

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank all including:
family, neighbors and friends for their unwavering
support and life-long cache of laughs, conversations
and good times.
Truly his spirit lives on through each of us and will not
be forgotten.

Walter found quiet satisfaction in his garden, where he cultivated corn, tomatoes and maintained a compost that reflected his thoughtful, patient nature. He had a lifelong love of dogs and a deep appreciation for jazz. He was an avid fan of Christopher Clarke and could often be found assessing the latest Cincinnati Bengals highlights with family. Conversation with Walter was never a casual affair- he enjoyed debating the geopolitical landscape; he had a gift for holding court with neighbors, often well into the night.

THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF RIVERS

By Langston Hughes

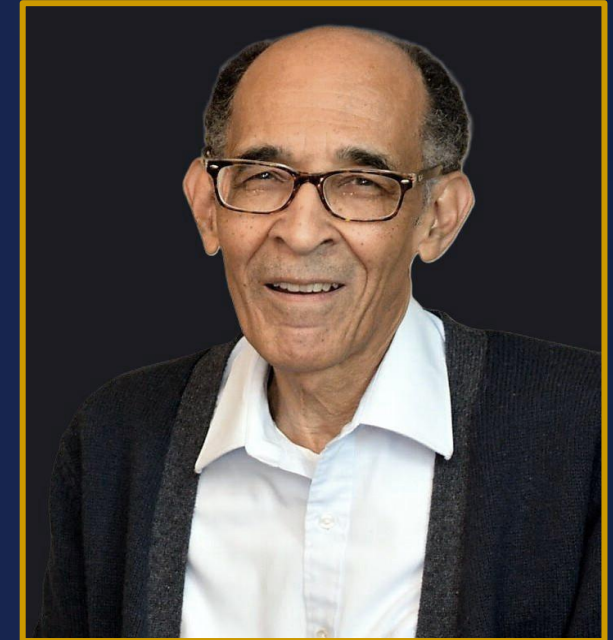
I've known rivers:
I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the
flow of human blood in human veins

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep. I
looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it. I
heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln
went down to New Orleans and,
I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:
Ancient, dusky rivers.
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

In Memorial Of WALTER FRISSELL CLARKE, JR.

March 23, 1939 April 19, 2026



Saturday – May 9, 2026

Visitation: 10:00 AM
Memorial Service: 11:00 AM

~
Renfro, Patterson and Jordan Funeral Home
The Chapel of Peace
647 Forest Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45229



RENFRO PATTERSON & JORDAN FUNERAL HOME
THE CHAPEL OF PEACE CINCINNATI

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OBITUARY

Walter F. Clarke Jr., born on March 23, 1939, in Wyoming, Ohio, passed away on April 19, 2026, surrounded by the love of those who cherished him. He was the devoted son of Walter Clarke Sr. and Eloise Clarke. We honor the memory of his late brother Charles Clarke, who preceded him in death in 2006, and is survived by his spouse, Katherine Clarke.

Walter attended Howard University, earning his degree in Zoology and pledging Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; while studying, he met the love of his life, Sylvia "Cookie" Noone. They were married in February 1968, beginning a partnership rooted in love and devotion that lasted until Cookie's passing in 2012. She was, by every measure, the heart of his home.

Prior to his professional career, Walter served his country honorably in the United States Army from 1962 to 1964. He carried that same sense of discipline and dedication into a long career at Great American Insurance, where he worked as an insurance underwriter until his retirement. Those who worked alongside him knew him as someone who approached every task with care and precision.

Walter had a deep passion for family and community. He was a proud and devoted member of the Wyoming Oak Avenue School Alumni Association, an organization committed to preserving the legacy of African American alumni through events, reunions, and a digital archive that documents the school's rich history. His investment in that work spoke to the kind of man he was, one who believed in honoring the past and nurturing the connections that bind people together.

Among his greatest joys was his daughter Amanda, whom he adored with a father's full and unwavering heart. The pride he took in her and the love he poured into their relationship were evident to all who knew them. Walter F. Clarke Jr. is survived by Amanda and her Husband Brian, and three *Grandchildren*: Bryce, age 20; Isabel, age 15 and Carter, age 10, who brought him immeasurable happiness in his later years. He is also lovingly remembered by *Nephews, Nieces, Cousins* and a wide extended family whose lives were made richer by his presence.

To know Walter was to know a man of intelligence, thoughtfulness, and grace. Welcoming to all and generous in conversation, he had a gift for making those around him feel valued. His memory will endure in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Elder Virginia Brewster
Officiant

WELCOME
Minister

SCRIPTURE READING
Old Testament:
Job 19: 25-27 NIV
Isaiah 41:10 NIV

New Testament
John 11: 38-44 NIV

PRAYER
Elder Virginia Brewster

SELECTION
"Memories of You"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CONDOLENCES
Minister

REMARKS
Friends and Family
Two Minutes Please

READING OF THE OBITUARY
Read Silently

THE EULOGY
Elder Virginia Brewster

U.S. ARMY MILITARY HONORS
Army Honor Guard

BENEDICTION
Minister

RECESSIONAL
Clergy, Family and Friends