

Acknowledgements

The family appreciates the love and expressions of sympathy that have been extended from all parts of the state, nation and world. It was Elijah's wish that donations be directed towards, the Elijah Cummings Youth Program, the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings Endowed Scholarship Program at Howard University and/or the Elijah E. Cummings Endowed Scholarship Fund at Morgan State University.

pallbearers

Anthony Bush	Carnel Cummings	Robert Cummings, Jr	Bobby Rankin	Anthony Woodson
Lamont Chester	James Cummings	Gary Rahman	Eric Sykes	Michael Woodson

Special Appreciation To:

Jodi Davis Designs
Greyhound Bus Company
Howard University
Black Olive Restaurant
The Orioles
VXPRO Designs
Kingdom Fellowship AME Church
Morgan State University
New Psalmist Baptist Church
The Johns Hopkins Medical System
City of Baltimore Fire Department
US Congressman Elijah Cumming's staff
City of Baltimore Office of Executive Protection Unit (EPU)

City of Baltimore Police Department
Murphy Fine Arts Center
Maryland State Police
Baltimore County Fire Department
City of Baltimore Fire Department
Office of Governor Hogan
US House of Representatives Protocol Office
The Office of the US Speaker, Nancy Pelosi
US Capitol Police
US Secret Service
Maryland Transportation Authority
Maryland Department of Transportation

Funeral Service Entrusted To:

March Funeral Home (West Baltimore) | 4300 Wabash Avenue | Baltimore, MD 21215

Repast:

The funeral participants are invited to attend a community celebration of life for Elijah taking place today from 2 PM to 4 PM. We hope you will join us.

Oriole Park Camden Yards | 333 W. Camden Yards | Baltimore, MD 21201

Donations:

www.ecyp.org/donate | www.giving.howard.edu/give/cummings

www.givetomorgan.org/elijahcummings

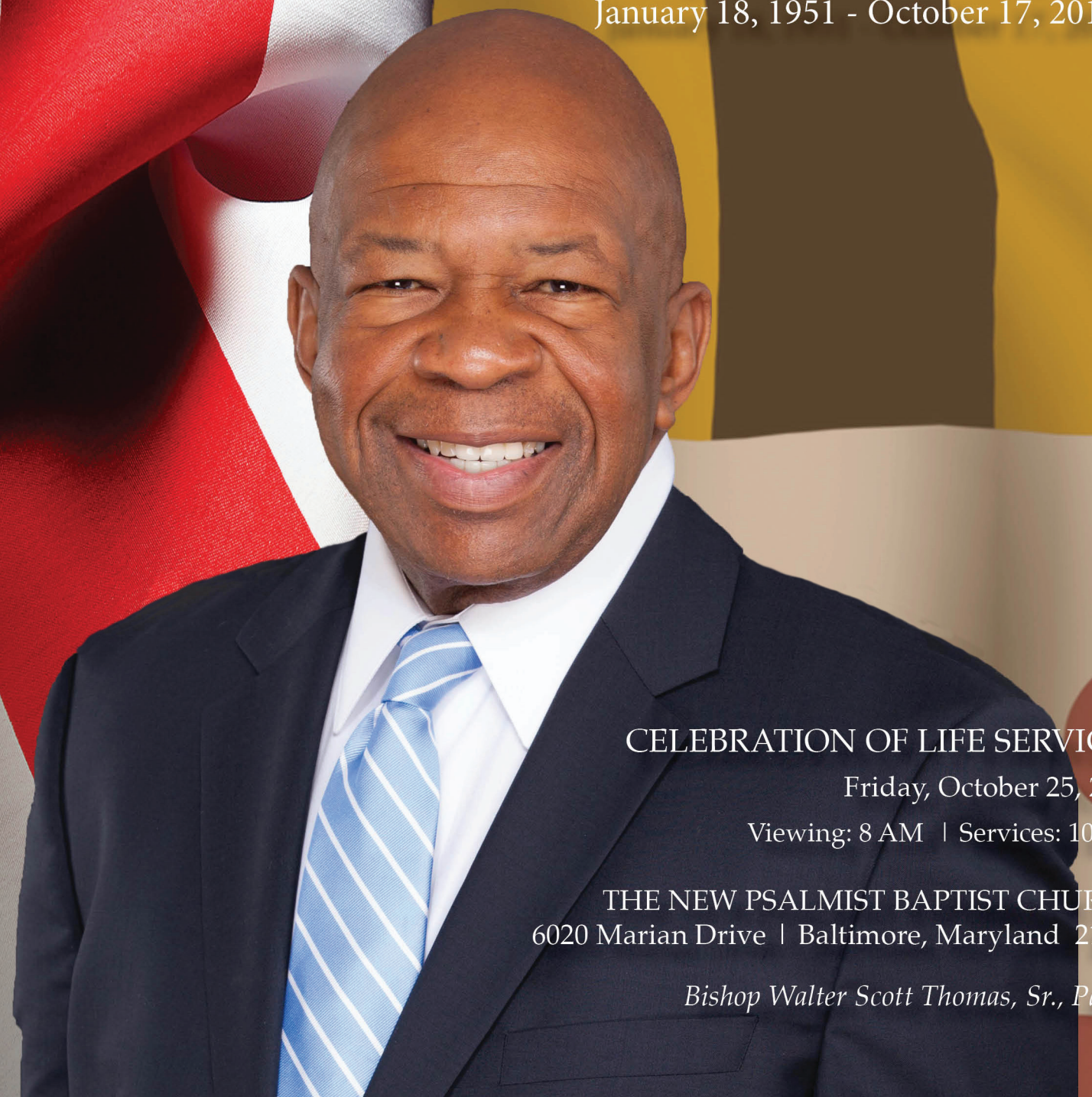


The Honorable

Elijah Eugene Cummings

U.S. Representative of Maryland

January 18, 1951 - October 17, 2019



CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES

Friday, October 25, 2019

Viewing: 8 AM | Services: 10 AM

THE NEW PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH
6020 Marian Drive | Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., Pastor



The Honorable Elijah Eugene Cummings

Son of Baltimore, man of God, friend of the downtrodden, defender of law and democracy, representative of the people, brother, father, son, husband, Elijah Eugene Cummings had many roles in life, but on October 17, 2019 he assumed his greatest one in death: heavenly angel.

Elijah was born to Ruth and Robert Cummings in Baltimore City on January 18, 1951. His parents, who had only a grade school education, started off as sharecroppers who left South Carolina seeking better jobs for themselves and educational opportunities for their unborn children. Settling in South Baltimore, his mother Ruth took the bus each day to clean houses for the wealthy and his father Robert did hard labor at a chemical plant. They worked and prayed hard--both later became preachers--in order to raise their growing family of, what would eventually become, seven children in a small row house.

Elijah's parents taught their children to love God, work hard, and value education; for with education anything was possible. But Elijah also internalized the importance of civic action at an early age. When he was only eleven, Juanita Mitchell, a legendary civil rights leader and lawyer, led Elijah and other African American kids from his South Baltimore neighborhood to integrate a nearby "whites-only" swimming pool. Day after day, the kids marched past angry white mobs throwing bricks and shouting racial slurs, until they were allowed into that pool. As a result of the protest, Elijah learned that he had something called "rights" and decided then and there to become a lawyer like Mrs. Mitchell, though he didn't yet know what a lawyer was.

Elijah overcame the stigma of being assigned to special education classes in grade school and went on to excel in education and leadership; earning his diploma from Baltimore's City College high school, becoming Phi Beta Kappa at Howard University, earning his law degree from the University of Maryland Law School, and eventually receiving 13 honorary doctorate degrees from U.S. colleges. Upon passing the bar exam on his first try, he opened a law practice and after hours started a course to help young black lawyers pass the quota-limited Maryland Bar. His early, selfless work gained attention when Elijah was "chosen" by legendary Maryland state legislator Lena King Lee to run for her seat in the Maryland General Assembly. He won and went on to serve for fourteen years in the House of Delegates, became Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus and the first African-American Speaker Pro Tempore. Elijah was doing what he was put here to do – helping others. He was fulfilled. He yearned for nothing more.

