

Homegoing Celebration for



Booker T. Taylor
U.S. Marine Corps

“SEMPER FIDELIS”
(Always Faithful)

Sunrise
April 7, 1932

Sunset
August 1, 2012

Service

Wednesday, August 8, 2012 - 6:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Rev. Sheila Middleton, Officiating

Obituary

I have Fought a good Fight. I have Finished my course. I have Kept the Faith: Henceforth there is Laid up for Me a Crown of Righteousness... ”

II Timothy 4:7-8

Booker T. Taylor lovingly called “Coke” or “Book” by his family members or friends, was born on April 7, 1932 in Cochran, Georgia. He was the second son, and second eldest child of six siblings, born to the union of Robert Lee Taylor and Abbie R. Mayo Taylor (both deceased). GOD gently called Booker home on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at Beth Israel Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. After her husband’s death in 1938, Abbie relocated her family to West Harlem, New York. They settled on W. 148th Street, and 8th Avenue. Booker along with his siblings joined Union Missionary Baptist Church at an early age.

Booker followed the tradition set by his older brother, John (as did all of his male siblings) and began working odd jobs at the age of eight to help his widowed mother meet basic household expenses and caring for his younger siblings. He shined shoes and sold the local Amsterdam newspaper before and after school, and on weekends (establishing his work ethic which would last for seventy years). After he became older he delivered meat (by bicycle) for a local meat market to wealthy patrons.

Booker was educated in the New York City Public Schools. He attended New York Vocational High School, concentrating on the study of auto mechanics. He matriculated from his Alma Mater in 1951. Shortly after graduation, Booker served two years in Harlem’s famous 369th National Guard Unit. He later enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. Booker met in Harlem, and married the “Love of his Life”, Willie Mae Crawford in 1956. To this union their only child, Darin, was born.

Booker continued his career in the Marine Corps. He fought gallantly in both the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict, and was critically

The Band of Brothers

The strongest ties that we have ever known
are from love that over time has always grown.

The male siblings of all father and mothers,
Bond together- “A Band of Brothers”.

The bond is so strong, when one brother is weak, there are always the others he can always seek. Our band of brothers was Five-John, Booker, Nathan, Richard and Samuel. Though only two of us now remain, through us, the other three will always remain alive. So dear Coke, as you leave our much smaller band of brothers, we who are left behind just want to say thank you for being our brother, and sharing your strength, wit, love, perseverance, knowledge, and kindness. Tell the others hello and we promise to always remind each other. That one day our circle of five will form again and once again become our “Band of Brothers”.

Love Nathan & Samuel

(re-arranged by Raye E-T from an original
poem on a Hallmark Card, author unknown)



You'll Never Know

You'll never know, how much pride we hold in our hearts for the person you were, and all the nice things that you did, your strength, courage, and determination, your accomplishments and your dreams. You'll never know how much we need you in our lives- through the best of times, the worst of times, and all of the times in between. We love you with all our hearts, you will Be Missed, and We can only hope you know how much!

The Taylor Family



Floral Bearers (Nieces & Friends)

Kim Taylor Diane Scott

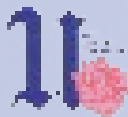
Honorary Pallbearers (Nephews)

John Taylor	Andre Taylor
Gregory Scott	Douglas Taylor
Tony Taylor	Eric Taylor
Anthony Taylor	Stephen Taylor, Jr.

Acknowledgement

The family expresses heartfelt thanks to everyone for the numerous prayers, visits, expressions of love, understanding, guidance and concern, which helped us tremendously in accepting the loss of our “Beloved Booker T.” Special gratitude is extended to Douglas Taylor (nephew) (who traveled weekly from Virginia) for taking the time to get his uncles affairs in order, providing transportation to the hospital, doctor appointments, other places, and visiting several times weekly. Thanks also go out to the Doctors and medical staff at Beth Israel Hospital, and Nursing Home/ Rehab Facility in Brooklyn.

