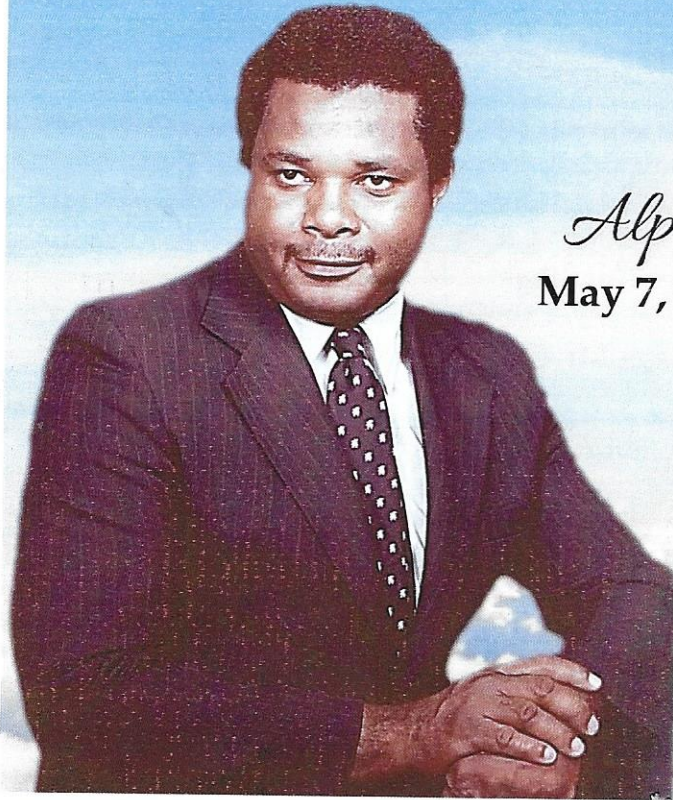


*Celebrating the
Life of*



Alpha
May 7, 1942

Omega
January 24, 2020



Leon Mitchell Cole

Service

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Visitation 12:00p.m

Service 1:00 p.m.

West Durham Baptist Church

1901 Athens Street

Durham, North Carolina 27707

Reverend Dr. LaMont J. Johnson, Sr Pastor and Officiating Minister

THE OBITUARY

Leon Mitchell Cole, the sixth of seven children to the late Dallas Cole, Sr and Carrie Womack Cole was born May 7, 1942. He was reared in the Brookstown neighborhood, a small community located between the east and west campuses of Duke University.

Leon, affectionately known as "Mert" graduated from Hillside High School in 1960 where he was noted for his musical talent as student organist. He was mentored by the late Mr. John H. Gattis and participated in Mr. G's Swing School. He also played football under the late coach Russell E. Blunt, where he was given a choice of playing football or playing Gattis's organ. He chose Gattis's organ. The late Mrs. Mary T. Horton, a member of West Durham Baptist Church was responsible for his music lessons under the late Mrs. Margaret Shearin during his early years.

After graduation from Hillside he enrolled in N.C. College, now NCCU for a few years. He enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served for two years. Upon returning to Durham, he enrolled in Croft Business College and later graduated from NCCU with a Bachelor's Degree. He was employed at Durham Business College, St. Paul's College and Virginia Union University in the area of student recruitment and admissions. Leon was also blessed to work in the insurance industry for a number of years.

At an early age, Leon joined West Durham Baptist Church with his family where he received his Christian foundation for a well-lived life. He was the church organist for over 40 years. He was a part of the West Durham Baptist Church Choir noted for recording an album. He also rendered his musical talent to other churches. He began playing at Morehead Avenue Baptist Church at the age of 16 under the mentorship of the late Johnnie McLester. He also played at St. John Baptist Church and Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church where he met and later married Shirley Turrentine. Rev. T.C. Graham pastored Mt. Calvary and West Durham Baptist Church. Leon also served as a deacon at West Durham Baptist Church. "What a journey for Leon."

Memories of his passing to a new life on Friday, January 24, 2020 at Pettigrew Rehabilitation Center located in walking distance to Brookstown where he was reared will forever be cherished by his wife Shirley, daughters Ebony and Tamara, sister Clara Ruth Cole and her daughter Kathy, his sister Cora Cole-McFadden and her children Lori and Larry; The children of his deceased brother Dallas; Dallas, Renee and Jeff, two grandsons, four great grandchildren and other great nieces and nephews, his Brookstown family, his best friend, Henry "Bro" Gunn, III, his play sister Anna Elaine Bell. He is also survived by his sister-in-laws, Nellia Nicholson, Alberta Trent, Edna Turrentine, his brother-in-law William B. Bass and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his sister Alma and brothers Dallas, William and Earle.

FLORAL BEARERS

Hillside Class of 1960
Friends and Family

PALLBEARERS

Hillside Class of 1960
Friends and Family



Rest in peace our dear one

There are no more health challenges

You will be able to sing in the Heavenly choir with no stress or rehearsals

We loved you and will miss you

But God loved you best.

The Family

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The family appreciates all acts of kindness during our bereavement. All expressions of sympathy, resolutions, cards etc. will be read by the family at a later time.

May God continue to richly Bless you.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY

Walter Sanders Funeral & Cremation Services

302 S. Bright Leaf Blvd.

Smithfield, N.C. 27577

919-934-6661

www.waltersandersfuneralhome.com