

## INTERMENT

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery  
7931 McCroy Lane, Nashville, TN

## FLOWER BEARERS

Althea Lee  
Dominique Lee  
Sydney Lee  
Tiassa Ray  
Yvette Smith  
Brittney Stone  
Faith Sain  
Tamara Williams

## PALLBEARERS

John Carter  
Courtney Fullum  
Andre Lee  
Don Hardin  
Spencer Ray  
Myron Anderson  
Lee Lee Anderson  
Calvin Smith

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are sincerely grateful to all of you who have given us support and comfort during this time. We appreciate the shared stories and memories of our beloved Richard E. Stewart.

We thank the Nashville Center for Rehabilitation and Healing - Nurse Joyce and Kim Walker; the 24-hour Care led by Tondalenea Scott and the Scott Family; Ian Scott, Rev. Henry Coles, Pastor of Faith Life Church, who brought communion to Rev. Stewart twice while he transitioned at home; Alive Hospice and our nurse Katharine, and those who came to visit often throughout this journey - Dr Susanne Tropez, Althea Lee, Dominique Lee, LaRhonda Potts and each and every one of you who loved Rev. Stewart.

May God continue to bless you and keep you.



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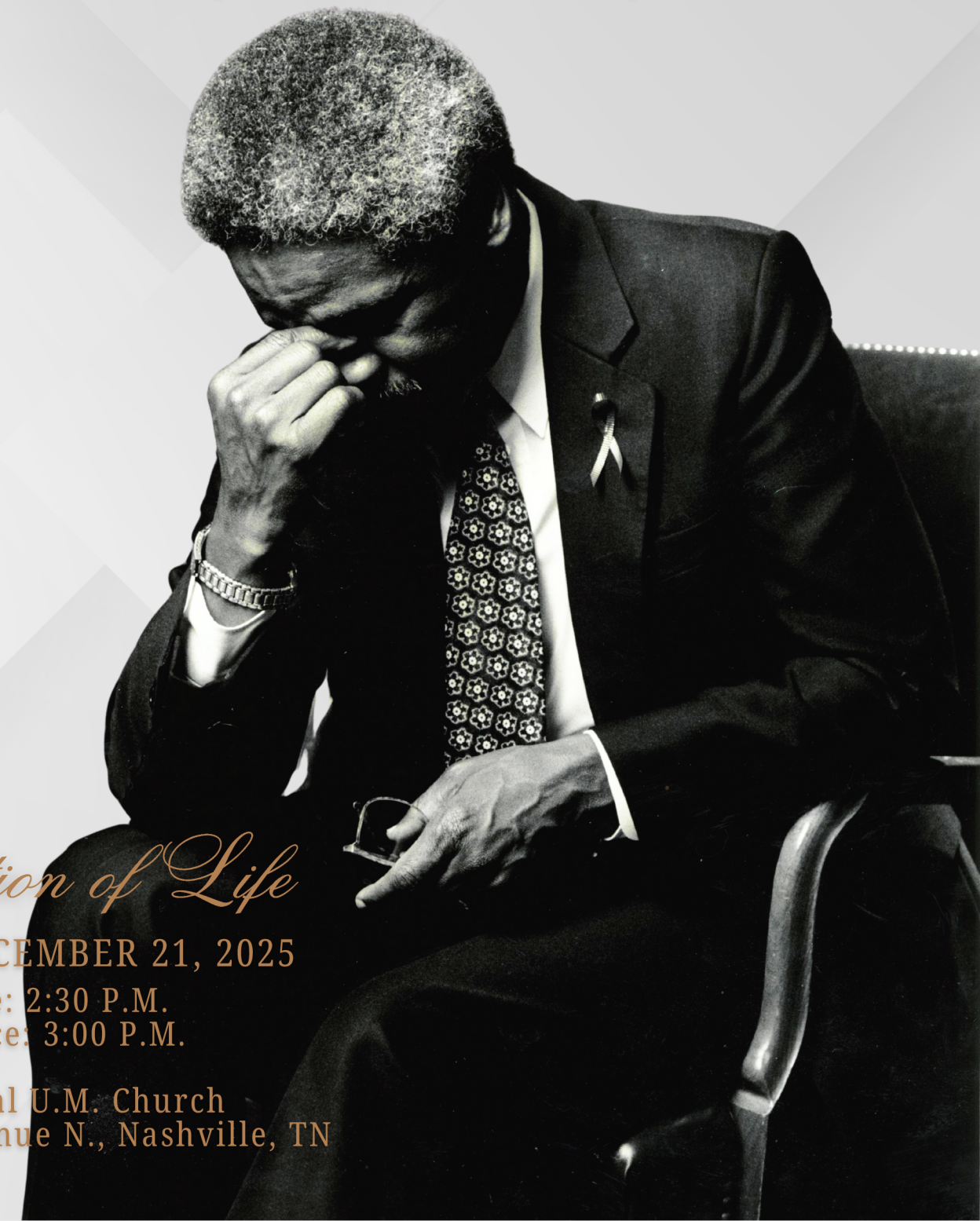
Funeral Directors: Albert, Demetrius & Brandon Nelson

[www.nelsonandsons.net](http://www.nelsonandsons.net)

HONORING A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

# Rev. Richard EARL STEWART

SEPTEMBER 23, 1932 - DECEMBER 16, 2025



## *Celebration of Life*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Omega Service: 2:30 P.M.

Funeral Service: 3:00 P.M.

