

Celebrating the Life of

A portrait of Henry Beechwood Daniels, an elderly man with a mustache, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a striped tie. The background is a textured, brownish-gold wall.

# Henry Beechwood Daniels

**Sunrise**

*July 18, 1930*

**Sunset**

*November 14, 2013*

Service

Friday, November 22, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

**Union Baptist Church**

160 Oakwood Avenue

Orange, New Jersey 07050

**Rev. William M. Freeman, Officiating**

# Obituary

**Henry Beechwood Daniels**, 83, of East Orange, NJ, departed this life on November 14, 2013. He was born on July 18, 1930 in Camden, New Jersey, one of two children born to the late Arthur and Priscilla Daniels. Henry and his brother, Arthur, grew from humble beginnings in Camden to become accomplished men with a love for music and a drive to succeed. It was in Camden where Henry honed his street smarts that would serve him well as he transformed inner city schools in tough neighborhoods into beacons of opportunity for generations of children. Arthur became an accomplished professional musician and Henry became the educator fulfilling the promise and vision instilled by the love of his Mother.

Henry attended Manual Training Industrial School in Bordentown, NJ before going on to attend West Virginia University where he earned his B.A. Degree in Education in 1948. He began his long and distinguished career as an educator at Oak Tree Elementary School in Edison, NJ and earned his M.A. Degree in Administration and Supervision from Rutgers University in 1956. He served as Education Chairman of the NAACP, of the Oranges and Maplewood from 1964-66. In 1965-67, Henry taught at Rand Middle School in Montclair, NJ and during the summers he directed the Head Start Program for the City of Orange, NJ. Henry became the first Black Principal of Lord Sterling Elementary School, New Brunswick, NJ, 1967-73. Always seeking a challenge, Henry concluded his outstanding 30-year career in education by serving as Principal of East Orange's Columbian School from 1973 until his retirement in 1983. During his tenure he nurtured, educated and challenged thousands of children to learn and grow into productive members of society.

Henry resided in East Orange, NJ for most of his adult life and was known as a "people person". He loved to talk with everyone to share a story or provide a word of comfort.

At Bordentown, Henry met and married his high school sweetheart, Gwendolyn Taylor. This union brought forth four hungry boys to feed and to guide into manhood. Henry and Gwen were pleasantly surprised when they were blessed with twin boys, Keith and Kevin in 1956. The family continued to grow with the addition of Kenneth in 1960 and Kyle in 1967. Henry was a great father and provided the love, security and confidence to allow the boys to grow into accomplished men. He loved to tell the boys stories of his military days when he served in the Korean War as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army. Henry inspired his boys in many ways but made sure he passed along his love for music and a strong passion for education.

He leaves to cherish his memory a loving wife, Gwendolyn Daniels, four loving sons, Keith, Kevin, Kenneth, and Kyle; daughters in-law Linda, Vickie, Janet and Keri; eight grandchildren, Sha-ron, LaTeia, Tameka, Alexis, Taylor, Kristen, Joshua, and Ra'anna; ten great grandchildren, Zaheer, Ameer, Aswanah, Ian, Jasmine, I Leah, Jacob, Jordan, Bryce; and Omari; his brother, Arthur Daniels; a niece, Noelle; a host of cousins, close friends and family.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude..... Sister Yvonne Holmes

Call to Worship & Invocation .....Pastor Freeman

Congregational Hymn .....“Blessed Assurance” # 27

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament - Psalm 121 ..... Reverend Barry Alston  
New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15: 49 -58 .....Deacon Julius Hamilton

Prayer .....Reverend Walter Tutt

Ministry of Music..... “Order My Steps” Sister Keisha Joyner

Remarks/Reflections..... (Please limit 2-3 minutes)

Ministry of Music .....“His Eye Is On The Sparrow” Tyrone Dunlap

Acknowledgements

Obituary..... Minister Noelle Mubaira

Ministry of Music .....Senior Choir

Message .....Pastor Freeman

Closing Hymn .....“Lift Every Voice And Sing” #477

Recessional .....“I’m Goin’ Up Yonder” David “Pic” Conley

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Interment</u></b> Rosedale Cemetery Orange, New Jersey</p>
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## *Repast*

*Following the interment family and friends are invited for a repast in the church fellowship hall.*



## Key To Life



### I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, now I'm free  
 I'm following the path GOD laid for me  
 I took His hand when I heard Him call  
 I turned my back and left it all  
 I could not stay another day  
 To laugh, to love, to work or play  
 Tasks left undone must stay that way  
 I found that peace at the close of day  
 If my parting has left a void  
 Then fill it with remembered joy  
 A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
 Oh, yes, these things I too shall miss  
 Be not burdened with time of sorrow  
 I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow  
 My life's been full, I've savored much  
 Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch  
 Perhaps my time seemed all to brief  
 Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
 Lift up your hearts and share with me  
 GOD wants me now;  
 He set me free.*

#### Pallbearers

Michael Williams	Bruce Hampton	Larry Conley
Thenois Strand	Kenneth Hayes	William Ford

#### Honorary Pallbearers

Nathaniel Hampton	Kyle Daniels	Kevin Daniels
Kenneth Daniels	Keith Daniels	Darryl Jeffries
Derrick Jeffries	Douglas Jeffries	Derrick Hatcher
	Nolan Hampton	

### In Appreciation

*The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expression extended to them during the passing of Henry.*

### Special Thanks

*Reverend Freeman, Pastor; Flower Club; Feeding Crew, Union Baptist Church; East Orange General Hospital Medical Staff, St. Barnabas Medical Staff, Veteran Hospital Medical Staff of East Orange, and St Barnabas Palliative Care Center. Special love goes out to Theresa and Julius Hamilton, Thenois and Cindy Strand; Mr. Hudson, Derrick and Synita Hatcher; Thelma Jeter; and care takers Barbara, Pinky, Comfort, Gail, and LaCrecsha.*

Professional Services Provided By

*Woody "Home For Services"*

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