

Callbearers

St. John Missionary Baptist Church Safety & Security Ministry

Honorary Callbearers

Andre Head, Jr.
Omari Head
Franklin Bruce

Shomari Head
Dulani Head
Lavert Phillips, Sr.

Joseph McGlon

Flower Bearers

Friends and Family

Interment

Monday December 14, 2020
One O'clock in the afternoon
Fort Sill National Cemetery
2648 N.E. Jake Dunn Road
Elgin, OK 73538

Please drive with your lights on for safety and fasten your seat belts.

Acknowledgment

The Family of Andre Head thanks you for your prayers, flowers, cards, and condolences.
Your love and support has helped us through this challenging time. God bless you all.

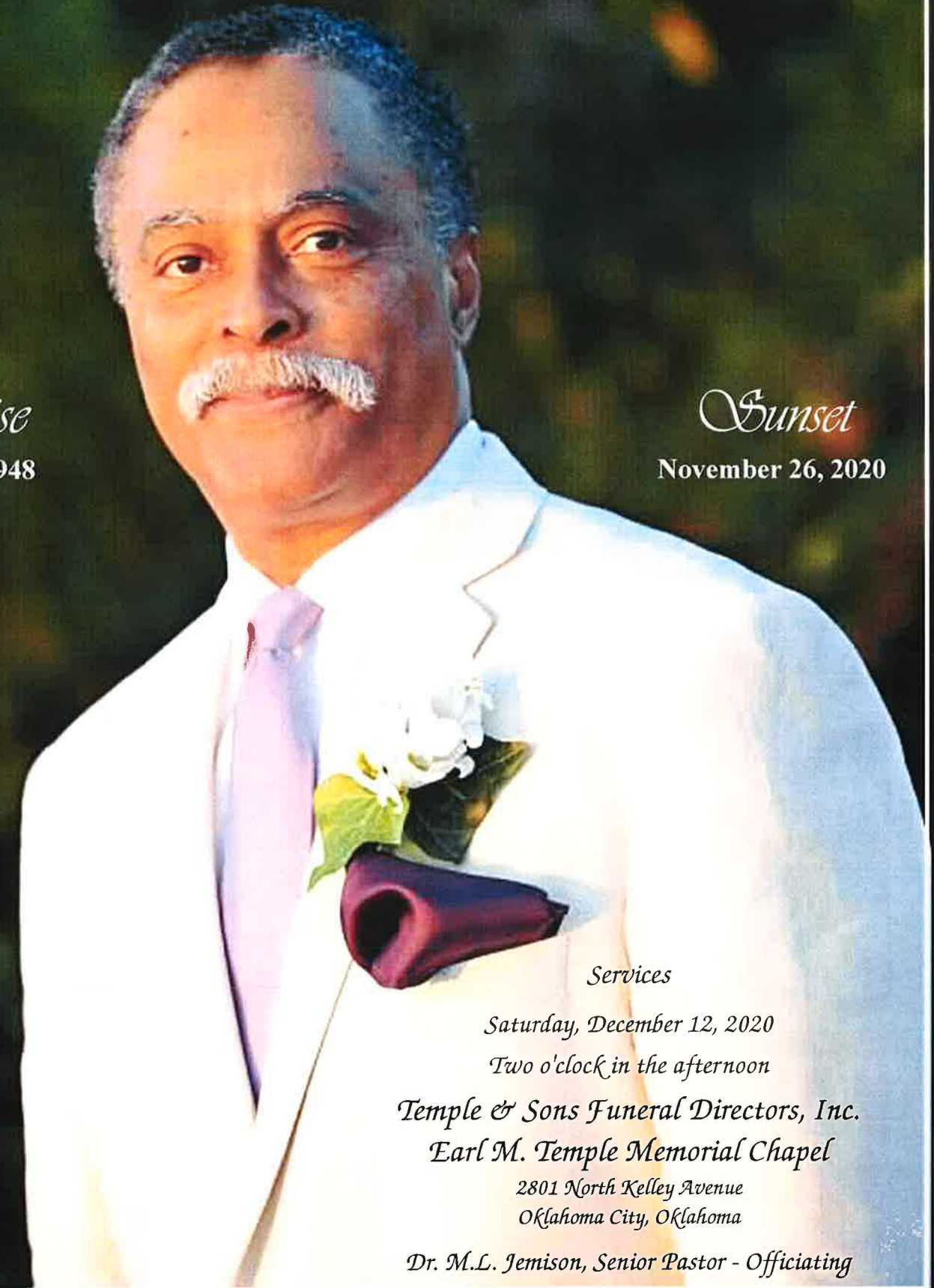
A special thanks is extended to the attending staff at the VA Hospital, Dr. Allen and the ICU Staff of 5C.