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833



Clifford V. James, President & CEO
www.unityfuneralchapels.com
email: unityfc@aol.com

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injured in both. He received many accolades during his military career which included the Korean Service Medal with “3” stars; Good Conduct Medal with Silver star; Vietnam Service Medal with “4” stars; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm; Purple Heart Medal; Navy Commendation Medal with “V” for Valor; Vietnam Campaign with Device; Presidential Unit Citation; National Defense Service Medal with “1” star; United Nations Medal; Navy Occupation Medal; Korea Presidential Unit Citation; and Navy Unit Citation with “1” star. Booker ended his military career after having served twenty-two years of service to his country, by retiring with distinction and honor. He returned to New York and began working for the U.S. Postal Service for the next thirty years in 2000. During that thirty year period Booker was never late for work, and only took vacation or sick leave when it was absolutely necessary. Booker was honored by the Postal Service and his co-workers with a retirement banquet, where his son, Darin paid tribute to his father, and represented the Taylor family.

Booker and Willie Mae settled into retirement life in New York in 2010. His beloved Willie Mae passed always after a long period of illness. Booker was also preceded in death by his dear mother, Abbie and siblings, John and Richard.

Booker leaves to cherish his memory: his son, Darin of New York, NY; grandson, Darin Tyrone; granddaughter, Morgan; great grandson, Jaden; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Nathan (Raye) of Fayetteville, NC and Samuel (Junell) of Bellmore, NY; one sister and brother-in-law, Abbie M. Holley (Oscar) of Richmond, VA; sister-in-law, Irene Taylor of Columbus, MS; stepson and daughter-in-law, Larry Reid (Rosalyn) of New York, NY; stepdaughter, Lisa Crawford of New York, NY; seven nephews; two nieces; special family friend, Victorine Foster of Brooklyn, NY; and a host of other family members and friends.

Order of Service

Prelude

ProcessionalMarine Hymn (taped)

Invocation Rev. Sheila Middleton

SoloZan Walker
"I Won't Complain"

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament - Isaiah 6:8 Douglas Taylor (nephew)

New Testament - II Corinthians 12:10 Gregory Scott (nephew)

PrayerKim Taylor (niece)

Remarks Family Members and Friends

Acknowledgements & Poetry Tributes Victorine Foster
(Family Friend)

Obituary (Read Silent)

Solo Zan Walker
"Walk Around Heaven"

Eulogy Rev. Sheila Middleton

Funeral Director's Remarks

Recessional Marine Song
"Halls Of Montezoma" (taped)

Interment

Thursday, August 9, 2012 - 11:00 a.m.

Calverton National Cemetery

Calverton, New York

USMC Honor Guard Escort & Tribute
Family and Friends Repast immediately Following Burial
(Repast Gatherings Site will be announced)

To My Family

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder,
You get your to eat, but always keep that hunger.
May you never take one single breath for granted,
God forbid love ever leaves you empty-handed.
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean.
Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens.
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance.
I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance,
And never settle for the path of least resistance.
Living might mean taking chances, but they're worth taking.
Loving might be a mistake, but it's worth making.
Don't let some hell bent heart leave you bitter.
And when you come close to selling out, reconsider.
Give the Heaven above more than just a passing glance. And when you
Get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance.

(Tia Sellers & Mark Sanders, Poets)



A Brother's Love

A brother's love knows no bound,
It never ceases, and is always sound.
Sometimes a brother's love may be hard to find,
But when it's found, it is sweet and kind.
A brother's love catches you when you fall
And he will wipe your tears,
As if they mean nothing at all.
A brother's love continues to grow;
Even when at times it doesn't always show;
A brother's love teaches you to be tough,
To not give up when the going gets rough.
A brother's love comes straight from the heart,
A brother's love means you have a permanent friend,
And you know it will never end.
Thank you "Coke" for your Brotherly Love
Love Always "Tight" Nathan (Hallmark Cards)

