



Clarence Straham

August 8, 1937 - August 27, 2009

STRAHAM, Dr. Clarence C., Sr. - Age 72, went home to be the Lord, Thursday, August 27, 2009. Celebration of Life Service 6-7:30PM Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at Vernon Chapel A.M.E Church, 5802 Dupont St., where the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Omega Service will be held at 6PM, under the auspices of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Family hour 10AM Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at Vernon Chapel AME Church, with homegoing service commencing at 11AM, Pastor Ernest J. Garrison officiating. Interment Sunset Hills Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10AM Wednesday. Dr. Straham will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 9AM-3PM Tuesday. Dr. Clarence C. Straham, Sr. was born August 8, 1937, to the parents Earnest and Virgil (Toles) Straham in Moffet, Oklahoma. He received his early education in Fort Smith Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (AM&N) with a B.S. in Mathematics/Science. Dr. Straham received his M.A. in Mathematics from Eastern Michigan University and Ph.D. from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Dr. Straham served in the United States Air Force, where he was an Academic and Drill Instructor/Leadership Counselor and he received an Honorable Discharge in 1962. Dr. Straham began teaching mathematic at Merrill Junior/Senior High School in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Dr. Straham married Bessie (Lambert) Straham in 1968 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. After relocating to Flint, Michigan, he united with the Vernon Chapel A.M.E

Church, under the leadership of Rev. Rueben Russell. Dr. Straham was an active member for 41 years, serving as a Steward, Lay Reader, Adult Class #3 and member of the Church School Board. After many years of dedicated service he was bestowed Steward Emeritus. Dr. Straham held life memberships in the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Alumni Association (AM&N), the NAACP, member of the Urban League, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and in other religious and civic organizations. Dr. Straham taught mathematics at Bryant Community Junior High School, Flint Northwestern High School, C.S. Mott Community College and was a Lecturer for the Apprentice and Technology Division at C.S. Mott Community College in Flint, MI. Dr. Straham was also a Mathematics Instructor for Teacher Education at the University of Michigan-Flint and a mathematics teacher at Flint Southwestern Academy, retiring in 2001, after 35 years of service. Dr. Straham had been cited and received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to the community, civic and religious organizations. His book of prayers was recently published after years of compiling them. Dr. Clarence C. Straham, Sr. leaves in God's Care: beloved wife of 41 years, Bessie; son, Clarence C. (Carlotta) Straham, Jr.; daughter, Cynthia (Harold) Straham-Evans; 5 grandchildren; 3 brothers; 3 sisters; 1 aunt; 4 godchildren. Dr. Straham was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; 2 brothers; 4 uncles; and mother of his children, Mrs. Fern E. Straham. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church School, 5802 Dupont St., where an educational scholarship will be established in honor of Dr. Clarence C. Straham, Sr.

Tribute Wall



“ Clarence Straham

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ I missed you Grand uncle Clarence Straham I missed so much but you your are in a better place you are with your mom and dad and your sisters and brothers great parents you had a beautiful wife two amazing children wonderful kind grandchildren and great grandchildren and you are a hero served your county I wish I would have you met you but you miss me as a baby but I see you in the next Life you are in a better place you gone but not forgotten I missed you your Grand nephew kevoni fails

Kevoni fails - August 18, 2021 at 07:53 PM



“ Happy Birthday to our beloved brother who will always be in our hearts 💕💕 Bobbie, your other two sisters and five brothers.

Bobbie Straham-Houshiar - August 08, 2019 at 08:57 AM



“ Just thinking about my unc at work



Tearis Straham - October 08, 2014 at 01:13 PM

YR

“ He was a great teacher and mentor. He will be missed but not forgotten. I had Dr. Straham over 15 years ago. Your family are in my prayers.

Yolanda Riley - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dr. Straham was one of my favorite teachers! I graduated from Southwestern Academy class of 1991. He will truly be missed! My prayers are with your family!

Latonia Smith - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Dr. Straham was a great teacher, he definitely pushed you to the limit, he will be missed.

Genea Flowers - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ To the Straham family,

I wish to offer my condolences in the Homegoing of Dr. Straham. As many have stated, Dr. Straham was one of the best teachers I ever had while at SWA. He made me have to repeat Algebra (I didn't want a C)! Nevertheless, I took it again and got an A. He was compassionate, caring, but didn't take "no stuff" when it came to getting the job done.

Remember this, to be absent from the body IS to be present with the Lord. We haven't lost Dr. Straham, he is now with God.

Thank you for sharing your loved one with so many of us throughout the year.

May God send the comforter to lovingly hold you and you reflect, remember and mourn.

Elder Justin Ross-Hillard - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ *I send my condolences to the family. Dr. Straham was my favorite teacher at Southwestern Academy. Because of him, math is one of my strongest subjects.*

Kristin Lee - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ *Dr. Straham was one of my favorite teachers while at Southwestern. He was stern and no nonsense to those that did not strive for excellence. He was always kind and encouraging to me. I was deeply saddened to find out that he passed away. He was a remarkable educator and a positive example of a black man. He carried himself with leadership. dignity and class.*

Karla Hollins-Yuille - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ I'm very sorry about your families loss. I will keep you in my prayers.

Ben Eiler - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I'm sorry for your loss. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Marshall Hughes - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Clarence,
Our hearts are full of prayer for you and your family.

You are STILL "My Hero"!!

Sweeeeeeeeeeeeeeeet YOYO!!!

Chris and Kelly Robinson - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I am truely sorry for your loss. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

May God comfort and Bless you.

