

*Elder Melvin*  
**HOWARD WASHINGTON**

JULY 14, 1940 - OCTOBER 25, 2024

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024  
11:00 A.M.

TABERNACLE OF PRAISE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
7550 W. CONSTANTINOPLE AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89129  
SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL E. JACKSON, SR., OFFICIATING

( THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
*Elder Melvin*  
HOWARD WASHINGTON

A LIFE OF HOLINESS AND SERVICE

Elder Melvin Howard Washington lived a life marked by holiness, strength, and love, inspiring all who knew him. Born on July 14, 1940, in Lawrence, Kansas, to George and Ernestine Washington, he faced the early loss of his mother at the age of five. He, along with his two siblings, was raised by their grandmother, Laveta Washington, whose positive influence shaped his life.

After completing middle and high school in Lawrence, Kansas, Melvin moved to Los Angeles, California, with his grandmother and aunts, eventually graduating from Manual Arts High School. Even from a young age, Melvin was independent, taking responsibility for many of his own needs by the age of ten.

Melvin enlisted in the United States Air Force on August 19, 1958, dedicating 21 and a half years of honorable service to his country. He retired with the rank of Master Sergeant and Supply Management Superintendent on February 29, 1980. During his service, he completed multiple tours in Southeast Asia, including two in Vietnam, two in Thailand, and six months in Okinawa, Japan. He also served three years in Wiesbaden, Germany, taking on temporary duty assignments in England, France, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, and Berlin.

After his Air Force retirement, Melvin continued his education, earning five associate degrees from Solano Community College in Fairfield, California, in areas such as business, industrial management, and shipbuilding. He began working at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in 1981, spending twelve years there.

He completed a machinist apprenticeship and became a journeyman machinist, later advancing to the Nuclear Engineering department as a Material Procurement Specialist. In 1993, he retired from Mare Island and became an independent insurance agent, working with companies like Aflac, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Protective Life. Known for his industrious spirit, Melvin stayed active in various pursuits, keeping up with modern technology and exploring new avenues for earning.

Melvin's personal passions included witnessing for Christ, reading, coin collecting, frying turkeys, and fishing. A devoted family man, Melvin's only biological daughter, Althea Washington, passed away in 2021. He married Cemaie Paige and embraced her children—Tracy, Cleo, Chris, and Robert—as his own, and became a beloved grandfather to Kalin, Keith, Sherrie, Betty, Michaela, and Stanley, as well as a great-grandfather.



Over forty years ago, at Shiloh Baptist Church, Melvin rededicated his life to God, embracing his calling with dedication. He became an avid student of the Bible, building an extensive library of theological references and materials, which he used to share insights and encouragement with others. Known for faithfully distributing \*The Daily Bread\* booklet, he served his community by spreading the message of Christ.

In 1997, Melvin met the love of his life, Gwendolyn Bagley, at Corinthians Church of God in Christ, and they married two years later. He cherished Gwendolyn's daughters, Maya Martin and Miesha Williams (Walter) as his own, and became a beloved grandfather to Chelyn, Chenel, Ayden, Elias, as well as a great-grandfather.

Later, he met his son, Hau Van Nguyen (Tina) and eagerly built a relationship with him, embracing Hau's family, including grandchildren Kieuphi and Kienduc.

As an ordained elder in the Church of God in Christ, Elder Washington followed God's calling faithfully. In 2005, he and Gwendolyn moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, despite challenges. There, they joined Tabernacle of Praise Church of God in Christ under Superintendent Michael and First Lady Kathy Jackson, where Elder Washington served with devotion as Director of Christian Education, in the SWAT (Soul Winning Across Town) ministry, Apollos Ministry, and the Men's Ministry.

Elder Melvin Washington was a devoted husband, loving father, and cherished spiritual mentor. He touched countless lives, serving as a spiritual father to Donyea Davis, Sha Londria White (Gary) and Corey Johnson (Natosha) and became a beloved grandfather to Victoria, Corey II, Alexandria, Gary Jr., Sha Lyce, Sha Layah as well as a great-grandfather.



THE LIFE CELEBRATION OF  
*Elder Melvin*  
HOWARD WASHINGTON

First Lady Kathy Jackson, Expeditor

THE PRELUDE

THE OPENING

“The hour of Homegoing celebration has come, O Lord, hear our prayers and accept our meditation as we glorify thy name. Amen”

THE PROCESSIONAL

Clergy  
The Family

THE SEALING OF THE BRIER

Mrs. Gwendolyn Washington, Wife

MEDLEY OF SONGS

Tabernacle of Praise Sanctuary Choir

THE INVOCATION

Elder Donnie Royal, Sr. Saintsville COGIC, Dallas, TX

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Elder Don Thomas - Sneedville, TN

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Elder Sammie Collins II- Bremerton, WA

