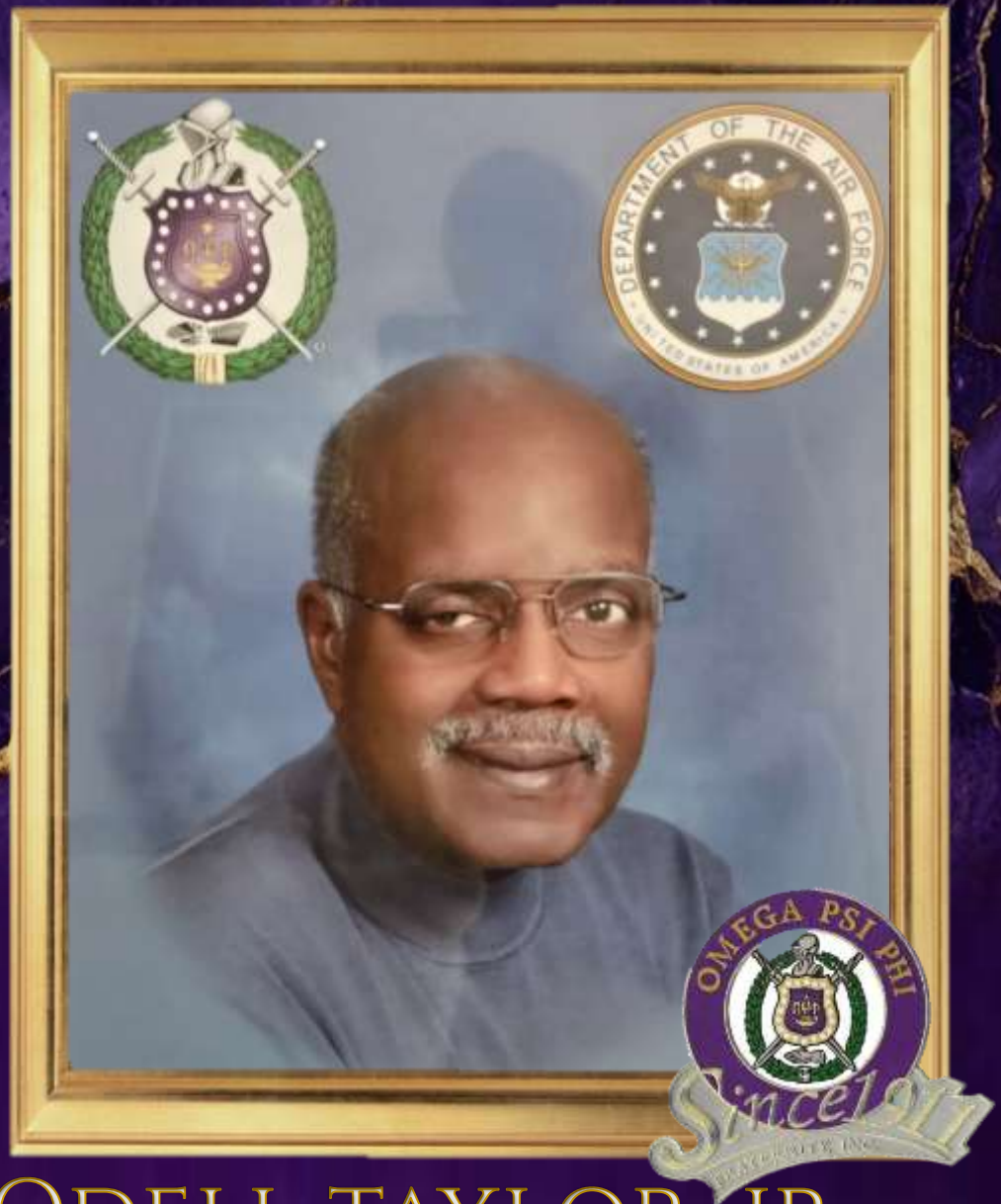


CELEBRATING
THE
LIFE
OF



OTHA ODELL TAYLOR, JR.

SUNRISE SUNSET
MARCH 10, 1946 | JULY 28, 2026

FRIDAY
AUGUST 7, 2026

VISITATION: 10:00 AM
SERVICE: 12:00 PM

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
186 NORTH 17TH STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43203
REV. DR. HOWARD T. WASHINGTON

Obituary

Otha Odell Taylor, Jr., age 80, was born on March 10, 1946, to the late Otha Odell Taylor, Sr., and the late Annie Bell (Nyle) Taylor. He departed this life on July 28, 2026, at 3:40 PM.

Odell accepted the Lord at an early age through the Methodist faith. After marrying Arlene, he was baptized at Second Baptist Church in 1987, continuing his walk of faith with devotion and reverence.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Odell moved with his family to Columbus, Ohio, where his father worked for DCSC. He attended Columbus Public Schools, graduated from Central High School in 1964, went on to attend The Ohio State University, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Franklin University

Odell served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War era. His love for flying remained with him throughout his life. He earned his pilot's certificate and continued to enjoy flying, even piloting a friend's plane as recently as 2014. He would often say that he felt free when he was in the air. Besides flying, he loved to ride his motorcycle, moving from a small bike up to a Gold Wing.

Odell was a man of many talents and held several jobs throughout his lifetime. During the latter part of his life, he worked for Franklin County Children Services in the Emancipation Department as a social worker until his retirement in 2010. He loved sharing his knowledge of history and wisdom with others, especially children, making his work with Children Services especially fitting.

