

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Wednesday | July 2 | 2025

Viewing 9:00 am - 11:00 am | Service 11:00 am

Beloved St. John Evangelistic Church

4541 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19140

Rev. Clement M. Lupton, III, Senior Pastor

ORDER of Service

Officiating | Rev. Gilbert Kinsey

PROCESSIONAL Ministers and Family

MUSICAL SOLOIST Laurie Monroe

PRAYER OF COMFORT Pastor J. Dykeman Brown

Triumphant Faith International Worship Center

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Old Testament | Psalms 91 Pastor Sandra Brown

Triumphant Faith International Worship Center

New Testament | 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Rev. Russell Byrd

Christ Community Evangelist Church

MUSICAL SOLOIST Bishop Dr. Floyd A. Knowlin

Lighthouse of Jesus Christ Independent Non-Denotational Church

CARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Deaconess Pam Ford

DAUGHTER'S TRIBUTE Jayme Alford-Thomas

Sandra G. Dingle

REFLECTIONS | (2 minutes please) Family and Friends

MUSICAL SOLOIST Chanita Skinker

READING OF OBITUARY Deaconess Pam Ford

MUSICAL SELECTION BSJEC Music Ministry

EULOGY Rev. Clement M. Lupton, III, Sr. Pastor

RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT

Chelten Hills Cemetery

1701 Washington Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19138

A LETTER TO MY DADDY (THE LIGHTHOUSE)

Dear Daddy,

Where do I begin. (Breathe) This was all so sudden! I think about you every day! I have cried so much. As I have reflected on our daily phone calls, our chats, our daddy- daughter club meetings, I will forever cherish them all. Even with moments of disagreements, we would retreat to our respective corners, regroup, and you would always have a Bible verse to soften our temperaments. You and Mos were known as Sara and Abraham in church. I can remember people always referring to you both as my grandparents. But you knew how I was, I would straighten them right on out and kindly remind them with a strong arm that you were my parents. I can hear Mos saying in the back " I know that right!" After Mos' departure, it was tough, but we were able to grow closer and be best friends! The lyrics to your favorite song , the lighthouse, exemplifies everything you stood for. Throughout my life, I could look to you for guidance, just like a lighthouse. You and Mos, with your ministries in prayer, were the lighthouse keepers that guided me and others. You kept us from getting lost as we sailed by. I thank God for you, the lighthouse, from keeping my boat from capsizing. For when the waters were troubled, I could depend on you (the lighthouse) to shine your light to guide me and keep me safe. The light you shined impacted the world. My friends in Cote d'ivoire have benefited from your love, your light, and your generosity. Life won't be the same without you. On June 13th, when God saw that it was time for you to rest, the light in the house went out temporarily. Daddy, don't fret, for not only am I am active card holding member of the daddy's little girls association, I am also part of God's family business! I have moved in to recommence your work as a lighthouse keeper. I will help guide others on this sea of life and shine the light to keep their boat from capsizing and from getting lost at sea!

I will always love you Daddy, Jayme



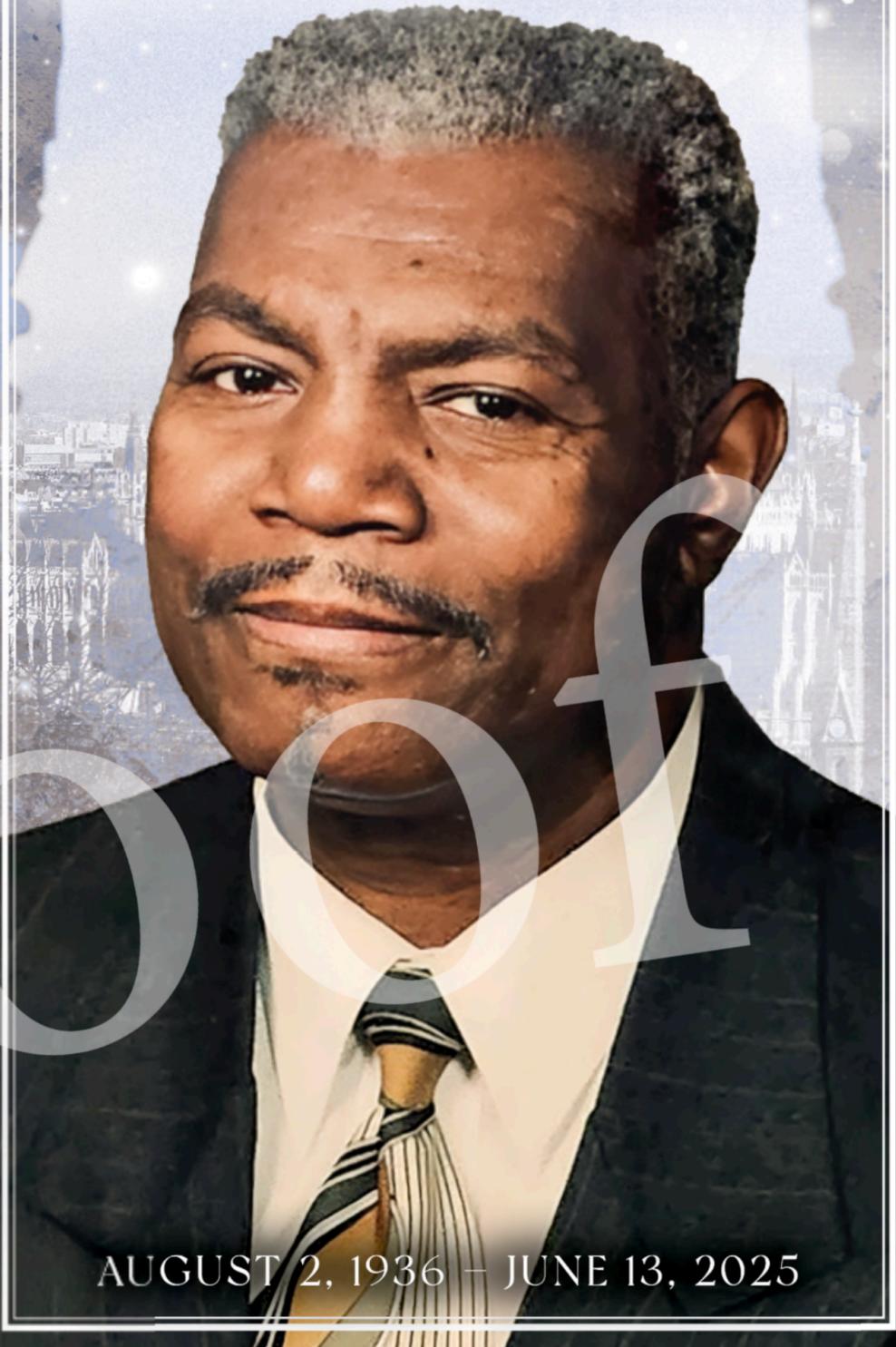
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IN LOVING MEMORY OF REVEREND

JAMES

L. Alford



AUGUST 2, 1936 – JUNE 13, 2025

JAMES'

Life & Legacy

Reverend James "All night prayer" Luther Alford was born on August 02, 1936 to the Late Mary Davis and John Ross Knowlin in Georgetown, SC. He was the oldest of 27 children. Five sisters and eight brothers preceded him in death. God called James to his Eternal Glory on Friday June 13, 2025

James was primarily raised with his Grandfather. He was lovingly known as Luther. He received his formal education in the Georgetown, SC public school system. While attending school, James met Raymond E. Alford. Raymond mentored him and was a father figure in his life. James took on his last name, Alford. James was quite gifted. At an early age, he taught himself to play guitar and later the piano and organ.

In the early 1950s, James migrated to Philadelphia, PA. In 1961, he joined Deliverance Evangelistic Church (D.E.C) on 17th Street under the leadership of the Late Benjamin Smith Sr. He was very instrumental in setting up the all-night prayer services. James was devoted in his leadership of the all-night prayer. He played the organ for the 7am sunrise service and led the infamous sunrise choir. He took classes at the Center for Urban Theological Seminary (C.U.T.S.) in Philadelphia, PA., and acquired his ministerial license at D.E.C.

In 1965, while at D.E.C., he met the love of his life the Late Annie C. Alford. They were joined together in matrimony on December 04, 1965. James was diligent in his ministry of singing and playing the organ. He moonlighted as a church organist for several churches in Philadelphia. James worked for 33 years as a forklift operator for Sears & Roebuck. He also worked for the Federal Reserve Bank in janitorial services for 15 years. In 2007, he retired to care for Annie until she transitioned in 2018. They were married for 53 years. Their companion Mami the Cat and grand cat Ms. Buttercup preceded him in death.

James leaves to cherish and honor in his memory his beloved companion cat Biscuit; his two daughters Sandra (Johnny) and Jayme (Kenneth); three grandchildren Chanita and twin sons John and Joe; a grand cat Dutchess Marie; six great grandchildren; Brothers, Fred Smith (PA), Bishop Dr. Floyd A. Knowlin (SC); Sisters, Betty Smith (PA), Mary Cleo Ervin (SC), Essie Holmes (PA), Sara C. Hudson (SC), Ida Mae Ladson (SC), Trish Knowlin (SC), Gertrude McCray (SC); and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