**REFLECTIONS...TWO MINUTES PLEASE**

His Sister & Niece

Ms. Alta Washington & Ms. Yvette Wade

His Cousin

Mr. Maurice Hultz

His Nephews

Mr. Kelvin James & Mr. Donnie Royal II

His Children

Mrs. Tracy McPeters & Mrs. Miesha Williams

His Grandchildren

Ms. Chenel Martin & Mr. Keith Mathis

TOP Christian Education

Mrs. Natosha Johnson & Mr. Kyle Bennett

TOP SWAT

Elder James Brown & Minister Lewis Smith

Men's Ministry

Deacon Doyle Jefferson & Deacon Alfred Dawkins

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

“The Family & Turner Sisters”

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF CARDS, CONDOLENCES  
AND RESOLUTIONS**

Missionary Gesunda Royal-Shipp, Cedar Hill, TX

**READING OF OBITUARY**

Missionary Vickie Collins, Bremerton, WA

**THE SERMONIC SELECTION**

Tabernacle of Praise Sanctuary Choir

**THE MESSAGE OF HOPE**

Pastor Michael E. Jackson, Sr.

**THE RECESSIONAL**

The Military Salute



## IF YOU COULD SEE ME NOW

Author: Patsy Stambaugh Deskins

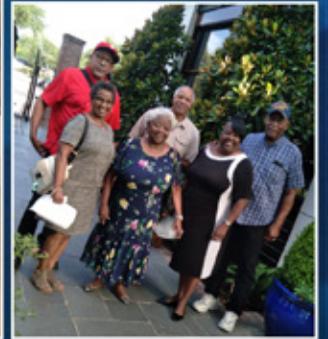
If you could see me now you wouldn't shed a tear,  
though you may not understand why I'm no longer there.

Remember my spirit that is the real me,  
because I'm still very much alive. I've just been set free.

Oh, if you could only see!

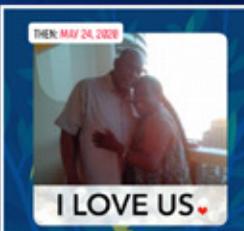
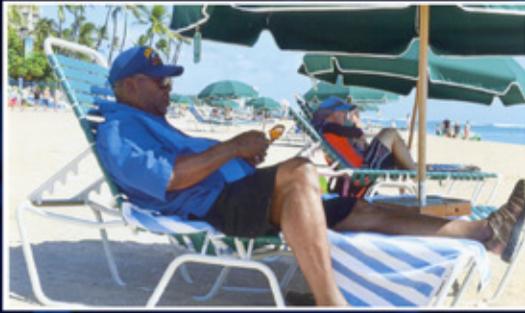
I have beheld our Father's face, and I've touched my Savior's Hand.  
All of Heaven's angels rejoiced as I entered the Promised Land.  
Beyond the gates of pearl, I've walked on the golden streets.  
I've touched the walls of Jasper and dipped my foot in the Crystal Sea.

The beauty is beyond words, and nothing could compare,  
I've even seen your mansion and someday I'll meet you there.  
Let Jesus be your guide because His Word will show you the way!  
So, please don't cry because we will meet again someday.











### LETTER FROM THE HEART

On September 4, 1999, I promised to Love, Honor, and Cherish you till death do us part. 25 years later I kept that promise to go where you go, your people would be my people and your God my God.

After blending our families, never once did I regret those vows. Did we have challenges and obstacles on this journey, most certainly

But you encouraged me to lean not to my own understanding but in all our ways we would seek God for guidance.

You showed me what true love was all about, and how to love unconditionally, to not live in our past mistakes but live in the future. You often sang various songs such as: I need just a Little More Jesus to Help me along the Way, I'm on the Battlefield for my Lord, and Yes Lord! Yes Lord! which was the last song we had sung together.

My Husband, My Soulmate, My Confidant, My Man of Valor, one who truly loved me, protected and provided for me.

I honor you today and I will see you on the other side!  
Love, Gwen

## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Frank Drummer  
Russell Williams  
Sam Dailey  
Donnie Royal II  
Reuben Stubblefield  
Walter Williams II

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Charlie Cann  
Kelvin James  
Corey Johnson, Sr.  
Corey Johnson II  
Keith Mathis  
Earl McNeil  
Kalin Seaborn  
Ron Staden  
Ayden Williams  
Elias Williams

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of Melvin Howard Washington would like to say thank you for your many prayers, deeds of kindness, thoughts of love, and your attendance at these services. May the Lord God richly bless each of you and keep you in his loving care.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Supt. Michael & First Lady Kathy Jackson and the entire TOP Family.  
Bishop Bill & Lady Faye McDonnell, Jr. and the Wealthy Place Family  
Pastor Leroy & Supv. Felicia Carr and the Friendship Church Family  
TOP Culinary Arts & Event Team  
Staff at the Sunrise Hospital Neuro ICU Unit  
and the Southwest Medical Hospice Team

“We will forever cherish your work and dedication in our hearts”



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