



Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

BY WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY



Acknowledgment

The family of Raymond A. Fortune extends sincerest thanks to each of you for the love and concern you have shown us during this difficult time.

Your calls, cards and especially your prayers have sustained and encouraged us in ways that words cannot adequately express.

We also extend special thanks to the Integris Baptist Hospital medical teams for the professional and compassionate care shown to our loved one during his brief illness. We pray that our Heavenly Father will continue to keep each of you and the Fortune family in His loving and protective care today and in the days ahead.

Please drive with your lights on for safety and fasten your seat belts.
Family Entrusted Final Arrangements To:



2801 North Kelley Avenue • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone: 405-427-8321
"We Care" II Timothy 4:8

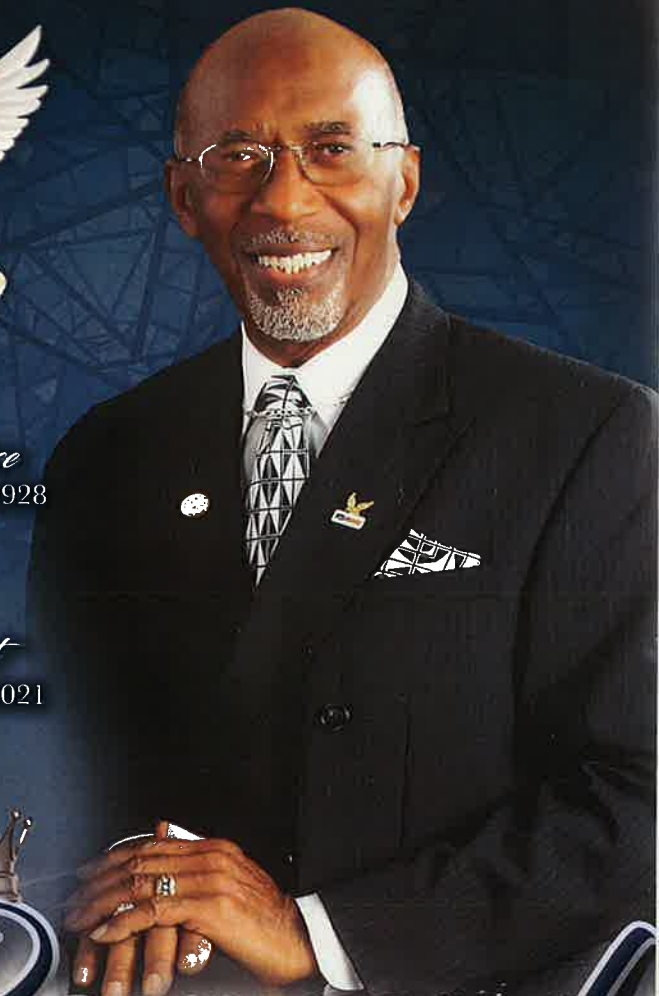
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Celebrating The Life of



Sunrise
June 26, 1928

Sunset
March 7, 2021



Raymond ALTON FORTUNE

Graveside Service
Pastor Eric Hudson - Officiating
Monday, March 15, 2021 • 1:00pm
Hillcrest Memory Gardens
12825 N.E. 50th St., Spencer, OK 73084

Obituary

Raymond Alton Fortune was born on June 26, 1928 to Jesse and Carrie Fortune in one of the northern communities of Boley, OK. He was the youngest son among six children: Clara, Blanche, Clarence, Lloyd Chester (L.C.) and Eunice Theressa.

During Mr. Fortune's primary and elementary years, he attended Julius Rosenwald Separate School, and later graduated from Boley High School in May of 1947. A summer job held during his high school years convinced him that there must be something better to do in life than manual labor. Therefore, upon moving to Oklahoma City with his family in June of 1947, and realizing there were no funds for college, he worked for a year before enrolling at Langston University, fall 1948. From a year's work, and after helping with household expenses, he managed to save \$160. He obtained a full-time room and board job in the University cafeteria and the \$160 covered tuition, books and other incidentals for his freshman year. While at Langston, he became a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Following his sophomore year, college funds were still scarce; therefore, his mother encouraged him to work for a semester and save money to return to school. He always respected the judgement and wisdom of his elders, especially his mother.

In September of 1950, Mr. Fortune found employment at Tinker Air Force Base. As it turned out, his "semester" lasted 20+ years. While employed at Tinker, he was introduced to a beautiful young widow who also happened to be employed on base. Following a year-long courtship, which included daily handwritten love notes that he personally delivered to her, Mr. Fortune captured the heart of and wed Melvina Barhm on August 16, 1952. He proudly assumed the role of father to her young sons, Virgil L. and Sylvester Parrish. Five years into this union, a daughter, Janese Antoinette, was born. At the time of his transition, he and Melvina had shared 68 wonderful years of marriage. Also during his tenure at Tinker, he began part-time studies at The University of Oklahoma and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in May, 1959.

In December of 1970, Mr. Fortune assumed the role of comptroller at the Oklahoma City Community Action Agency where he served for eight years. He was next employed with Langston University where he served the in roles of Disbursing Agent, Accountant and Financial Aid Counselor. At the time of his retirement in July of 1993, he was serving as the Assistant Director of Financial Aid.

Early in June of 1953, he began attending St. Mary's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with his new bride. His love for singing compelled him to join the Senior Choir prior to joining the church in October of that year.

At the age of 92, he proudly held the title of the oldest male member of the church. He was a faithful member of St. Mary's for 68 years. Over that span of time he served in the following capacities with the highest level of dedication and integrity: recording steward, financial secretary, member of the Steward and Trustee Boards, president of the Board of Christian Education, adult Sunday School teacher, chairperson of the local Young Adult Group, and chairperson of annual church celebrations on numerous occasions. He also enjoyed working with the church Mobile Meals Outreach program and being a member of the Ministry to Men Regional Council and choir. The MTM Council recognized him as a Living Legend in 1994. He was also especially proud to be recognized as the Man of the Year by his pastor and church family in June, 2017. In addition to working in his local church, Mr. Fortune also served as secretary to the Joint Board of Finance of the Oklahoma-Muskogee Annual Conference for 26 years and never missed a meeting. He was twice elected as a delegate to the General Conference of the C.M.E. Church.

Mr. Fortune was a charter member of the Northeast Oklahoma City Lions Club, which was established in August, 1974. He served as club secretary for 15 years and two terms as president. On the district and state levels of the organization, he served as zone chairman, cabinet secretary and Lieutenant Governor. He received numerous plaques and awards of recognition for outstanding service during his tenure with the Lions Club.

He was also active in the community through his service to the Medical Community Neighborhood Association, volunteer work with the Oklahoma City Council, Oklahoma City Planning Commission membership and work with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation where he mentored young men and taught them how to fish.

The memories that will hold a special place in our hearts about this distinguished Alpha man, Raymond A. Fortune, are his love for: his family, the great outdoors, photography, reading and learning, fishing, eating good food, playing dominoes, working crossword puzzles, staying fit, traveling, singing and listening to music, honesty and integrity of character, cordiality and professionalism in deportment, being dapper and stylish, watching television game shows and his favorite team sports, keeping his lawn perfectly manicured, being a consummate salesman of products and services as an added revenue stream for his family, and last but not least, daily doses of "Fortune-style" wittiness and sense of humor.

All of the wonderful and distinguishing traits of Raymond Alton Fortune will be cherished, fondly remembered and sorely missed by his devoted wife, Melvina Barhm Fortune; Sylvester Parrish, Sr., son; Janese Fortune Fails, daughter; Eunice Theressa Clayton, sister; 10 grandchildren, numerous great and great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, community colleagues and friends.

Order of Service

Officiating

Pastor Eric Hudson

Prayer of Comfort

Elder James Dunbar
Sr. Pastor, Greater Cleaves C.M.E. Church

Song of Remembrance

"How Great Thou Art"
(Rendition by Wintley Phipps)

Scripture

Old Testament
Rev. James Grayson
Pastor, Israel Chapel C.M.E. Church

New Testament

Rev. Aaron Ruffin
Pastor, Philemon Missionary Baptist Church

Resolution/Acknowledgements

Carla McCarrell-Williams

Song of Praise

"Never Could Have Made It"
(Marvin Sapp)

Eulogy

Pastor Eric Hudson

Benediction and Committal

to Resting Place
Ministers, Funeral Directors, Family