Then fate thrust him into higher office. When Kweisi Mfume left Congress to become the head of the NAACP, Maryland's 7th Congressional District seat opened and folks told Elijah, this is your destiny. He ran and won, and he won again and again. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives thirteen times, by no less than 70% of the vote. His father cried at Elijah's swearing-in, saying, "I kept looking at your hand and I realized that the same blood that runs in your hand runs in mine...Now I know what I could have been (had he had the education, preparation, and opportunity)."

In Congress, Elijah took on daunting, sometimes impossible battles and often prevailed. He fought for civil rights, for voting rights, for immigrants, for health care, for lowering prescription drug prices. He led the Congressional Black Caucus. He was an early supporter of Barack Obama. He campaigned for Hillary Clinton. He became a confidant of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. He eulogized Freddie Gray then went into the streets to calm the city. He fought a life-threatening illness for 30 years. But Elijah never complained. Elijah would say, "Do not ask why this happened to me. Ask why did this happen for me?" He embraced what he called "pain, passion, and purpose" – his pain fueled his passion which drove his purpose every day.

Elijah was a lifelong Democrat—but more than a party, he believed in people, in freedom, and the beauty of democracy. He believed our nation's diversity wasn't our problem but its greatest promise. He reached across the aisle, across racial and economic lines, across beliefs, and across the country to find common ground with people from all walks of life.

The greatest political challenge of his life was the one he was engaged in until the very end: Preserving the soul of our democracy in the face of its greatest threat in two hundred and fifty years. He worked from his hospital bed, taking calls, reading documents, signing subpoenas, standing up for the rest of us, even while knowing his life was slipping away. In his first speech in Congress, he read this poem by Dr. Benjamin Mays, civil rights leader and president of Morehouse College: "I only have a minute. Sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me, I did not choose it, but I know that I must use it. Give account if I abuse it. Suffer if I lose it. Only a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it." Elijah used every minute of his life on this earth to serve people and he fought for justice to his last breath.

Elijah leaves a loving family, his devoted wife Dr. Maya Rokeymoore Cummings, his two children Jennifer and Adia, his brothers Robert Jr. (Valerie), James (Rosa), and Cernel, his sisters Cheretheria Blount, Yvonne Cummings Jennings, and Diane Woodson, his aunt Bernice Walters, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. He leaves a family of families - his work family in Baltimore and DC, his community family, his fraternal family, and his legal family. Elijah was a faithful and active member of New Psalmist Baptist Church for over 40 years where he was loved by all.

While Elijah's now "dancing with the angels" his legacy will never leave us. Elijah's life was a celebration of possibility and his booming voice and passion for truth, justice, and democracy will reverberate in the memory of this nation forever.

Rest in peace and in power, Elijah.



Order of Service

Bishop Walter S. Thomas, Sr., Officiating

Musical Selection	Organ Prelude	
	"1st Trumpeter"	Andrew Balio Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
	Processional of Clergy & Family	
Hymn of Faith	"The Church is One Foundation"	Choir/Congregation
The Invocation		Reverend Matthew L. Watley, Pastor Kingdom Fellowship AME Church
Scripture Reading	Old Testament – Psalm 23	The Honorable Elizabeth Warren U.S. Senator
	New Testament – II Timothy 4:7-8	The Honorable Marcia Fudge U.S. Congresswoman
Musical Selection		BeBe Winans

Remarks		
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former Secretary of State The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, US House of Representatives The Honorable Kwiesi Mfume, Board Chairman, Morgan State University Dr. Alfred Vaughn, Clergy Mr. Larry Gibson, Mentor Deaconess Margaret Ann Howie, New Psalmist Baptist Church		
Musical Selection	"Now Behold The Lamb"	New Psalmist Choir
Remarks		
Adia & Jennifer Cummings, Daughters Mr. James Cummings, Brother Mr. Jon Alexander, Mentee Dr. Leana Wen, Mentee Mr. Harry Spikes, Congressional Staff Dr. Maya Rokeymoore-Cummings, Spouse The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States The Honorable Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States		

Sermonic Selection	"It Is Well"	New Psalmist Choir
The Eulogy		Bishop Walter S. Thomas, Sr., Pastor
Benediction		
Recessional		