Joe

Joe Bumpers - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Our thoughts are with your family during this difficult period. The Doctor obviously imparted many fine qualities to his son, as Clarence is one our most dedicated and hard-working employees. I hope your family can feel much love and concern being sent from Little Rock. JJ

Jim Jones - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ Sorry for your loss... Thinking of you & your family

Tricia Perry - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I am sorry for your loss. You and your family will be in my prayers.

Karen Rader - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dr. Clarence Straham was one of the best math instructors Flint Southwestern Academy ever had. He challenged each and every student to utilize his or her full potential. I had many fond memories of Dr. Straham. I remember he said he would retire with our graduating class.(Class of 2001) :) That made our class feel so special.

He was very inspirational and known for numerous slogans like, "Young Man, Young Man, Get Some Air Up There Young Man!" My favorite slogan was and still is "You can do alot in Five Minutes!!!!" [Emphasis on the five minutes.] As a legal professional, I still live by those words today.

Not only was he my math teacher, he was my homeroom teacher as well. I saw and spoke with Dr. Straham everyday in the hallway. Every student that had him as a teacher loved him.

Dr. Straham, you will be missed greatly; but your legacy will live on in the lives of the students that you impacted throughout your career. Rest in Peace. Your family is my prayers...

Mary A. Bowen

Mary A. Bowen - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ My thoughts & prayers go out to the Straham family. Just last sunday (aug 23), Dr. Straham & his wife, Bessie, were in church and I remember hugging them both as I said hello. He was my high school teacher & he was so passionate about teaching-he was one of those teachers who really cared about his students. Vernon Chapel AME church has truly lost a great man-he will be missed.

LaVonnia Alston - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ We never had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Straham. We connected by his nephew Andre Branch who is engaged Lisa. We send out our prayers and sympathy to the Straham family. From everything we've been told Dr. Straham was a great and very funny person. I look forward to meeting the Straham family, I wish it were under different circumstances. My God bless the Straham.

The Fernandez family

Lisa Fernandez - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ My deepest condolences goes out to the Straham Family. Dr. Straham was a wonderful man, dynamic educator, and a SHARP DRESSOR. Dr. Straham you will be missed.

Kelley McChester

Kelley McChester - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Uncle Clarence will be missed. We have shared many special times with him in Arkansas and Michigan at many of the Lambert Family Reunions. He planted many memories for our daughters as they were growing up sharing good times with Uncle Clarence and Aunt Bessie at family reunions. There were always special times and events planned for the kids when Uncle Clarence and Aunt Bessie were around. Hotel parties and family story time were the best. Thanks for the memories Uncle Clarence. We will miss you. Rest in Peace.

*Your Nephew and Neices
The Jamisons
Paul, Gaynell, Janine & Janet*

Gaynell Jamison - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ To Bro. and Mrs. Milton Straham of the New Jerusalem Church family: May the Lord keep you, comfort you, and give you peace as you pay tribute to your loved one. You have my prayers.

Love,
Sister Jackie

Jackie Hill - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

IL

“ Praise the Lord!!
We celebrate with you the life, legacy and love of Uncle Clarence. The Bible says heaven is a wonderful place for us "God's children" and we know that he is kicking up gold dust with those who have preceded us. Our prayer is that you will be strengthen in your inner man through the Holy Spirit and the peace and rest of God abide with you during this time. We love you!

Issac Lambert - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ The passing of Dr. Straham is a great loss for our community and educational system. Dr. Straham made you want do your best. He was no nonsense and a class act. My fondest memory is his saying "See you. Be Good!"
My prayers go out to his family.

Jacqueline Williams - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ As we grew up living down the street from the Straham Family, Dr. Straham would often tell us "not to ride our bikes in the street" or "you girls better behave". Now as adults we understand that it was just his loving and caring nature.

Our prayers go out to the Straham Family...Dr. Straham has always been an angel now he has his wings.

*Love Always,
The Fields*

The Fields - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ On behalf of the Campbell Family, please accept our prayers in regards to the loss of Clarence Sr.

Greg & Natlean Campbell - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Dear Mrs. Straham
Please accept my heartfelt sympathy in your time of great sorrow. Only those who have lost a love one can know the depths of your feeling. Mrs. Straham I wish to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Lacey Jones

lacey jones - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ May God be with you at this time. We loved him, but God loved him more.

Lougirtha Houston - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *Dr. Straham was one of the few teachers that I met that actually showed concern not only for his students' academic well-being but also their personal well-being. He also had swag before having swag was the "in" thing with his suspenders, smooth walk and his hand in his pocket. RIP DR. Straham you will be missed. The world has lost a great man and educator*

Stacy McGee-Dixon - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Mrs Straham,
My prayers are with you and your family. May God give you strength for the days ahead.*

Patricia Cooley Brooks - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Dear Sister Straham, my prayers are with you and your family. I can remember how much you wanted Dr. Straham to visit G.E. bookstore, you knew how much he would enjoy it, The day he finally came in, we were rejoicing. Now we can rejoice because we know where he is now. May God continue to strengthen you and enfold you in His arms. May you feel the love and encouragement that's sent today.*

AUDREY WILSON - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Mrs. Straham,

I am sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. May God continue to strengthen and bless you.*

Leola Sanders - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ *Stay strong, and may God be with you in these trying times.*

George W. Lambert Jr. - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ *Dr. Strahm will truly be missed but not forgotten, i remember great times visiting the Strahm home as a young man, i know my mother truly loved you and your family, my God bless*

Paul V. Jones - August 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM