

# Life CELEBRATION

The Prelude

The Processional

Officiating of Ceremony.....Elder Emas Griffin, Ecclesia

Old Testament Scripture Reading.....Prince of Peace

New Testament Scripture Reading.....Edward Sydes

Prayer of Comfort.....Elder Emas Griffin

Words of Encouragement.....Prince of Peace

Selection.....Janet Greenlee

Special Remarks.....Fun Without Guns Inc., Greeley Community National League of Negro Women, Inc. Gateway Metropolitan Section Peterson, Hart, and Peterson Family Reunion: Baton Rouge Family, Chicago-Gary Family, St. Louis Family

Selection.....Ronald Lewis, Sr.

Resolution Presentation.....Alderman Rasheen Aldridge, Ward 14-St. Louis

Selection.....Tyrone Edwards

Acknowledgments and Condolences.....Mary K Coleman

Reading of Life Reflections (Silently)

Family Tributes.....Honorable G. David Guinn, Nephew, Stacie Harris and Jayda Guinn, Daughters Cecil Harris II, Symone Harris, Janea' Griffin, and Jalynn Griffin-Shelton, Grand-Children Eddie Griffin-Starks and Enzo Griffin-Starks, Great Grand-Children

Selection.....Ronald Lewis, Sr.

Eulogy.....Mark Greenlee

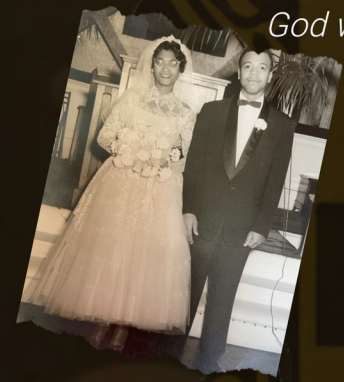
Gimpse til Glory.....William C. Harris Funeral Directors

Benediction

Recessional



Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard him call,  
I turned my back and left it all  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of day  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch  
If my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free.



## Words From The Family

The family of CLAUDE GUINN III would like to sincerely thank everyone for all of the love, support, words of encouragement, flower tributes, messages and expressions of sympathy during this hard time of bereavement.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!



Arrangements were Handled By:  
WILLIAM C. HARRIS FUNERAL DIRECTORS SPANISH LAKE CHAPEL  
1645 REDMAN ROAD-SAINT LOUIS, MO. 63138  
314.868.9500~WWW.WCHARRISFD.COM  
"WHERE SERVICE IS AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY"



01.28.1935 ~ 05.11.2023

FRIDAY, MAY, 26, 2023

11:00 A.M.

PRINCE OF PEACE MISSIONARY

BAPTIST CHURCH

9350 NATURAL BRIDGE RD. ST. LOUIS, MO. 63134



# T H E S T O R Y O F C L A U D E G U I N N I I I

On January 28, 1935, a chilly Winter Day, Claude Jr., and Shirley May Guinn welcomed the birth of their third child, Claude Guinn III in Nashville, Tennessee. Both of his Parents preceded him in death.

Claude and his siblings grew up in the "Music Row" neighborhood. He attended Carter Lawrence Elementary and Cameron Middle School. Claude was a member of the band and an excellent student; his scholarly diligence led him to graduate a year early with honors from Pearl High School. He was the first of five siblings to graduate from college. Claude graduated from Lincoln University Jefferson City, Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Biology (Pre-Med) and a minor in Early Education. After graduation, Claude received a job offer with Curtiss Candy Company and moved to Chicago, Ill. The candy business was sweet, but Claude moved to St. Louis to pursue a career in Insurance and the love of his life, Eddie Mae Lawrence. Claude and Eddie Mae married in November 1957 and in January 1958 he was drafted into the United States Army. After Basic Training, he was assigned to the Medical Research Lab at Fort Knox, KY. Claude easily adapted to military life and was selected to work on the Able Project, a female monkey that successfully traveled to space on board the Jupiter Rocket Sputnik. In January 1960, Claude was honorably discharged from service to our great nation. He and the family moved back to St. Louis where Claude accepted a teaching position with The St. Louis Public School System. His first classroom experience was at Divoll Elementary School. In the Summers, he was employed by the Juvenile Detention Center as a Youth Director which led to a position with the Maplewood School District where he taught Special Education at Maplewood High School. A brief time later, Claude was selected by the leadership of Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church to develop a community center in the heart of Old North St. Louis. He was an active supporter of young people striving to achieve their dreams. Claude was a dedicated public servant and a staple in the neighborhood Twenty-Third Street and St. Louis Avenue. He could be seen walking door to door to supply home cooked meals to families in the neighborhood of Greeley Center. Some highlights of his tenure include: writing grants to fund youth programs and major maintenance projects, implementing a Senior Day Program, a beta site for the City of St. Louis' Head Start Program, managed the Youth and Young Adult After School Program which included the Greater St. Louis Area Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts of Greater St. Louis, Department of Parks

