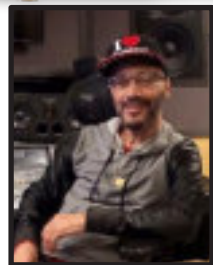


**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF**  
**ACS, FA DERRICK CULLER, SR.**  
**ARTIST, SONGWRITER, PRODUCER, MANAGER**

**SUNRISE : FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1953**

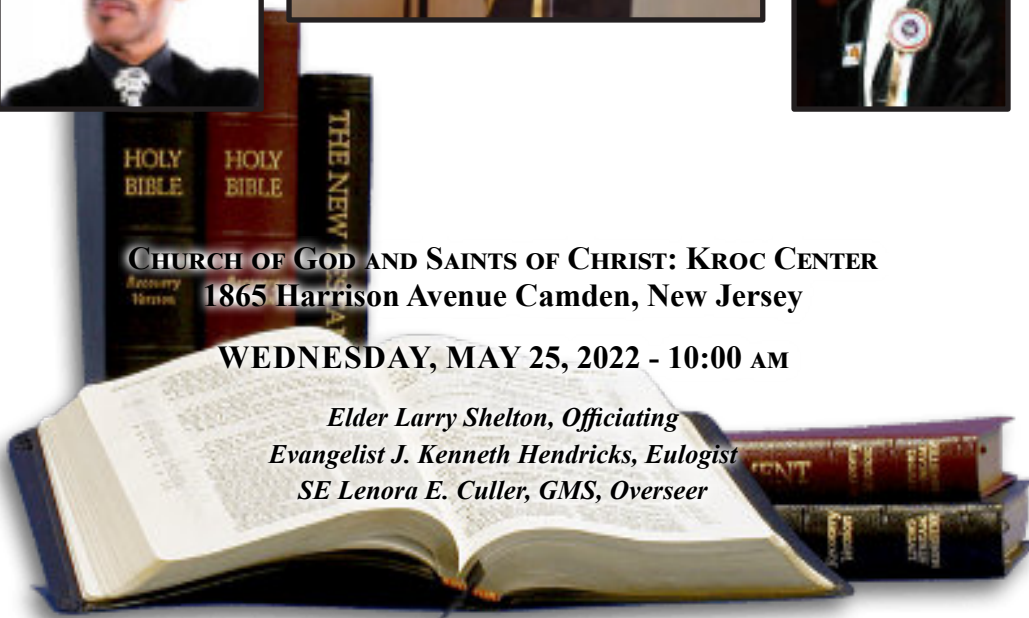
**SUNSET: FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022**



**CHURCH OF GOD AND SAINTS OF CHRIST: KROC CENTER**  
**1865 Harrison Avenue Camden, New Jersey**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022 - 10:00 AM**

*Elder Larry Shelton, Officiating*  
*Evangelist J. Kenneth Hendricks, Eulogist*  
*SE Lenora E. Culler, GMS, Overseer*



# THE LIFE OF DERRICK CULLER, SR.

A musical genius, Derrick Culler (Sr), was born on Friday, November 13, 1953 in Newark, New Jersey to Gloria Culler and Robert Reed (who preceeded him in death). Derrick was affectionately known to many as “Derky” or “OG Derk”. He attended and graduated from Oliver Street Elementary School and East Side High School located in the East Ward of Newark, NJ.

From his birth, Derrick was blessed and later baptized into the Church of God and Saints of Christ on Jones Street in Newark, NJ. This is where his musical talent was developed especially after joining the choir at an early age, where mastering harmony became second nature to him. He was a member of the drum and bugal corp in Newark as a young teen. There he learned how to play a bugal and later the trumpet. His love for music led him to begin writing in addition to R&B music, many gospel songs. Derky as most called him continued his journey in the church as a shepherd and in later years became an Assistant Chief Shepherd (ACS) over the national choir. In 1996 he continued his journey in the Church of God and Saints of Christ at the Camden, NJ Tabernacle until his demise. Bishop Robert D. Grant, Sr. appointed ACS Culler as the “Shout Singer”. Locally he held the position as Father Abraham and Trustee. He was very supportive of his church work nationally and locally. He encouraged and supported the work under his last overseer, his wife GMS SE Lenora E. Culler, and even though he was ill, he completed his last CD for the tabernacle’s building fund entitled “Final Call”. He took his responsibility as the ACS very serious as he mentored and trained the local shepherds on the rules and regulations of the choir and decorum. You can find him on almost any Passover gathering video performing his duties as the ACS.

“Derky” as an outstanding tenor, signed his first recording contract in 1973 with a local singing group called Kaleidoscope to the legendary record company (Philadelphia International) better known as “The Sound Of Philadelphia” (TSOP) owned by Kenny Gamble, Leon Huff and Tom Bell. In 1984 he recorded a solo LP record under a local independent label, entitled “Different Shades Of Culler”. This album is still sought after in Europe. Thereafter,

“Derky” teamed with fellow songwriter producer Joshua P. Thompson; together they formed a duo group called “Color Scheme” and signed a contract to Columbia Records. His writing skills quickly soared and led him to sign a writer’s publishing deal with Sony Music Publishing Company, then DreamWorks Music Publishing Company.

His musical talents was lended to great artists as background singer, songwriter, arranger, and vocal producer, such as Aretha Franklin who named an album after his song "What You See is What You Sweat"; Jermaine Jackson "Don't Take It Personal"; Keith Sweat "Only Want to Please You"; Angie Stone, Freddie Jackson, Rebbie Jackson, Keisha Jackson, Chaka Khan and Joe. He also wrote the first single for the solo career of the former lead singer for the R&B and pop group Atlantic Stars’ Ms. Barbra Weathers called “The Master Key”. Derrick “Derky” Culler’s credits are surrounded by gold and platinum records and several ASCAP awards as evidence for his compositional works with gold and platinum recording group **Surface**. Stevie Wonder was his all time favorite singer/writer who he had hoped someday to meet.

