



A Tribute in the Spirit of Reverend Reginald Thaddeus Burke, Sr.

*To my wife, Reverend First Lady Rachon Burke,
You walked beside me through life, love, ministry, and every season in between. You knew the man beyond the pulpit and loved me through it all. Thank you for being my companion, my ministry partner, and my home. When you miss me, remember the laughter, the prayers, the journeys, and every moment we shared. Loving you was one of God's greatest gifts to me.*

*To my children,
You are pieces of my heart that will continue walking long after I am gone. Keep God first. Love one another. Stand for what is right. Learn all you can, serve somebody along the way, and never become too successful to remember where God brought you from. When you need me, remember what I taught you—and keep the faith.*

*To my grandchildren,
PaPa wants you to dream big, love deeply, learn continually, and always know God for yourselves. Listen to the stories they tell about me, laugh often, and when the family gathers around the table to "break bread," remember that love always keeps a seat for those we carry in our hearts.*

*To my church family,
Thank you for allowing me to be your shepherd. If a sermon I preached strengthened you, strengthen someone else. If a lesson I taught helped you, teach somebody else. Feed the hungry. Encourage the weary. Welcome the forgotten. Love people—and above all, keep telling somebody about Jesus.*

Do not remember me only with tears. Remember the laughter, the lessons, the sermons, the fellowship, and the love.

My earthly assignment is complete, but the work continues through you.

Love God. Love one another. Serve people. Keep the faith.

And one glorious day, when there are no more sermons to preach and no more goodbyes to say, we will gather around Heaven's table and "break bread" once again.

*A commemorative tribute inspired by the life and ministry of
Reverend Reginald Thaddeus Burke, Sr.*

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Phillip Saxton
Monte Cowing
Shareef Thomas

John Webb
Martin Burke
Bryan Shelby

ACTIVE FLORAL BEARERS

Family & Friends

REPAST

Immediately following the Celebration of Life, the Family invites you to join them for a Repast at the J.P. Moore Celebration Center
2555 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32303

THE FAMILY'S MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

The family of Reverend Reginald Thaddeus Burke Sr. extends heartfelt gratitude for every prayer, kind word, embrace, and thoughtful gesture shown during this time of loss. Your love and support have brought comfort and strength to our hearts.

May God bless each of you for helping us honor and celebrate the beautiful life and memory of Reverend Burke.

*With heartfelt love and appreciation,
The Burke Family*



We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed upon us during the Homegoing Service of your loved one. Our fervent hope is that all measures of assistance rendered to your family have been completed in detail. For all your confidence placed in our staff and me, we will be forever grateful.

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Your Life Was A Blessing, Your Memory A Treasure



A SERVICE OF TRIUMPH HONORING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF



REVEREND
Reginald Thaddeus
BURKE, SR.

PREACHER • PASTOR • TEACHER • SERVANT • MENTOR
"A faithful servant. A gifted preacher. A life poured in service to God and His people."

BORN INTO TIME
December 22, 1973

BORN INTO ETERNITY
September 1, 2026

CELEBRATING HIS LIFE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
11:00 AM

Allen Temple CME Church
849 Kissimmee Street | Tallahassee, Florida 32310

*Bishop Clarence Kelby Heath, Eulogist
64th Elected Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
5th Episcopal District (Florida & Alabama)*

J.P. Moore Undertaking Company, Directing

The Life & Legacy of

Reverend Reginald Thaddeus Burke, Sr.

Reverend Reginald Thaddeus Burke, Sr., affectionately known as Reg, Reggie, Troop, and to so many simply as Pastor Burke, lived a life firmly rooted in faith, family, education, service, and an abiding love for people.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Reginald later moved to Homewood, Illinois, where he attended Homewood-Flossmoor High School. From his earliest years, he was surrounded by a rich heritage of faith, music, education, and service—values that would ultimately shape the man, minister, teacher, and leader he became.

Following high school, Reginald attended historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. There, he proudly became a member of the renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers, continuing a treasured family legacy established by his mother, Patricia Rose Saxton Burke; his uncle, Phillip Edward, affectionately known as “Uncle Phil” and his grandfather, Phillip Edward.

His Fisk years also brought a brotherhood he cherished throughout his life. As a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, affectionately known among his brothers as “Troop,” he embodied the ideals of scholarship, leadership, service, and brotherhood.