and Recreation Drill and Dance Teams, Operation Brightside, SLATE, Presbyterian Youth Summer community service projects, a Summer educational enrichment program for community youth emphasizing math and science skills in between school sessions. As a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Claude recruited his brothers to holiday community service events for the youth. The most popular project was the purchase of two adjoining lots and the building of a day and night basketball court and senior garden picnic area. His love of music and the arts lead to a cultural opportunity to provide operating space in the former Greeley Presbyterian Church to Founder and Producing Director, Ron Himes and "The Miracle on 23rd Street" officially known as The St. Louis Black Rep. Claude professed his love, faith, and hope in Jesus Christ through baptism at an early age. He was a dedicated member of St. Engelbert Catholic Church where he was a member of the school board, sang in the choir directed by Mrs. Irene Franklin. Claude was instrumental in the church's theatrical productions of Fiddler on the Roof, Hello Dolly, and The Music Man under the direction of the late Father Herb Harrison. Claude never met a stranger; he made many friends along his journey. Personally, Claude cherished his family and delighted in spending time with them and close friends. He played a huge role in the Peterson, Hart, and Phillips Family Reunion St. Louis Family Club until his passing. He was blessed with a colorful group of lifelong friends known as the "Pinochle Club;" these were not just serious card players; they were always family. Just as much as Claude enjoyed playing cards, he, Eddie Mae, and the "Pinochle Club" could be found on the banks of every fishing hole in the Tri-State area. Often, He would load up the family headed to the state parks to fish, play cards, explore the caverns, rivers, dams, major attractions, and play cards some more. As his Grand-Children would say, Claude was a whole-vibe that enjoyed life by proudly serving the community with dignity, integrity, compassion, and humility. In His infinite glory, God saw fit to call Claude home in the early morning on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at the home of William and Jayda. Claude took a first-class flight and met his Savior in the air and now walks the streets of gold. Claude touched the lives of so many with his huge heart, warm smile, generosity, and sense of adventure right up to the end. He will always be remembered by his unselfish love of God, his family, and others. Absent from

the body means to be present with the Lord. Preceding him in death were his only Son, Brothers, Sister, and Sisters in Love: Claude Guinn IV, William (Barbara) Guinn, Harold Guinn, Ruth Guinn Newman, Audrey Coleman, and Marjorie Guinn. Niece and Nephews: Gary Guinn, Leslie Guinn, and Shae Guinn. He leaves to mourn his passing, the love of his life, his wife Eddie Mae Guinn. Children; Stacie (Cecil) Harris. Sr. and Jayda (Lieutenant Colonel William) Griffin, Grand-Children: Cecil Harris II, Symone Harris, Janae' Griffin, Jalynn Griffin-Shelton, and Great-Grand-Children Eddie Griffin-Starks and Enzo Griffin-Starks; as well as host of cousins, and Friends. His Brother George Guinn. Bonus Brother and Sister in Love Ronald McCrary and Rachel Hood. Honorable G. David (Shawn) Guinn, Nieces,' and Nephews: Gary Guinn, Leslie Guinn, Mary K Coleman, Norma Jean Guinn, Shae Guinn, Toni, Guinn, and Valarie Westmoreland. Great Nieces' and Nephews: Anthony Guinn, Calvin Russell, Sean Guinn, Twila Guinn, and Kea Westmoreland as well as host of cousins, and Friends.



*The*  
**BURIAL**  
NATIONAL CEMETERY  
2900 SHERIDAN RD.  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63125