey Hughes Jr. (Nephew)
Quincy Hughes (Nephew)
Alonzo Jones (Cousin)
Kahlif Robinson (Nephew)

Acknowledgements

The family of Elder Michael Jones would like to thank everyone for their Prayers, thoughts, cards, contributions, and acts of kindness. A Special thanks to the Cardiac Transplant Team and the staff of Floor 3E of Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Medical Center, Richmond, VA for going above and beyond the call of duty. May God continue to bless you all.

Burial

Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery
Route 50, Estell Manor, NJ

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:



Thomas C. Jennings, Manager N.J. Lic. No. 3989
501 South New Road, Pleasantville, NJ 08232
Telephone (609) 650-7501

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