



Robert E. Matthews

March 25, 1927 - July 6, 2019

Robert Eugene Matthews, like many African-Americans, was a descendant of slaves. His maternal grandfather was born into slavery, the child of a slave master and a slave woman. Robert was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of Robert Matthews and Gladys Matthews. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Alexandria, Virginia to live temporarily with his maternal grandparents. He received nickname of 'Tex' from his father at age 19 months. His father left about this time; he was raised by his mother and grandfather.

At one time, the family moved to Florida. At one point, during the Great Depression, they were homeless for several months and were taken in by relatives while his mother looked for steady employment. He himself had to drop out of school for a year in order to work and contribute to the family finances. Eventually, the family moved back to Alexandria.

In Alexandria, he excelled in sports at segregated Alexandria's all-black Parker Gray High School. At Parker Gray, he lettered in football, baseball, and basketball (where he backed up Earl Lloyd, the first African American to play in the NBA). He eventually became one of two graduates of his class to go on to college.

His life situation improved when he attended Morgan State College, an HBCU, on advice from his cousin Oliver Brown, who had already been enrolled there.

He was part of the varsity football program. He also pledged the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and participated in the Army ROTC program. He made some lifelong friendships there and met LaMoyne Mason, who was also a student. Tex and LaMoyne married after graduation. Over the next four years, LaMoyne gave birth to three children: Derrick, Yvette, and Kevin.

After graduation in 1950, he entered the army and was initially stationed in Louisiana. In his second year of service he was transferred to Germany as a staff sergeant during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged as Sergeant First Class in November 1952.

After discharge, he worked for the Baltimore City Police Department for seven years, five of them on vice squad. Subsequently, he worked for the Parole and Probation departments for several years, then for the Community Action Agency. In the mid-1970s, he returned to school and earned a Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of Maryland - Baltimore. Around this time his first marriage ended.

While teaching at Morgan State University, he met Carlotta Wilkins. Eventually "Matt," his new nickname, and Carlotta married. Together they raised Wayne "Calvin" Jones and Sheila Jones to adulthood. It was also during this period of his life that he received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He joined Long Reach Church of God, now Celebration Church, and became a very active member. Over the years, he was part of the security ministry and head of the Senior Ministry. Eventually, he was also appointed as a deacon. This would have made his grandfather proud, since he had also been a deacon in the Baptist church that he had grown up in as a child.

Vocationally, he began to work for the Maryland State Government in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), where he distinguished himself for 10 years before taking early retirement at age 55. This proved to

be the push he needed to expand his business with Primerica Investment Services. He assisted many experienced and new investors in money management strategies. In addition, he taught others, including a young Wayne (Jay) Wilkins, Jr., on how to help others to manage their finances successfully.

In 2008, he lost Carlotta to cancer after 34 years of marriage. Shortly afterwards, he also began to suffer a series of illnesses that limited his physical capacity. Because of a strong will and diligent approach to therapy, he returned to walking with a cane, driving a car, and speaking without problems. The following years continued to be difficult for him, with gradually failing health. He proved to have an indomitable spirit and to be an overcomer. He had to relinquish his business, but he continued to serve the church and maintain contact with his relatives and friends.

In December 2017, he suffered his worst stroke yet, and over the next year and a half he suffered a series of setbacks, which eventually left him bedridden and in pain. He still had a strong will to live to at least 100 years old, but on the afternoon of July 6, 2019, God called his son home. He died quietly in his sleep with an attendant by his side.

As mentioned, he is predeceased by Carlotta his wife and his sister Goldie. He is survived by his children Derrick, Yvette, Kevin, Wayne, and Sheila, his first wife LaMoyne, and his brother, Otis Mackey. He also has multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as a host of other family members. His family, friends, and his church community will truly miss him.

Cemetery Details

Columbia Memorial

Columbia, MD

Previous Events

viewing

JUL 18. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

JUL 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

JUL 19. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Service

JUL 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Robert E. Matthews*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Garnette & Theodore Brooks lit a candle in memory of Robert E. Matthews*



Garnette & Theodore Brooks - July 19, 2019 at 09:32 AM



“ *Matt was a kind and caring father-in-law. He always had a smile and a warm greeting.*



Ayo McClenney - July 18, 2019 at 01:34 PM



“ *Mr. Matthews was a genuine friend and sort to make sure that his clients were well satisfied and taken care of. He was always readily available when you needed an advise.*



Lovetie Major - July 15, 2019 at 01:00 AM

MS

“ *Maggie R. Sands lit a candle in memory of Robert E. Matthews*



Maggie R. Sands - July 14, 2019 at 09:44 PM

DG

“ *Rip MR. Matt Great memories of you and the Family,
Dan Gooding*

Dan Gooding - July 14, 2019 at 08:40 AM

TD

“ *Trala Downer lit a candle in memory of Robert E. Matthews*



Trala Downer - July 13, 2019 at 10:28 AM



“ *Traci Mathews lit a candle in memory of Robert E. Matthews*



Traci Mathews - July 11, 2019 at 11:56 PM



“ *A few pictures of my grandfather, Robert E. Matthews. I miss you grandpa!*



Kibibi Matthews-Brown - July 11, 2019 at 08:47 PM



“ *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 - July 10, 2019 at 06:22 PM