Derrick not only wrote R&B and pop music; he often would sit for many hours composing his many gospel songs, not all inclusive, including: "Good Morning God", "God Told Moses", "Unto the Church of God", "Who Shall Abide", "Trust in the Lord", "Alpha and Omega", "God Spake All These Words", "Highest Praise", "Never Let Him Go Again" and "Peace Be Unto You" are a testament to his talent and trust in God's Word. He worked with producing a group of talented young men in the church under their group name of "Fifth Key" with the now Evg. J. Kenneth Hendricks, Brother Donald Smith, Jr., Brothers Joey and Mike Jeffries and the late Deacon James Grant, IV. Derky mentored, assisted and coached many people and pushed them to go beyond their comfort zone as he saw the potential in them they could not. Derrick said "To not see my purpose and my vision is to be Culler Blind."

As FA, ACS Derrick said that preaching was not his calling. Yet he delivered profound sermons and thoughts to the Camden Tabernacle when called upon by his then Pastor, Evangelist John W. Marshall, Jr. Some of his thoughts/sermons were entitled: "Just For Today", "Recognizing Your Blessings", "Under God's Witness Protection Program" and "Heaven in My View".

Derrick worked as a Personal Care Giver and Community Living Specialist (CLS) from which he retired in 2019. He then began to focus once again more on his musical endeavors, training the next generation of singers, writers and producers. Derrick II (DJ) and Kenneth (KC) are carrying on his musical legacy as management, songwriting, and production. As a young man, Derrick sharpened his sewing skills learning furniture upholstery. Utilizing that skill, he later made the three-cornered hats for many of the brothers and the four-cornered hats worn by the Bishops; he also made sashes and rosettes.

He leaves to mourn his wife he met 53 years ago and married 32 years ago GMS/SE Lenora E. Marshall Culler; his three sons: Ahmad, Derrick II, and Kenneth; two daughters: Derricka and Khaiesha, five grandsons: Tahree, Ahmad, Jamad, Nafis and Jaiden; one granddaughter: Jada (Syeed); two great-granddaughters: Kali and Summer; mother-in-law Rachel E. Marshall; brothers in-law: Evg. John W. Marshall, Jr., Robert A. Marshall; sisters-in-law: Barbara, Vivian, Lisa, Stephanie; God-sons Arthur White and FA, Chor. St. Sean Shelton; God-daughter Brandi Wade; very close cousin: Chief Chor. St. Gertrude Thomas; "Auntie" Carolyn Chavis. Also his supportive friends David "Pic" Conley, Daniel LaPorte, Shea Taylor, Joshua Thompson, Wayne Grimsley, Robert Gosier, Eddie Saunders, Charles Banks, Jr., cousin Lamonte Reed, Chief Shepherd Steve Robinson, Elder Larry Shelton and Evg. J. Kenneth Hendricks; along with a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

We will miss you ACS Derrick, Derk, Dad, OG Derk, PopPop, but we bow to and accept the will of God – Lovingly the Family

# PROMOTION TO GLORY

ELDER LARRY SHELTON  
MASTER OF CEREMONY

Processional ..... “On That Resurrection Morning”

Church Anthem ..... “I Love Thy Church o God”

Prayer ..... St. Matthew 6:9-14

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalms 39 ..... Elder Kyle N. Stewart

New Testament - I Corinthians 15:41-58 ..... Evg. at Large Isaac W. Artis, Jr.

Selection ..... Choir

Selection ..... Medley of ACS Culler’s

Compositions

Acknowledgements/Condolences ..... Sis Martha St. Samantha Marshall

Resolutions

Solo ..... Shaun L. Mills

Remarks ..... Clergy

Solo

Obituary ..... Sister Elder Angela Shelton

Selection

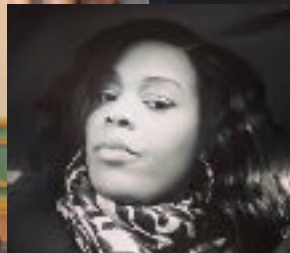
Eulogy/Eulogist ..... Evangelist J. Kenneth Hendricks

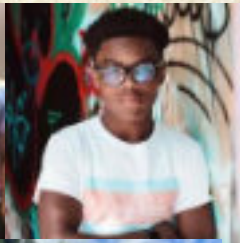
## Interment

10:00 AM, THURSDAY  
Locustwood Memorial Park  
Cherry Hill, NJ

# Precious Memories







# PALLBEARERS

Ahmad Thomas  
Hassan Marshall  
Derrick Culler, II  
Dante Cuyler

Kenneth D. Culler  
Arthur White  
Rajahn Marshall  
Sean Shelton

## I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me for 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 close of day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me,  
God wanted me now, he set me FREE.

## Acknowledgement

The Family thanks you all for your thoughtfulness during the time of bereavement. Your words of expression, cards, deeds, telephone calls all mean so much. We ask for your continued prayers as we pray for you also. Thank you again for your support. We love you all!

HUMBLY THE CULLER FAMILY.

The Interment will be 10:00 a.m. tomorrow at Locustwood Cemetery, 355 Linden Avenue, Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Many thanks to **Edith Churchman** and the *Churchman Funeral Home* for the excellent service to our family.

www.funeralhome.com



*Professional Services Entrusted To*  
**James E. Churchman Jr. Funeral Home**

345 13th Avenue • Newark, New Jersey  
PH (973) 242-8454

WWW.CHURCHMANFUNERALHOME.COM