Clark Memorial U.M. Church  
1014 14th Avenue N., Nashville, TN



Hello everyone. For those of you who don't know me, I am the youngest granddaughter (Laiandrea) of the Stewart family.

As many of you are aware, the man we are celebrating today was much more than a grandfather to me. He raised me. He was the steady hand on my shoulder and the person who built the foundation of my world. I stand here today with a heart overflowing with gratitude, because he showed me the true definition of kindness and care. Simply put, if it weren't for him, I wouldn't have known what love is.

People often ask for a specific story at times like these, but I found it impossible to choose just one. How do you pick one moment to represent a lifetime of protection and guidance?

Instead, I want to share a piece of advice my mother always gave me. As I was growing up—and especially when I reached the age of having crushes—she would joke that I was going to have a very hard time dating. She'd say, "You're going to need to find someone exactly like your Grandpa."

Find someone with the traits of a Stewart Man. She really set the bar high." She told me: "Find someone who cares deeply. Find someone who lives through the Word. Find someone who is fun, who is kind, and who loves his family above all else."

To Papa, those weren't just words or goals; they were the traits he lived out every single day. He didn't just tell me how to be a good person; he showed me. He showed me that "living through the Word" meant more than just reading it—it meant being a person of integrity, patience, and boundless grace.

Those are the things that made my Papa so incredibly special. I know I'll spend the rest of my life looking for that same light he gave to me. I would not be the person I am today without his influence, and looking around this room, I can see his legacy reflected in all of you, too.

Papa, thank you for everything, and thank you everyone for coming to celebrate his life.



IN MEMORY OF A WONDERFUL BROTHER

I hold onto our memories  
 The ones that is so dear  
 To try to keep you always close  
 Now you are not here.  
 You were called, it was you time  
 But it is so true You have left a legacy  
 There was no one like you. You were very special  
 And we want to say  
 I feel lost in many ways  
 You are not here today.  
 But I will never forget you  
 And I know I have been blessed  
 To have you for our Brother  
 Because you were the best.

Love Ernestine Stewart Mitchell

From Grandson Cole:

Early mornings when grandma would take Laina  
 to school me and papa would watch old movies  
 then he would give me candy corn and then I  
 would take a nap  
 Also when me and Laina went with grandma and  
 papa to Costco and I was taking a video on my ds  
 and they made funny faces at the camera

To my dear Uncle Dickey,

You spoiled us, Jenny and I! We were always so  
 excited when you came home from the Army to  
 play games, sing songs, do magic tricks and make  
 us feel so loved! Jenny and I would argue over  
 who would marry you when we grew up. Then  
 you had a family of your own but you loved us still  
 and we knew it. I will miss your "Hello Debbie!"  
 You were the only person I allowed to call me  
 Debbie!! I will love and miss you always. But we  
 will meet again. 🙏❤️

Your Niece, Debra



Order of Service

Rev. Dr. Stephen Handy, Eulogist  
 Rev. Toi M. King, Senior Pastor, Officiant

PROCESSIONAL.....	The Settles Family "He Has Done Marvelous Things"
GREETING.....	Rev. Toi M. King
OPENING HYMN.....	Clark Ministry of Music "Blessed Assurance", #369 UMH
OPENING PRAYER.....	Rev. William Smith
SCRIPTURES.....	Jeanette Smith Old Testament, Psalm 23  Calvin Smith New Testament, Philippians 4:4-7
SELECTION.....	The Settles Family "Center of My Joy"
WORDS OF COMFORT.....	Rev. Toi M. King
TRIBUTES.....	Legacy - Grandkids Dr. Jim Salley Angella Current Felder
SELECTION.....	Choir and Congregation "When The Storms of Life are Raging", #512 UMH
TRIBUTES .....	Janet Smith Tina Brown Thomas Caldwell Richard Stewart, Jr.
RESOLUTIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	Janice Woodard, Lay Leader
OBITUARY.....	Please Read Silently During Selection
SELECTION.....	The Settles Family "Total Praise"
EULOGY.....	Rev. Dr. Stephen Handy
DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING	
RECESSIONAL.....	Clark Ministry of Music "Soon and Very Soon"

# Reverend Richard E. Stewart

## “Son of a Preacher Man”

Rev. Richard Earl Stewart was born on September 23, 1932, just days after a tornado blew through the tiny town of Angleton, Texas. He was the 7th child and 2nd son of 3 born to Malinda Bradshaw Stewart, and her husband, the Reverend Timothy Marshall Stewart.