SERVICES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.
2801 North Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone: 405-427-8321

"We Care"

II Timothy 4:8

A Celebration of Life
Andre Levant Head, Sr.



Sunrise
August 25, 1948

Sunset
November 26, 2020

Services

Saturday, December 12, 2020
Two o'clock in the afternoon
Temple & Sons Funeral Directors, Inc.
Earl M. Temple Memorial Chapel
2801 North Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dr. M.L. Jemison, Senior Pastor - Officiating

In Loving Memory

A prince amongst men is exactly who Andre L. Head happened to be! A genealogist, born on August 25, 1948, in Guthrie, Oklahoma, Andre will readily tell all willing to hear his story, that he was gifted by God into a family of “The Three Skirts”, each of whom were entrusted with raising Andre as if he was their very own son: his maternal grandmother, “Mother” Sarah E. Glover (and her husband, William Earl Glover); his aunt, Dolores Salone, known as “Aunt Dee” (and her husband, Anthony “Tony” Salone), and his mother, Earlissee Phern Glover Greene (and her husband, Andre’s stepfather, Clarence). While these strong, caring and protective men played traditional roles in Andre’s life, including his Uncle Charles (and Aunt Loretta) and his paternal father, Phillip Head, Andre felt strongly that it was “The Three Skirts” who were instrumental in his becoming the young Mr. Head whom we would one day know and adore for his purposeful life, his gentle style, and “man’s man” stature.

After serving in the United States Navy from 1967-1971, including duty in the Vietnam War, Andre was wed to Ms. Marketia Mae Hale. Their union was blessed with 3 children, Akilah Nanyamka, Shomari Dulani and Omari Yohance. Together, with older brother, Andre Jr., the Heads lived and loved in Oklahoma City until 1986. Over the years, the Head Family tree continued to grow. Andre found love the second time around with his high school sweetheart from 25 years earlier, Jessilyn Hall White, that resulted in their marrying and Andre relocating to Seattle, Washington in 1991, adding Jessilyn’s teenage daughter, Tyler Janeé to the Head Family tree. They returned to Oklahoma City in 2013.

Andre, along with Jessilyn, founded The Coltrane Group/History in Progress in the early 2000’s. Recognizing that there was no organized group of Blacks in Oklahoma dedicated to researching their personal histories and legacies, the couple also formed the Black Genealogical Research Group of Oklahoma (BGRG), of which Andre was President. He was also a board member of the Oklahoma Genealogy Society.

Andre brought over 30 years of managerial experience to his quest for family research and community preservation. Having taught safety and health courses at Central State University in Edmond, Andre devoted his first career to the Fire Service in Oklahoma. A retired Fire Chief (Forest Park’s First African-American Fire Chief, so appointed), Andre also has the distinction of being Edmond’s First African-American Fire Marshall and Arson Investigator. Moving on in Seattle to law enforcement and life safety issues, Andre also served as the Manager of Safety at Chateau St. Michelle Winery where he created and produced the winery’s first leather label for the release of that year’s varietal. To these experiences, he added an extended stay with the Washington State Marshall’s office as a bomb-sniffing K-9 handler with his beloved dog, Misha.

