

Celebrating The Life  
of

# Clifford William Blake, Jr.

Sunrise  
*December 24, 1929*

Sunset  
*September 14, 2015*



*Saturday, September 19, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.*

**St. Matthew A.M.E. Church**

336 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

*Rev. Dr. Lanel D. Guyton, Pastor*  
*Rev. Carl Stewart, Officiating*

# Obituary

**Clifford William Blake, Jr.** was born on December 24, 1929 to Irene and Clifford William Blake, Sr. in Savannah, Georgia. At the age of eleven he and his family moved to Orange, New Jersey. He was a student in the Orange Public School System. During his early teen years Clifford developed an affinity for sports. He played at the “legendary” Friendship House where he was mentored by Orange icon, Jesse Miles. In 1948, Clifford graduated from Orange High School as a two-time letterman in baseball and a member of the state championship basketball team.

In 1949, Clifford attended Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland. He later transferred to Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina. He graduated Cum Laude with an AB in History. He starred as a quarterback of the football team and shortstop of the baseball team. In 2001, Clifford was inducted in the Morris College Athletic Hall of Fame. While at Morris, Clifford met Ada Dorothy Lee Stone of Lake City, South Carolina. They became college sweethearts and married on May 6, 1953.

After graduation, Clifford began his teaching career as a history teacher at Carver High School in Lake City. In 1956, Clifford and his family moved back to Orange, New Jersey. He taught in Paterson, Jersey City, and Newark before landing a position at Orange School in 1969. He was a Physical Education, Health and Safety, and Driving Education instructor there for thirty-one years.

While at Orange High School, he was also a Junior Varsity baseball and Head Basketball Coach. He was the basketball coach from 1970-1983 in which many of his teams were and still are considered legendary. He led the Tornadoes to four NJSIAA State Group Championships (1974, 1976, 1977, and 1979), 8 NJSIAA State Sectional Championships, and two nationally ranked teams (1974, 1979). He was named the NY Daily News Tri-State Coach of the Year (1973, 1974); Newark Star-Ledger Coach of the Year (1974) and was honored by the NJSIAA Coaches Association in 1993\*. He retired from Orange High School in 2000.

On September 14, 2015, Clifford passed away at his home in East Orange, New Jersey. He was eighty-five years old, and was a resident of East Orange for fifty-two years.

Clifford will be mourned by: his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Ada Dorothy-Lee Stone. He was the loving father of Deborah Jeter, Melinda Blake, pre-deceased Cynthia Blake, Flecia Blake, Amanda Blake, and Clifford William Blake III; dear brother of Marguerite McLean, pre-deceased Catherine Bracey, Ethel Sykes, and her husband, Clifford, James Blake, Agatha Talley and her husband, Charles, brother-in-law Bill Stone, Jr. and sister-in-law, Hazel Graham. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Myron Smith

Processional.....Clergy

Solo.....“Amazing Grace”..... Bill Stone

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament – Psalm 23.....Charles Talley

New Testament – 2 Corinthians 1:2-4.....Charles Talley

Colossians 3:12-17.....Tyrisha Smith

Solo .....“Precious Lord”.....Stephen Lovell McLean

Family Remarks.....Thomas Eugene McLean

Acknowledgements & Resolutions

Obituary..... Clifford William Blake, III

Solo.....“Jesus is Love”.....Tyrone Dunlap

Eulogy.....Rev. Carl Stewart

Recessional .....Clergy and Family

## **Interment**

Rosedale Cemetery  
408 Orange Road  
Montclair, New Jersey 07042

## **Repat**

*Immediately following the Interment  
family and friends are invited for a repast  
in the church Fellowship Hall.*

# Matthew 5:4

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*

## Pall Bearers

- Celester Barnes
- Thomas Eugene McLean
- Kurt Hollaway
- Stephen McLean
- William Johnson
- Bill Stone

## Acknowledgement

The family of **Clifford William Blake, Jr.** would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the many thoughtful acts of kindness, support and concern extended to us during our time of bereavement. Thank you, and may God richly bless you.

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Professional Services Provided By

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