A Celebration of Triumph

Captain Cassius Alonzo Harris III

Sunrise
June 30, 1917

Sunset
April 27, 2008

Sunday, May 4, 2008
Viewing: 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Service: 7:00 pm

Zion Shiloh Baptist Church
188 Clermont Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Interment
Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York
Obituary

Captain Cassius Alonzo Harris III was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 30, 1917 to the young parents, Cassius A. Harris II and Evelyn Imo Voss. He was educated in the public school system of Philadelphia and attended Temple University in Philadelphia and West Virginia State College. He graduated from West Virginia State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry and Mathematics in 1942. He also attended William Penn Business College majoring in Accounting and Business Law and returned to Temple University to complete studies in Business Administration, Retail & Finance.

Cassius married Eleanor Blanche Goodlett from Atlanta Georgia in September of 1941 where the Lord blessed them with two loving children; Cassius Alonzo Harris IV and Eleanor Evelyn Harris.

He Entered the United States Army Air Force in Tuskegee, Alabama on January 1, 1942 as a commissioned officer 2nd Lieutenant and attained the high rank of Captain. During World War II, Mr. Harris was one of 450 Black fighter pilots of the 1000 Black military aviators identified as “The Tuskegee Experiment”. Because of his flying skills and natural affinity for leadership and command he was sent to Pratt and Whitney Aircraft and certified as a Test Pilot. Mr. Harris was the first Black Test Pilot in the Army Air Force.

After he served faithful as an entrepreneur he devoted his life to the field of International Trading in the areas of Commodities, Transportation, Communication, Finance, Housing, Joint Venture Consultant and Banking in Africa, South American, Europe, The Far East and the Middle East. He was an active member of the NAACP, the National Urban League, and The Progressive Republican Club- Job Orientation in Neighborhoods (JOIN). Mr. Harris was an active participant in the political arena serving as campaigner for David Dinkins for Mayor of New York in 1989, Special Assistant to Deputy Director of Rockefeller-for-Governor Campaign in 1966, among other activities.

Captain Harris although raised in the Episcopal Church became a Born Again believer and was baptized into the Body of Christ at Zion Baptist Church in 1995. He faithfully served on the Board of Trustees and was Treasurer. Mr. Harris loved his Pastor, The Reverend John Pratt and helped implement many programs which served the community including Fort Greene and Clinton Hill area of Brooklyn, New York.

In February 2002 Captain Harris began residing at the Center of Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) in Brooklyn, New York until the Lord called him home on April 27, 2008.

He is lovingly survived by his wife; Eleanor Blanche Harris, one son; Retired Colonel Cassius A. Harris IV, one daughter; Reverend Eleanor E. Harris, one grandson; Cassius A. Harris V, one granddaughter; Lauren A. Harris, a lifetime and loving friend; Samuel Dunston and a host of relatives and friends.
Order of Service

PRELUDE

THE PROCESSIONAL Minister and Family

HONOR GUARD TRIBUTE McGuire Air Force Base

INVOCATION The Reverend Robert Bey

SCRIPTURE The Reverend Hermina Waithe

THE PRAYER OF COMFORT The Reverend David Crumpton

SELECTION Zion Shiloh Baptist Church

THE OBITUARY Read Silently

CELEBRATION PRAISE DANCE Evangelist Anthwon Williams

TRIBUTES/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS The Reverend Robert Bey

SELECTION Ulysses Slaughter

WORDS OF REFLECTION The Reverend Shirley R. Dowling
The Reverend Paul S. Owings, Sr.

SELECTION Zion Shiloh Baptist Church Choir

THE COMMITTAL The Reverend Paul J. Owings, Sr.
& Shirley R. Dowling

BENEDICTION The Reverend Robert Bey

RECESSIONAL

REPASS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
Following the service
"The Master Called"

I'm sorry I had to leave you. My loved ones, oh so dear. But you see, the Master called me, His voice was very clear! I had made my reservation a Heaven bound ticket for one, And I knew that He would call me when He felt my work was done. I know that your hearts are heavy because I have gone away. But when the Master called me, I knew that I could not stay. Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you my loved ones, oh so dear, but, you see, the Master called me and, now I'm resting here. Yes, I've crossed on over to glory and to you all I say, Just stay in the hands of Jesus and we'll meet again someday.

Tuskegee Army Flying School – Class 42-G-SE

Pictured: Richard Davis, Willie Fuller, Cassius A. Harris III, Earl E. King, Walter E. Lawson, John H. McClure, Leon C. Roberts and John W. Roberts

Acknowledgement

The family would like to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness and kindness during the Harris family bereavement.

The Family

Final Arrangements Entrusted By:
DeKalb Funeral Services, Inc.
491 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11205
(718) 230-3147/3127