Andre’s passion for discovering the past came into laser focus after one of “The Three Skirts” told him about “a new cousin” in Seattle that he should look up – Peathon Massey. The two cousins trekked scores of trips to the National Archives in Washington, searching for authentication of their family legends. Thus, the kindling of a lifelong friendship and this continuing genealogy quest were instrumental founding principles of the Coltrane Group. The mission of the Coltrane Group has been to revitalize through economic development, to invigorate cultural tourism, and to bring awareness to the rich heritage and legacy of the remaining 13 historically all Black towns of Oklahoma and their citizens. Andre was dedicated to focusing energy on the town’s mayors, and planning summits for the group, the first one of which was entitled “Small Town Resources, Big Town Clout.” He also curated the “Colored Memories” Exhibit at the Oklahoma Historical Center, seen by hundreds of visitors from across the country. The Coltrane Group also provided documentaries on all black towns and simulcast the first recording of the famous all Black Boley Rodeo, during Memorial Day Weekend to huge audiences.

Andre Sr. leaves to celebrate his life and work his adoring wife and life partner of just under 30 years, Jessilyn, and their two daughters and four sons and their wives, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter, including son Andre Levant Head, Jr. (Kristy Ann), granddaughters Alinah Brine (Tyler), Averi Lavan and great-granddaughter Skylar Rose Keyes; daughter Akilah Namyankah Head, granddaughter Amyah Benaye Black and her father Jimmy Black, grandson Caleb Jace Head; son Shomari Dulani Head (Shavent “Shay”) and their son Dulani Ajani Head; son Omari Yohance Head (Abby) and their daughter Everett Styles Head; bonus daughter Tyler Janeé Phillips, her sons Lavert “LJ” Carter, Jr. and Blake Tyler and their father Lavert Phillips, Sr. Also, cousin Sara Childs (Moty) and their children Moty Jr. and Karen Childs; cousin William Salone (Cece) and children Terence and Mariya Salone; aunt and uncle Charles Greene (Loretta) and their daughter Charlesetta and their families; two newly discovered aunts Anitra Dugar and Pam Ringer and their families; close family member Maurice (Gloria) Jackson; Father Phillip Head of Griffin, GA, his children and their families; lifelong friend and brother “from another mother,” Joseph McGlon.

Andre completed his life of service on November 26, 2020. May he rest in God’s Holy and Eternal Loving Hands.

Order Of Service

Processional “With His Stripes We Are Healed”
By Glenn Burleigh

Performed by The Ambassadors Concert Choir

Scripture Readings
Old Testament Numbers 6: 24-26 - Tyler J. Phillips
New Testament Matthew 11:28-30 - Lavert Phillips, Jr.

Military Honors

Obituary Read by First Lady Jacquie R. Jemison

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Angela Brewster

Musical Selection “Center Of My Joy”
Performed by Fred Demerson

Resolutions and Acknowledgements Read by Vernetta Johnson

Reflections Dr. Bob Blackburn, Dr. Joseph McGlon, Emily Kaye Mitchelson, Rev. Dr. George E. Young,
Dr. Tom Gray, Vareena Hooks, Kimberly Burk & Carla Hinton, Joy Campbell,
Maurice & Gloria Jackson, Ethel Trewick, Dr. Kent Smith, Jan Larsen,
Myron Knight, Brent Wheelbarger, Franklin Bruce,
Judge Henrietta Hicks, John Hall
(Please limit remarks to 1 minute)

Musical Selection “Deep River” Traditional
Performed by Alicia Hall Moran, vocalist and Jason Moran, piano

Words of Comfort Dr. M.L. Jemison, Pastor
St. John Missionary Baptist Church

Video Tribute Produced by Dulani Ajani Head

Recessional