



## James A. Blackwell

August 11, 1932 - September 29, 2020

Deacon James Blackwell was born on August 11, 1932 to the late Clarence and Evelyn Blackwell-Muse. He was raised in a loving home in Reedville, Virginia with his parents, 5 sisters and 3 brothers. Deacon James Arthur Blackwell departed this life on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, at his home in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Blackwell lived a long and prosperous life, despite experiencing 3 of life's most challenging times: The Great Depression of the 1930's; The Civil Rights Era of the 1960's and the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020.

As a child born during the Great Depression, life was hard for all people, especially African Americans. His parents instilled a strong work ethic in him at an early age and he worked multiple jobs while attending high school. He graduated from Reedville High School in 1950 and eventually left home in search of work to help support his family. Two years after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the 38th Parallel Warzone 74th Engineering Battalion. He served our country valiantly until being honorably discharged in 1954 from the United States Army. He later became a truck driver and sanitation worker for the City of Baltimore, where he worked until his retirement in 1993.

Deacon Blackwell's favorite hobbies were watching sports, westerns and reading about current events. He was an avid lover of the game of baseball and will be forever remembered as a great athlete in his own right. During a time of segregation in our country's history, he had the honor of playing with the Negro League's North Cumberland Giants. He was a strong and compassionate man of action, who always spoke his mind, sharing what he had, while helping others with the heart of a servant. He always strove to do his part to make the world in which he lived better for all people. Whenever the opportunity presented itself, he stood up for what was right to bring about change and equality for all people. He participated in demonstrations of lunch counter sit-ins and marches, during the Civil Rights Movement, taking no thought for himself, but knowing that the end would always justify the means.

Deacon Blackwell loved the Lord and was a cherished member of New Antioch Church. He held the office of an ordained Deacon, and served faithfully alongside the love of his life, Deacon Annie Blackwell. The two shared a beautiful love story whose history spans the course of more than 40 years, when they first met in 1975. They wed on July 20, 1991, and their hearts were knit as one in holy matrimony. His love for her was undeniable, steadfast, and incomparable. The Blackwell's truly embodied all that the office of a deacon stood for in the Lord's Church. Together they served the Lord, each other, and family. Truly servants of "The Most High God".

Deacon Blackwell, Husband, Dad, Grandpop, Uncle and Brother as he was affectionately known, loved his family dearly. There was always a standing invitation for his siblings, children, and grandchildren, whom he welcomed with open arms to his home for holidays, birthdays, celebrations, or no occasion at all. His home was always filled with the warmth of love and laughter, as he often cracked jokes, told stories, or just shot the breeze on the front porch with neighbors and passersby. It was and still is the family's gathering place where love abounds. He was indeed a wonderful example of a Godly man. His life mattered, and will forever be remembered, as it is interwoven in the fabric of his family, his church, his community, and his country.

He leaves to cherish his memory: a loving wife, Deacon Annie Blackwell; children, Marcinz and Carrol Diggs of Heathsville, VA, James and Linda Blackwell of Heathsville, VA, Petey and Katrina Bunns of Chesterfield, VA, Yvonne Hawkins of Baltimore, MD, Joyce Barnes of Baltimore, MD; (four children preceded him in death, Addie Barnes, Linda Hall, James Barnes, and Kevin Barnes); twenty-four grandchildren; forty-nine great-grandchildren; nineteen great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Sonnett Muse, Helen Muse, Theresa Muse, Gwen Muse and Shirley Boyd, who along with brothers, Robert, Melvin and Ernest Muse preceded him in death and without a doubt his wonderful sisters in love whom he loved dearly and took as his very own siblings, a host of, nieces, nephews, cousins, god children, beloved neighbors and friends.

Lastly, in the words of Deacon James Blackwell's favorite Gospel song, "There are some things, I may not know. There are some places, I cannot go. But I am sure of this one thing, that God is real for I can feel Him in my soul." May he rest in Heaven.

# Cemetery

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**Garrison Forest Veterans**  
11501 Garrison Forest Road  
Owings Mills, MD,

# Events

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**OCT 12**   **Viewing**   02:00PM - 04:00PM

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March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore  
1101 East North Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21202

**OCT 13**   **Wake**   11:30AM - 12:00PM

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**OCT 13**   **Service**   12:00PM

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# Comments

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“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for James A. Blackwell, Please Click the Link below.



**March Funeral Homes** - October 05 at 03:37 PM

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“ I extend my condolences to Mrs. Annie and the family in the passing of Deacon Blackwell. I pray God will comfort you in your time of bereavement.



**Sharron Boykins** - October 13 at 01:44 PM

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“ To the Blackwell Family from the Phenix Family we send our greatest and deepest sympathy. He has been a staple in the lives of all, and his memories shall live on.

**Thomas Phenix** - October 13 at 01:43 PM

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“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

**March Funeral Homes** - October 01 at 12:12 PM