As a young lad, Rev. Stewart was called “Dickie.” Considered a genius, he skipped several grades while attending the one-room, K-12 school at Ward’s Chapel – the church his father built for the community. Classes simultaneously took place for all grades, and Dickie was able to quickly learn his subjects and the others just by paying attention to all of the teachers. Dickie graduated from Angleton High School at the age of 16; and now, known as Richard, he made his way to Wiley College in Marshall, Texas where he pledged Omega Psi Phi, graduated with a degree in English and then served as the Dean of Students upon graduation.

Richard had always felt God’s calling on his life. He wanted to be a preacher just like his Papa. But he stuttered terribly and could hardly speak. People often thought he was mute. It was his mother who encouraged him to keep preparing and “when God is ready, he will make your words clear.”

The “discipline of preparing” led Richard to Southern Methodist University, a school he always dreamed of matriculating. Reeking of innocence bathed in determination, he made his way to campus thinking that he would simply walk up to the admissions office, enroll and begin his studies at Perkins School of Theology. He was quickly turned away after being advised that he needed a significant amount of money - of which he had none - to attend SMU. Undeterred, he enlisted in the Air Force and served approximately four years earning enough money to enroll and graduate from Perkins in 1960. He started a legacy of generations graduating from SMU as his daughter, and two granddaughters also attained SMU degrees.

The Reverend Mr. Richard E. Stewart was ordained in the United Methodist Church in 1958. This Vietnam-Veteran continued serving his country as chaplain in the United States Army until he reached the rank of Lt. Col and retired in 1979.

On October 9, 1966, God blessed Rev. Stewart with the opportunity to marry the love of his life, Jeanette Laurene Anderson. During this 59-year union, Richard and Jeanette were blessed with three children, two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, seven grandchildren, and a great grandchild. Each reflecting and representing the love and joy of Richard and Jeanette.

With Jeanette by his side, the list of accomplishments attributed to Rev. Stewart could fill The John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library of Fisk University where he served as Dean of Chaplains and fulfilled his philanthropic pursuits by donating his entire salary back to Fisk. This was not easy as he had two children in College and could have really used the money. But, again, Richard knew the “discipline of preparing” and believed that giving through God’s love would only grow blessings for everyone. Richard and Jeanette have a history of donating to educational institutions including SMU, Wiley College, Meharry Medical College, Africa University, Bellevue Middle School and more.

In 93 years on Earth, Rev. Stewart intentionally and unintentionally touched an infinite number of lives – knowingly spreading the love of Jesus Christ with a kind smile; a welcoming “hello” to any and everyone who crossed his path; wise counsel for those seeking solace; a dollar bill for those in need; the last bite of his favorite pie for those who were hungry; a gigantic heart filled with fatherly love for his favorite nieces and nephews; a fight for justice during the civil rights movement; a willingness to recruit, embrace and prepare active duty military chaplains for combat during his tenure at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; a determination to lead the ACPE (Association for Clinical Pastoral Education); a desire to be an active member of BMCR (Black Methodists for Church Renewal); a knack for inspiring fundraising for UMC Colleges and Universities world-wide; a passion for serving as Interim Pastor for Clark Memorial UMC; compassion and empathy to mentor young black clergy providing counsel and leading by example; a passion for singing and worshiping through song; a talent for writing, playwrighting, satirizing, painting, doodling and telling jokes; a bodacious loud cheer for the Dallas Cowboys and a little something for the Titans; prayers for all; the capacity to serve as spiritual leader and guide for many; and an unwavering commitment to humbly serve.

Rev. Stewart embodied and lived the Holy Spirit of Christ until his last breath which was taken, in faith and trust in God on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He leaves behind to briefly mourn his beloved wife, Jeanette, his children, Janet Caldwell, Richard (Kim), Laiandrea Woods (Kevin), son-in-law, Thomas Caldwell; grandchildren: Grace and Sparrow Caldwell; Lailah, Sophia and Richie Stewart; Laiandrea and Cole Phillips; and great granddaughter: Olivia Reign; and his sister, Mrs. Ernestine Stewart Mitchell.

All children, grandchildren and great grandchild were baptized by “Papa” and as such through his “discipline of preparing” have been lovingly counseled to mourn for only a moment. And then, knowing the truth of the resurrection they must move on to continue upholding the Two Great Commandments: First, Love God With All Your Heart and All Your Mind and All Your Soul; and Second, Love Thy Neighbor As You Love Yourself.

Rejoice in the Lord, Always, Again I Say Rejoice!