

Obituary

Reverend Leon Pettis, Sr. was born on July 19, 1941 to Alexander and Minnie Bailey Pettis in Lyons, Mississippi.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Dorothy Taylor.

He attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Grammar School, Agricultural High School and Cohoma Jr. College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He also attended Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. Later he became the Director of the Headstart Program in Clarksdale, Miss.

In 1966 he met and married the love of his life Shirley Jean Minor.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War 1967-1969. He retired at Ft. Sill Military Base, Lawton, OK in 1969 and relocated his family to Oklahoma City, OK.

He began his employment with Bolton Hardware Store, where he worked for several years. Following his employment with Bolton Hardware, he was employed by Southwestern Bell and Kerr-McGee Corporation, simultaneously for over 20 years. He retired from both companies. In later years he was employed by the High Tower Building in Oklahoma City, OK.

Rev. Pettis accepted Christ at an early age. He first attended Mt. Elam Baptist and later became a member of Greater Marshall Memorial Baptist Church where he accepted his calling and was ordained into the ministry in 1973 under the leadership of the late Rev. Moses Howard, Sr. He later joined New Faith Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Joe Hollis.

In February 1982, Rev. Pettis became the Pastor of United Baptist Church where he served his members diligently until the Lord called him home. Through his spiritual guidance and teaching he inspired many to do the work of the ministry. His legacy in the ministry continues on through his son, Elder Neyland Leonardo Pettis and his grandson, Elder Dashawn L. Hill, who are following in his footsteps.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Shirley Jean; his children: Deloistine Curtis (Latoris), Dannie P. Sanders, Leon Pettis, Jr. (Tina), Sharon L. Pettis, Neyland Leonardo Pettis (Rachel), and Blake Oshea Pettis, all of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; sisters: Eleanor Ratcliff (Randall), Minnie Walker (Charles), Zettie Harris (Ralph), Christine Payne (Stephen), and Sadie Hale-Roberson, all of Chicago, Illinois; 16 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a host of relatives and friends.