As a lifelong learner and gifted educator, Reginald earned his bachelor’s degree and teaching certification, and later answered a higher calling by earning his Master of Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary. Before entering pastoral ministry, he worked as a personal banker and later as a math and science teacher. Teaching was more than a profession for Reginald, it was part of who he was. Whether in a classroom, behind a pulpit, around a dinner table, or in everyday conversation, he believed knowledge was meant to be shared and people were meant to be encouraged.

In time, Reginald answered God’s call to pastoral ministry, dedicating his life to preaching the Gospel, shepherding God’s people, and strengthening communities. His pastoral journey included faithful service to New Hope CME Church in Evanston, Illinois; Trinity CME Church in Decatur, Illinois; Bray Temple CME Church in Chicago, Illinois; and Allen Temple CME Church in Tallahassee, Florida.

Pastor Burke understood that ministry could never be confined to the walls of a sanctuary. He believed the Church should be present wherever people were hurting, hungry, struggling, searching, or simply needed to know that someone cared.

That strong moral principle could be seen throughout his ministry. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he helped launch community vaccination initiatives to connect families with vital health resources. He served with Habitat for Humanity, helping build two homes for families in need. His work with Cops and Clergy helped strengthen relationships among churches, law enforcement, and neighborhoods, while his prison ministry carried a message of hope, redemption, and purpose behind prison walls. He also worked faithfully to provide food and clothing to those in need.

Pastor Burke's ministry could be summarized simply:
Bring people to Christ. Love people. Serve people. Teach people.

Those who encountered Reginald will remember his warm smile, commanding presence, humor, wisdom, unmistakable voice, and larger-than-life personality. He possessed a remarkable ability to enter a room and make his presence felt while still making others feel welcomed, valued, and seen.

Beyond the pulpit, Reginald loved to travel, teach, mentor, laugh, fellowship, and eat.

Yet, for him, sharing a meal was about much more than food. He affectionately called it “breaking bread.” Around the table were conversations, stories, laughter, lessons, fellowship, and love. For Reginald, some of life’s greatest ministry happened while simply breaking bread together. Above all, Reginald loved the Lord deeply, loved his family fiercely, and loved people without hesitation.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife and ministry partner, Rev. First Lady Rachon Burke; his beloved daughters, Taylor Renee Burke, Rachel Marie Burke, and Azjahnae Danielle Thomas; his beloved sons, Reggie Burke Jr. and Shareef Thomas; and his precious grandchildren, Asir Rachon Toney, Hasina Christine Thomas, Shareef Thomas Jr., and Asani David Thomas.

He also leaves his loving sister, Mary (Bill) Hladio; his loving brother, Martin (Claire Marie) Burke; a loving uncle: Phillip (Ruth) Saxton; and a host of beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members, fraternity brothers, clergy colleagues, church families, students, mentees, friends, and countless lives touched through his ministry.

Reginald was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Patricia Rose Saxton Burke, and his father, Henry Needham Burke.

Though his earthly assignment is complete, his ministry still speaks.
His sermons live through those who heard them.
His lessons live through the students he taught.
His compassion lives through those he served.
His wisdom lives through those he mentored.
His love lives through his family.
And his ministry continues through every life he pointed toward Christ.

Pastor Burke lived his faith, taught his faith, served through his faith; And now rests in the God he faithfully served.

Until that great reunion, when we gather once more around Heaven’s table to “break bread,” we will carry his faith, laughter, wisdom, love, and memory with us.

*A life well lived.
A race faithfully run.
A servant’s work complete.
A legacy that still speaks.*

Precious Memories



The Divine ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional Eulogist, Clergy, Mortician & Family

Parting Glance & Seating of the Family The *J.P. Moore* Staff

The Prayer of Consolation..... Reverend Nathaniel Harris

The Holy Scripture Reading First Lady Reverend Rachon Burke
Old & New Testament

Selection Allen Temple CME Music Ministry

FAMILY TRIBUTE & REFLECTIONS

Two Minutes Each, Please

Phillip Saxton
Martin Burke
John Webb

Acknowledgements & Resolutions The *J.P. Moore* Staff

Selection Allen Temple CME Music Ministry

Words of Comfort Bishop Clarence Heath

Service of Committal

Mortician's Brief.....Mr. Jamarieen “J.P.” Moore, LFD

Recessional..... Clergy & Family

His life was a living testimony of faith, love, service, and compassion.

A legacy that will continue to speak for generations.