

In Loving Memory of



Wilbur E. Durham
"Uncle Earl"

Sunrise
October 9, 1918

Sunset
May 31, 2011

Service

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 - 7:30 p.m.

BROOKS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

143-22 109th Avenue • Jamaica, NY 11435

Rev. John Simmons, Pastor

Obituary

Wilbur Earl Durham was the son of Jiles Durham and Marie Durham Tanner (both deceased) was born in Quincy, Florida on October 9, 1918 and passed on to his heavenly home on May 31, 2011. Earl was baptized in Fellowship of the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Hastings, Florida.

Earl received his early education in the Hastings School system. He then attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated with a Major in Biology and Minor in Chemistry in 1941. While at Brown he was an All American Quarterback on the Morris Brown College's National Championship Team of 1940. He was a member of the Science Club and also Dean of Pledges for the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Upon his graduation he enlisted in the Army. He was Honorably Discharged in 1945 and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Earl married Catherine Ector (deceased) in 1946. Their union lasted thirty-five wondrous years.

Shortly after his marriage he began his career as a New York City Correction's Officer. He retired in 1975 and attained the rank of Captain.

After his retirement Earl lived his life in leisure and dedicated his time between his service as an Alumni of Morris Brown, his membership in the African American Correction Retirees Fraternal Association, the 369th Veteran Association and his Church. His time was spent with him traveling the World and his avid love of photography. He also made time to serve as a Charter member of the Morris Brown College Alumni Association of New York where he held many positions during his tenure. He has received numerous awards for his dedicated work as a Brown Alumni. He held the position of Treasurer for his Correction Retirees Association. Earl has been a member of Brooks Memorial United Methodist Church for over thirty years. He served as a member of the Church's Finance Committee.

Uncle Earl Durham leaves to mourn his passing: nieces, Gloria Martin of Jacksonville, FL and Gwen Knight of Brooklyn, NY; nephew, Donald Thomas of California City, CA; long time companion, Lois "Bunny" Williams; and a host of loving family and friends.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of
Wilbur Earl Durham

Gathering The Hour Seven-Thirty p.m.

Word of Grace

Greeting

Hymn “One Day At A Time, Sweet Jesus”

Prayer

Old Testament Lesson Palm 121
Psalm 23 (unison)

New Testament Lesson Revelation 21:1-4

The Jubilee Choir

Obituary Read by Marcia Prince

Solo “Eyes On The Sparrow”

A Time of Reflection

Gospel John 14 (selected verses)

Hymn 378 “Amazing Grace”

Meditation

Prayers

Dismissal with Blessing

Recessional Hymn 706 “Soon and Very Soon”

Officiating Rev. John T. Simmons, Jr.

Musician Mr. Elmer Hammond

Soloist Mr. Kevin Davis

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York

God saw the road was getting long the hills were hard to climb.
He gently closed his weary eyes and whispered peace be thine.

His days of toil, his nights of pain his weary hours are past
His patient worn and tired frame has found sweet rest at last.
Days and nights we stood by him and saw him in pain anxiously
waiting for his cure.

But our waiting was in vain.

God, who knoweth all things best.

He is gone but not forgotten never will our memories fade.

Sweetest thoughts will always linger.

Round the grave that he is laid.

Acknowledgements

*The family of **W. Earl Durham** wishes to express
their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts
of kindness shown to them in their time of sorrow.*

Special thank you to Evelyn, Earl, Cathy and Little John
for continual loving care of Uncle Earl.

Professional Services Provided By:

Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*

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