



## *Pallbearers*

Deacon Efren Brown  
Bro. Karnell Lomax

Bro. John Dixon  
Deacon Luther Streeter

## *Acknowledgement*

A most heartfelt thank you and appreciation for your expressions of love and support during our time of bereavement. Your comforting words, kind gestures, and presence have been a great source of strength for us. To all who sent flowers, cards and messages of condolence, or who attended the service, we are profoundly grateful. Your thoughtfulness and compassion have brought us much comfort and peace. Thank you so much for being there for us, and for honoring the memory of Phillip Durrell Howard Sr.

With heartfelt appreciation & love,  
The Howard Family

## *Interment*

New Oakland Cemetery  
1250 Oakland Cemetery Road  
Haines City, FL 33844

## *Repast*

First Missionary Baptist Church  
200 Ave R NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881

## *Professional Services Entrusted To:*



Richard Funeral Services  
"The Best Service. The Best Price."  
233 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street Haines City, Florida 33844  
863-353-1511

# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE *In Loving Memory Of*



## *Deacon Phillip Durrell*

**HOWARD SR.**  
August 17, 1943 - March 11, 2026

Saturday, March 21, 2026 11:00 a.m.  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
200 Ave R NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881  
Pastor, Rev. C.E. Dollison

# THE LIFE & LEGACY OF *Phil*

Phillip Durrell Howard Sr., lovingly known to many as Phil or Hawk, passed away peacefully on March 11, 2026, in Winter Haven, Florida. Born on August 17, 1943, in Eufaula, Alabama, Mr. Howard's life was a testament to dedication, integrity, and an abiding commitment to uplifting others through education and service.

A proud graduate of Florida A&M University's Elementary Education Department, Phillip Howard carved a remarkable path as an educator, profoundly influencing the lives of countless students. His teaching tenure spanned several esteemed institutions including Brigham Academy, Garner Elementary School, Alta Vista Elementary, among others, culminating in a venerable career with the Polk County School Board from which he retired after 20 distinguished years. His unwavering ethical standards and genuine care rendered him especially effective with male Black students, nurturing their development in reading and mathematics and steadfastly guiding them toward their fullest potential. Garner Elementary honoured his excellence with a Teacher of the Year award, a testament to his exceptional skills and tireless mentorship.

Beyond the classroom, Phillip embraced life with zest and fervor. He was a devoted member of the NAACP and served as Chaplain for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. For three decades, he lent his leadership and vision as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Horizon Housing Development in Auburndale, Florida, reflecting his deep commitment to community empowerment and social justice. His passions extended to swimming, dancing, traveling, and most cherished of all, mentoring young men and leading Boy Scouts troops, endeavors through which he imparted wisdom, compassion, and fortitude. He also taught Adult GED Classes in Auburndale.

Phillip Howard was not only a consummate professional but the embodiment of patience, kindness, and industrious spirit. He was a steadfast husband to Dr. Josephine M. Howard, to whom he was married for 58 years, a partnership grounded in love, respect, and shared purpose. He was a proud father to two beloved children, Jonita H. Williams and Philip D. Howard Jr. His roots were nurtured by his parents, Dolphus Howard II and Mary Lee Howard, and enriched by the company of four siblings: Mencer Howard, Dolphus Howard III, Kay Tyler, and James Howard, alongside a wide circle of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and devoted friends who all bore witness to his generous heart.

Those who knew Phillip will remember his zest for life, his boundless capacity to help others, and his joyful service to the Lord. He lived as a hardworking provider and loving patriarch, leaving behind a legacy of dignity, education, and faithfulness.

# ORDER OF *Service*

**Processional**  
Clergy & Family

**Musical Selection:**  
Sis. Crystal Robinson

**Prayer:**  
Rev. Lawrence Moore

**Scripture Readings:**  
**Old Testament:**  
Rev. Abdul Al Khatib  
**New Testament:**  
Rev. Julius Cooper

**Reflections:**  
**As a Brotherhood Member:**  
Deacon Wayne Herring  
**As a Friend:**  
Pastor Rev. Keith Haygood  
**As an Ave E Member:**  
Sis. Jackie Henry

**As an Icon:**  
Rev. Adam P. Burgess  
**As a Brother:**  
Mr. Mencer Howard

**Musical Selection:**  
Rev. Timothy Chaneyfield

**Eulogist:**  
Rev. C.E. Dollison, Pastor

**Resolutions:**  
Sis. Laura Robinson, Church Clerk

**Acknowledgements:**  
Richard Staff

**Recessional:**  
Clergy & Family

## *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me*

*When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not here to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me*

*I wish you wouldn't cry  
The way you did today  
While thinking of the many things  
We did not get to say*

*I know how much you love me  
As much as I love you  
Each time that you think of me  
I know you will miss me too*

*When tomorrow starts with out me  
Please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand*

*The angel said my place was ready  
In heaven far above  
And that I would have to leave behind  
All those I dearly love*

*But when I walked through Heaven's Gates  
I felt so much at home  
When God looked down and smiled at me  
From his golden throne*

*He said this is eternity  
And all I promised you  
Today for life on earth is done  
But here it starts a new*

*I promise no tomorrow  
For today will always last  
And since each day's the exact same way  
There is no longing for the past*

*So when tomorrow starts without me  
Do not think we're apart  
For every time you think of me  
Remember I'm right here in your heart*