From a previous marriage, Odell was blessed with one son, Michael Odell Taylor, Sr. On May 10, 1986, he married Arlene Marie Jones of Baltimore, Maryland. Their union, ordained by God and officiated by the late Reverend Leon L. Troy, lasted forty years, two months, and eighteen days—until death did they part.

Odell was a Life Member, LM# 2800, of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for a little over thirty-nine years. He served as Historian, Photographer, Vice Basileus (Vice President), and Basileus, (President) of the Mu Iota Chapter early in his Omega journey. He also developed a love for music early in life, first playing a wind instrument and later moving to the bass guitar, which he continued to play until God called him home. He played bass for Greater Ebenezer Cathedral of Praise for a few years. Winston White reminded Arlene this week that when he was Director of Music at Second Baptist Church Odell would come down periodically and they would hold “jam sessions.” Odell, with his thirst for knowledge, not only played, but he continued to take lessons trying to get better at his craft.

Odell served on the Usher Board at Second Baptist Church until COVID-19 and later health issues no longer allowed him to continue. He never met a stranger, and it was often said that he must have known everyone in Columbus.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted Wife: Arlene MJ Taylor; one Son: Michael Odell Taylor, Sr.; two Grandchildren: Michael Odell Taylor, Jr. and Allaijah Burks; one devoted Goddaughter: Yasamine Harden; one Sister-in-Love: Maxine CJones Bryant and her husband, Randy, of Wilmington, Delaware; one Brother-in-Love: Richard Harrison Jones and his wife, Willie Mae, of Knightdale, North Carolina; Special Cousins: Cheryl Abercrombie and Charlene Simmons; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Although Otha was an only child by birth, he grew up with two cousins who were like brothers to him, Lloyd Dwight Blue and his wife, Kathryn, of Boring, Oregon, and the late Duane A. Burgess. His other brother was Rusty (Fatboy), his dog. Later in life, he gained additional friends who became as close as family, including Rosby and Deborah Lee; the late Raymond and Lucille Tillery; Chet and Cheryl Christie, Cassandra Randall, Stefani Myrieckes, and Steve Jones; nieces Deborah Woodyly and Michelle Willingham; and special friends Irene Basiakos, Rita Barksdale, Anita Hart, James and Cathy Mock, Carla Robinson, Gilbert Quick, and Clyde Wright.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Ritual

The Usher Ritual

OPENING HYMN.....*"Oh I Want To See Him"*

SCRIPTURE READINGS.....Clergy

The Old Testament: Psalm 121

The Gospel: John 14: 1-6

The Epistle: Revelation 21: 1-7

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Clergy

SELECTION.....*"God Is"*
Annetta Hopewell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / CONDOLENCES Norma Cockrell

WORDS OF COMFORT (Two minutes each, please)

The Usher Ministry
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
Co-worker – FCCS

READING OF OBITUARY.....Read Silently

WORDS FROM THE FAMILYLloyd Dwight Blue
Cousin

SELECTION.....*"Goodness of God"*

EULOGY

Rev. Dr. Howard T. Washington

BENEDICTIONRev. Dr. Howard T. Washington

RECESSIONAL.....Clergy, Family and Friends
"I'll Fly Away"

Until We Meet Again

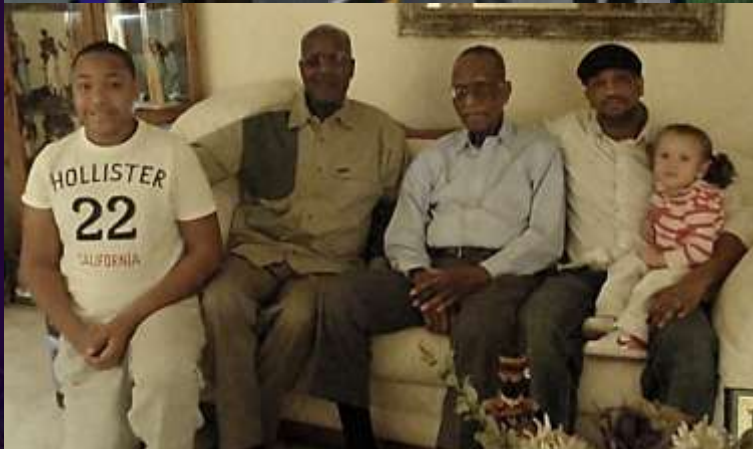
We think about you always,
We talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten,
and you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts,
and there you will remain,
to walk and guide us through our lives,
until we meet again.

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure."



“We hold you close within our hearts and there you shall remain.”



“When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.”



"I'm Free"

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.



Interment

GREEN LAWN CEMETERY

1000 Greenlawn Avenue – Columbus, OH 43223

Saturday – August 8, 2026 – 10:00 AM

Pallbearers

The Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Honorary Pallbearers

The Male Ushers of Second Baptist Church

Flower Bearers

Deaconess of Second Baptist Church

Acknowledgements

The family gratefully acknowledges all visits, correspondence, flowers, calls, prayers, and other acts of kindness shown during the illness and passing of our loved one. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we move through this challenging time.

Special thanks are extended to the Mount Carmel East CICU team for their care and support; Synergy Home Care–East for home health and respite services rendered with loving care; Summit Home Health Physical Therapy staff for rehabilitation services; Columbus VA Red Team and all other departments that provided care including the valet team and to all who helped in any way with Odell's care. You know who you are and what you did, and we say, "Thank you." With gratitude and love, The Family.

The Family will receive all in the lower level immediately following the service for food and fellowship.



*M*ARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME

1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

CINCINNATI CHAPEL
647 FOREST AVE.
CINCINNATI OH 45229
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM