



CELEBRATING
Life and Legacy

His Legacy Lives On.

SUNRISE
09/28/34

SUNSET
05/07/23

FATHER - GRANDFATHER - BROTHER - ARTIST - MUSICIAN
ACTIVIST - TEACHER - MENTOR - FRIEND

Marion Amell Stroud, Jr.

Obituary

Marion Armell Stroud, Jr. was born in Athens, GA, the son of Marion and Saleta Stroud, Sr. on September 28, 1934.

Determined early on to set his own legacy, he began to go by his middle name, Armell. His father, Marion. Sr., was already well established in the black community for his many skills and operating the House of Blue Lights nightclub. Armell’s education began at the Union Baptist Institute followed by his attending Athens High and Industrial School, and graduating in 1953. At a young age, Armell fashioned himself a renaissance man, drawing for the school newspaper, playing in the band and captaining his high school football team from his sophomore year through his senior year.

Armell earned a football scholarship at Allen University. Later, he enlisted into the army. Armell was stationed in Germany where he was able to employ his artistic skill as a construction draftsman, helping to draft plans for Chambley Air Base. After his service, Armell returned home and finished his education at Clark-Atlanta University, obtaining a degree in education.

Armell’s first job at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta. Later, he was recruited by the Clarke County School District to be among the first African American teachers to integrate the school system. Armell returned to teach at his alma mater, Athens High and Industrial for a year, and then transferred to Clarke Central High School. Armell served as Chairman of the Fine Arts Department his entire tenure, teaching art and influencing the minds of students of all colors. He also obtained a Master’s of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia.

Over the years, Armell’s artwork became well known throughout the area. He accepted portrait comissions by many people throughout the years. Some of his works depicting biblical moments still hang today in several churches in the surrounding area. Armell continued to explore love for music forming his own group, Armell and the Twistas. The band performed up and down the eastern seaboard. Eventually, Armell found his greatest pleasure in playing the organ for several churches in the area: Hill Chapel Baptist Church, First AME Church, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Shady Grove Baptist Church and Greater Bethel AME Church.

Like his father, Armell became well known for his businesses around Athens. Chief among them was his very own nightclub, the Hawaiian Ha-Le. Members of the black community would come from miles around to attend. However, Armell didn’t settle for one business, but managed to own and operate up to seven businesses simultaneously, even while he was teaching.

Armell has always acted as an “agent of change” for the people in his community. Whether it was speaking out and organizing against racism in our communities, or fighting for equitable opportunities in our classrooms for our students. Armell always tried to find a way to contribute to those righteous causes whether it be by action or by counsel.

Armell was preceded in death by his father, Marion B. Stroud, Sr., his mother, Saleta Collins, his (adoptive) step-mother, Henrietta Stroud, aunts, uncles and many of his cousins. Armell is survived by his loving and devoted partner in life, Mary Hopkins; children, Tonnie Goolsby (Geronimo), Erick, Bernardo (Gussie) and Armell Hopkins, and Xavier Walker; his younger brother, Robert L. Stroud, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Order of Service

Rev. B.A. Hart, Officiant

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 1:00PM

FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

521 N HULL ST, ATHENS, GA 30601

Rev. Draco Brown, Eulogist

Rev. B.A. Hart, Pastor

- Processional
- Greeting
- Prayer
- Old Testament Scripture
- New Testament Scripture
- My Eternal Home Rosa Thurmond
- Special Remarks Rev. Samuel Thompkins, Greater Bethel AME Church
- Special Remarks Ken Dious, Friend
- Special Remarks Charles Worthy, Friend
- Special Remarks Robert Stroud, Brother
- Special Remarks Shauntel Huff, Granddaughter
- Look for Me in Heaven Somewhere Rosa Thurmond

Eulogy Rev. Draco Brown
Pastor of Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

Acknowledgements Winfrey Mutual Funeral Home

Recessional

Interment

Athens Memory Gardens - 5195 Lexington Road, Athens, GA 30605

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends