



Joseph L. Neale

May 25, 1924 - March 1, 2004

On May 25, 1924, Joseph L. Neale Sr., was born in Baltimore City from the union of Samuel Neale and Henrietta Curtis Neale. He departed this life on Monday March 1, 2004. Joseph was raised in Baltimore City, had an extreme fondness for all types of music and mastered playing the piano and learned to play several instruments. Joseph began playing the organ for different churches by the age of 13. He attended Howard University briefly then enlisted in the United States Army on November 1, 1944, serving in the Southern Philippine Liberation Campaign and was honorably discharged on December 27, 1946. Once discharged, Joseph began working for the United States Post Office where he returned to his love for music and played in the Post Office Band while he attended the Baltimore Institute of Musical Arts. On November 27, 1947, Joseph married the former Rita Carberry and out of their love for family eleven children were born. Joseph had a strong love walk with God and intertwined the love of God, family, and music into his lifetime music ministry. In the mid 1950's while a member of Saint Edward's R.C. Church, Joseph began directing several choirs at the church. His fondness for the singing style of the Vienna Boy's Choir motivated him to start the St. Edward's Boys Choir which were noted for being the first group of African American Males to sing for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Charles Center Plaza, a feat unheard of during Baltimore's turbulent racial times. His love for children, education and music motivated his writing and copyrighting of a children's educational motivation song, "School Kid Rock and Roll," which he taught to

his children's choirs. Over the years he changed the choir's male specific membership to enable the participation of his own daughters. Over the last nearly fifty years, Deacon Neale's Children's choirs now known as the St. Edward's voices of Freedom, has served as a musical training ground for his children, his grandchildren, and any other interested child in the parish. On January 30, 1972, Joseph was ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of Baltimore at his home church of St. Edward's where he is affectionately known as "Deacon Neale." In January 1980, he retired from the United States Post Office. He continued his role as Permanent Deacon where he served until his mandatory retirement. Because of his strong love of God he continued to serve as Deacon, Minister of Music and Choir Director until God called him home. As a result of his service in ministry to God and in the Church, he has been given numerous honors and accolades. Deacon Neale leaves to mourn, his wife of 56 years Rita Neale, four sons, Joseph Jr., Samuel, Michael, and John; five daughters, Julia Montgomery, Catherine Neale, Rita Thomas-El, Helena Bunch and Michele Killelte; one daughter-in-law, Janet Neale; two sons-in-law, Hezekiah Bunch and James Thomas-El; twelve grandchildren, three adopted grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, four adopted great-grandchildren and four sisters. Sr. Majella Neale, O.S.P., Isabelle Neale, Dorothy Neale and Catherine Thomas a lifelong friend James Larkins and a host of relatives and friends. As Joseph has been called home to be with the Lord, he will be reunited with his brother Paul, his son Gerard and his daughter Rachel who preceded him in death.

Tribute Wall



“ Joseph L. Neale

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ Joseph L. Neale

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Mrs. Rita Neale, our thoughts are with you and your family in this time of sorrow. May your memories be a source of comfort.##imported-begin##Deborah & Joseph Handy##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family of the late Joseph L. Neale, First of all I would like to express my condolences in the lost of your love one. I happen to pick up last Sunday's paper and noted your love one in the obituary. My Grandfather is the late James Edward Neale of Mt. Winans, our family church St. Peters Claver. I would just like to know if we are related, and if you all decide to have a family reunion I would like to attend. FYI My Grandfather was born in St. Marys county.##imported-begin##Vera Neale Taylor RN##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mrs. Neale, there are no words to express the graditude that my girls and I have for Deacon Neale being a part of their growing up and training in the church. We are sadden by his passing but we know in our hearts that he is with the Lord. Thank you so much for sharing him with us. You will always be in our thoughts and we will continue to pray. Margaret, Candice and Crystal Henderson##imported-begin##Margaret Henderson##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Michael, Michelle and family, I offer my condolences due to the death of your loved one. My prayers to you and your family.##imported-begin##Alice Toles##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Deacon Neale was a special man. We will miss him dearly and we will continue to thank God for him. You were so blest to of had him. Be assured of our prayers. Love, Therese and Andrew Favors##imported-begin##Therese Favors##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hello Family & Friends, I am so sorry to hear of your loss and I am offering my condolences. The scriptures can be of great comfort to us all. I am reminded of the scripture at Revelation 21:3,4 where Almighty God says that he is going to wipe the tears from our eyes and death will be no more neither will mourning nor crying nor pain be any more. The Bible also promises that we will be able to see our dead loved ones again by means of a resurrection. (John 5:28,29) It is my hope that you will be comforted by these scriptures.##imported-begin##Sophia Briscoe##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ With Deepest Sypanthy our hearts go out to u and ur family during this sad time##imported-begin##Larkins##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Granddaddy you will truly be missed and one day will meet again##imported-begin##Rachel Kilette##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Granddaddy, I miss you and love you. Please look out for my Daddy until we meet again.##imported-begin##Vera Montgomery##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but know that the God of comfort is with you all during this time of tribulation. (2Corinthian 1:3-4) Due to the many unforeseen occurrences that brings tragedy to our lives Jehovah God promises one day soon Death will be no more (Rev 21:3-4) and his son have been given the authority to bring all those in the memorial tombs back to life. John 5:28-29 Just think there will come a time not only will death be no more but Jehovah promises that no one will have to say I'm sick according to Isaiah 33:24. I feel the need to express these words of hope because so many of us today treasure the gift of life and we do all we can to maintain it to hold on to it. That is why it hurts so badly when our loved ones die. With so many of us desiring life today no matter how good or bad it is we still want life here on earth. No one looks forward to that time of death. That is why I am under obligation by the spirit and love of God to share that hope that is in our near future that the righteous shall inherit the earth and reside upon it forever according to Psalms 37: 29 along with the above stated promises on a paradise and peaceful earth. We all can hold true to this everlasting promise because Isaiah 55:11 states all the words Jehovah have spoken WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT RESULTS. What a wonderful prospect for our future especially enlight of the fact that Hebrews 6:18 States of God, it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to lie.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hi Daddy, Have you seen Helena yet? If not she is on her way. We will miss her very much down here, but I know that you, Rachel and Gerard as well as everyone else will take very good care of her. Don't give her to much of that tasty ice tea. Save some for me! I miss you each and everyday. Love your daughter,
Michele##imported-begin##Michele N. Kilette##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *##imported-begin##Julia##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM