



Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bryant

April 12, 1932 - February 19, 2014

Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bryant

OPELOUSAS- Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, March 1, 2014 at Little Zion Baptist Church in Opelousas, LA, for Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bryant, 81, who entered eternal rest, Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at Baton Rouge General Medical Center.

Interment will be in Serenity Memorial Park Cemetery in Opelousas, LA. The 7th District Baptist Association is in charge. Rev. Gerald Perkins, President, presiding.

Rev. Dr. Charles Eugene Bryant a former pastor, teacher, civil rights activist, husband, father, grandfather, friend and most of all a man of God was ordained by God to “set his people free”.

Charles E. Bryant was born to Rev. Van Bryant, Jr. and Mrs. Anna Leday Bryant in Opelousas, Louisiana. He accepted Christ at a young age and was baptized at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Opelousas by Rev. Gundy. He pastored the Little Zion Baptist Church for over 18 years. In 1954, he married Betty Ruth Tolbert and to this union one daughter, Monaceita Maria Bryant was born.

Dr. Bryant is considered a legend in his own time. From an honor student at J. S. Clark High to being honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force, this illustrious leader had a thirst for knowledge which led him to Southern University where he attained his undergraduate, graduate and law degrees. Because of his compassion for his people, he served as co-founder and

president of the St. Landry Chapter of the NAACP. In the 1960's, he led the Civil Rights Movement for public accommodations, voting rights, school desegregation, equal protection under the laws of this government, and protection of displaced administrators/teachers, and support staff in St. Landry and other Acadiana parishes. Rev. Bryant was close friends, marched with and a fraternity brother (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity) of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He went to jail, led boycotts and sit-ins, had confrontations with the powers that be in order to "set his people free and lead them to the promised land". We haven't gotten there yet, the war is still on, and we still have battles to win. He was "St. Landry Parish's Moses"! His goal was to "set his people free".

He worked as an outstanding English/Speech teacher at Dunbar/Washington High Schools. He was the Director of Displaced Educators assuring that our Black educators would be employed. Later, he became the Associate State Superintendent of Education during the administration of Dr. Thomas Clausen. After serving a four year term, he returned to Southern University as Director of Mentoring Programs and HUD Programs. He later became an associate professor in the graduate school. All in preparation for "setting his people free".

In boycotting the downtown lunch counters and department stores for equal/fair employment and access he was "setting our people free".

In restoring jobs and inhibiting the demotion of Black administrators/teachers, leading pickets on St. Landry Parish School Board, even though he was employed by the board, in order to "set our people free"

While being reared by Ms. Lena who gave him love and guidance, to J.S. Clark High School, the U.S. Air Force, Southern University, to teaching English Literature and Drama at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, and becoming ordained for the ministry, our Moses was being prepared to "set our people free". In whatever he did, Rev. Bryant gave God the glory, in his teachings he gave God the glory, in his employment he gave God the glory, in his marriage he gave God the glory, and in his gospel ministry he gave God

the glory. In setting our people free, he gave God the glory.

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for sending us
Dr. Charles Bryant.

Rev. Bryant leaves to celebrate his homegoing a devoted and loving daughter, Monaceita Maria Bryant of Baton Rouge, LA; two half-brothers, Glenn Bryant (Royslan) and Van Bryant both of Opelousas, LA; two sisters, Victoria Walker of Houston, TX, Mosella Laws of Opelousas and one half-sister, Aisha Wiley Mohammed of Arizona; two grandchildren, Angela Maria Davis (Damon) and Charles Emmitt May (Ariel) both of Baton Rouge; five great grandchildren, Desment, Myles, Morgan, Mia, and E'Yonna, a devoted nephew, Rev. Berthel Lewis (Donna) of Opelousas; a very close cousin, Ava Bonham of Baton Rouge, LA, three very close and special friends, Dr. Gussie Trahan of Baton Rouge, Clifton "Bro" Lemelle, and Attorney Marion Overton White both of Opelousas, and his goddaughter Ingrid Harris of Opelousas and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Rev. Bryant was preceded in death by his wife Betty Tolbert Bryant, his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Van Bryant, Jr., adoptive parents, Willie and Lena Payne, grandparents Rev. Van Bryant, Sr. and Simey Brook Bryant, three brothers, Dexter, Sherman, and Charmos "Bubba" Bryant, two sisters, Mary LaRose and Priscilla Lewis and one adopted sister Beulah Jones.

Visiting hours will be observed from 8:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M. Saturday, March 1, 2014 at Little Zion Baptist Church in Opelousas, LA.

Share words of comfort with the Bryant family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bryant*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *To Monaceita and the Bryant Family,
My heart goes out to you. Your father was a great man who did great things for many people. Be proud of him and continue to carryout his legacy in your lives and in your spirits: "to help somebody". He was always looking for ways to help others accomplish their goals and then go just a little bit farther. He was such an inspiration to so many people! We love him and will miss knowing he is no longer among us with his wisdom, kindness and goodness, May God bless your family and may He enfold your father with loving arms and bless him for courageous work well-done here on earth.*

*Georgia Tezeno Jenkins
Student, Mentee, Friend, Cohort*

Georgia Tezeno Jenkins - March 04, 2014 at 04:58 PM



“ *Mona: I am so sorry to hear of Bryant's passing. He was truly a great man who touched our lives. I will always remember the great times shared with you, Betty and Bryant. Please know that the family's prayers are with you and your family.*

Love, Debra Jones Alexander

Debra Jones Alexander - March 02, 2014 at 11:51 PM

DM

“ My God we have lost a living legend. We have lost a powerful man. We have lost a "Giant." I am what I am today because of this courageous strong Black Leader. I am so glad that I had the opportunity of being under your great leadership. You were my high school teacher and speech and drama coach. Sleep in heavenly peace my brother in Christ.
Rev Dr. Gloria M Milow & Family

Dr Gloria M Milow - March 01, 2014 at 10:50 AM

JD

“ James C. Dussette has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

James C. Dussette - March 01, 2014 at 12:22 AM

EB

“ Sorry to hear Mr. Bryant passed away. He was a wonderful teacher and the family has my deepest sympathy.

Elizabeth Brown - February 28, 2014 at 11:47 PM

NA

“ The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself- that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scriptures says, "But those who are right with God will live by trusting in him." Rest In Peace.

Neomia Brown Arvie - February 28, 2014 at 11:43 PM

VA

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends as we all realize the loss of a very special man and mentor. My days and memories of school at Dunbar High in Washington cannot be remembered without thoughts of Dr. Bryant. Dr. Bryant taught me many lessons not only from books, Speech and Drama, the Debate Club but lessons in life and the desire to be more...I'll always remember him and remain grateful to him.*
Verna Tezeno Akinpelu

Verna Tezeno Akinpelu - February 28, 2014 at 02:12 PM

PF

“ *"A good fight fought, a course finished and a faith well kept."
2Timothy 4:7. (Paraphrased).*
My prayers are with you, but more importantly God's presence and power is facilitating you.
Dr. Bryant's expertise led me to National recognition as a public speaker in 1967, thus allowing me to shake hands with President Lyndon B. Johnson. My life was truly impacted by his impartations. May God's peace rest heavily upon his family.

Pastor R. L. Franklin - February 28, 2014 at 09:19 AM

HC

“ *In Loving Memory of our neighbor. Remembering his friendly waves, smiles and occasional chats. May our Father in Heaven comfort his fammily today and in the days ahead.*
Howard & Beverly Carter

Howard & Beverly Carter - February 27, 2014 at 09:42 PM

PT

“ *Dr. Bryant was my first Boss. I last spoke to him 18 years ago. May God be with the family.*

Pamela Spencer Toney - February 27, 2014 at 06:22 PM

RR

“ *My prayers go out to you. He touched many lives through his teachings*

Rev. Adolphus Rideau - February 27, 2014 at 12:10 PM

MT

“ *A wonderful friend and Pastor to me. He had a wonderful sense of humor and always encouraged me to preach the Gospel in spite of what anybody said. He loved the Lord and he loved people. He was a fighter for the faithless. When everybody else counted you out he counted you in. Rest in peace Rev. Bryant. Gone but you shall never be forgotten. from: Pastor Terrance Trammell and Minister Anna Rideau Trammell*

Minister Anna R. Trammell - February 26, 2014 at 01:26 PM

RM

“ *"Rest In Peace"*

Rev. Larry Mason - February 26, 2014 at 12:53 PM

SW

“ *The family have me and my families deepest sympathy. May God be with you all in this time of need. Prayers going up!! Shonna Wilson Grand daughter of Dorothy Mason*

Shonna Wilson - February 26, 2014 at 09:11 AM

PI

“ *A legend never dies. His efforts and his works will continue to remind us all that he is alive in spirit and in truth.*

Perry Fontenot III - February 26, 2014 at 12:55 AM

MF

“ ... Just to say to The Bryant Family.. you have Prayers being sent up for you! We're praying for your strength, during this hour of bereavement. Be strong. In The Lord, is our Prayer?

Ms. CMB Villery and Family - February 25, 2014 at 11:52 PM

SG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Sunyani Gordon - February 25, 2014 at 11:41 PM

RR

“ May God's Blessing be with your Family during this time....From the Richard Family of Sunset, LA

Rebecca Ann Stewart Richard - February 25, 2014 at 09:20 PM

ER

“ Mona and family hold on to God's unchanging hands he will see you through I know it hard right but you and your family will get through this he was a great man a kind friend always there to help Edwin and I and my family and daughters will never forget him inhave photos when he ordained Edwin. Will keep you all in prayer.

Edwin & Sarah Robinson - February 25, 2014 at 09:03 PM