

PALLBEARERS

Casby Coffey
John Coffie
Clarence Cotton
Calvin Eley
Marvin Johnson
Kevin Williamson

FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Lorenzo A. Brooks wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, comfort, love and supports. Words cannot express our gratitude for the many kindnesses, phone calls, texts, tweets, postings, visits, food deliveries, flowers, cards, and most of all your prayers. We would also like to thank the staff of Carriage Hill Rehabilitation Center in Bethesda, MD for their wonderful care. We are truly thankful for all of the staff members of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's 4th Floor Medical Intensive Care Unit and the 3 Center Cardiology Unit, Food Services, Chaplains, cleaning staff and all those who cared for Lorenzo. We would also like to send a special thank you to Reverend Willette Wright, who traveled the miles many times to make sure she kept up with our family. We are so very grateful to the Howell Funeral Home for their professional care during our time of bereavement. To Bishop John A. Cherry, II and Reverend Lawanda Cherry, thank you for your teachings and your example on how to handle adversity to help prepare us for these moments. Minister Briscoe, you are awesome. We would also like to thank Reverend Porter and Karen Lawson, Jr., for their prayers and support during this time. Last but certainly not least, thank you for all those who served us to make this day possible, and our awesome From the Heart Church Family!

Services Entrusted To:
Howell Funeral Home
Jessup, Maryland

A Celebration of Life

for

Lorenzo Arvell Brooks

March 27, 1929 – February 8, 2020



Monday, March 9, 2020

Viewing: 10:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
4949 Allentown Road
Suitland, MD 20746
Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn Nothing But The Blood of Jesus

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 27:5
New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Mrs. Dana Yates

Acknowledgements

*Oswald Warner, Jr., DDS, Friend
Mr. Clarence Cotton, Family Friend
Mrs. Carletta Brooks-Nelson, Daughter
Mr. Ryan Nelson, Grandson*

Poem Mrs. Tawanna Chesly

Obituary *(Read Silently)*

Song of Preparation Mrs. Dana Yates

Message of Hope Reverend Willette O. Wright

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

Interment:
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA
(Date to be determined)



Congregational Hymn

Nothing But The Blood of Jesus

*What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain

*Now by this I'll overcome—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
Now by this I'll reach my home—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain

*Glory! Glory! This I sing—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
All my praise for this I bring—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain



Obituary

Lorenzo Arvell Brooks, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He was born to the late Irene Theresa Hall Brooks, and the late Alonza J. Brooks, at D.C. General Hospital.

Lorenzo accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age after attending church with his beloved great-grandmother, Hattie L. Jett. At church, his great-grandmother introduced him to Miss Catherine in 1953. Their friendship blossomed into a courtship and the two later married on August 12, 1956, in Washington, D.C.

Lorenzo attended D.C. Public Schools; after which he enlisted in the United States Army in May of 1951. He served in the 179th Infantry in the Korean War. There he received a Bronze Medal and Meritorious Service Award. Brooks, as he was lovingly called, returned home to Maryland from Korea, where he experienced racism, in uniform, while seeking gainful employment. He was allowed to ride the streetcar in D.C.; however, he had to get off the car as he reached the Maryland line since colored people were not allowed to ride any further.

Following his honorable discharge from the Army, he enlisted in the District of Columbia National Guard, serving as a sergeant in the 171st Military Police Battalion, the 163rd Military Police Battalion and the 547th LMT Company. As a sergeant, he was awarded the National Meritorious Service Medal, and numerous other commendations. He later enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve. During his time in the Army Reserve he traveled all over the country; and was a leader responsible for feeding hundreds of soldiers. Despite adverse conditions, under his leadership, he and his unit delivered hot delicious meals on time. As a reservist, he worked at the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and was assigned to work on the old VIP Ward 8, and later, VIP Ward 72, as the chief cook. “Chef Brooks,” as he was called, prepared meals for former President Eisenhower and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, former Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and George H.W. Bush. First Lady Mamie Eisenhower loved his cooking so much that she invited Brooks and his entire family to visit her at Camp David.

Lorenzo also served the former Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur, former Surgeon General of the United States, Bernhard Mittermeyer, Senators Edward Brooke and Everett Dirksen, Secretary of the Army John Marsh, Jr., Deputy Under Secretary of the Army John W. Shannon, and the former King of Jordan, King Hussein to name a few. Lorenzo regularly received commendations for outstanding performance, and superb service from these notable individuals. During his tenure at Walter Reed, Lorenzo further mastered his craft by attending Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. He retired as a Cook Supervisor at Walter Reed in 1989.

During his retirement, Lorenzo’s fellow U. S. Army retired soldiers’ group, met monthly at an area restaurant. His good friend, Sergeant Gunther and others maintained constant contact with him, always checking up on him. Lorenzo maintained a 50+ year fellowship with his former Walter Reed co-worker, friend, and brother, Mr. Robert Garrett.

While cooking was Lorenzo’s passion, what he loved most after his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, was his darling wife Catherine, his children and grandchild. He was truly a devoted husband, father, grandfather and father-in-love. One can say that he was truly a GENTLEMAN of “gentle men.” He enjoyed getting together and celebrating holidays, birthdays, etc., with an army of family and friends.

Of note, he always had a date with his sweetie, Catherine for every anniversary and Valentine’s Day. Also, he always made sure his girls received a bouquet of flowers and/or a large box of chocolates for Valentine’s Day. He was an awesome father who taught his sons to tie a tie, change a tire, perform home repairs, treat women with respect, provide for themselves and family, and to be Godly men. He was proud of all his children, often bragging about their accomplishments. He had a great relationship with his son-in-law, enjoying family barbecues and football games. He later became so excited to be the proud grandfather of Ryan. Lorenzo enjoyed playing with Ryan, taking him on trips, watching him play sports, music, attending graduations, birthdays, etc. Additionally, he was a source of wisdom that gave him the truth of God’s word, but more than that, showed by example.

In 1994, after visting for a while, Lorenzo and Catherine joined From the Heart Church Ministries. Mom and Dad Brooks, as they were affectionately known, both joined the Helps Ministry at the Church. They were members of the Repast Team within the Helps Ministry, where they proudly wore their yellow and white attire with a smile. Under the oversight of Reverend Willette O. Wright, they fellowshipped often and gained multiple lasting friendships. The couple truly enjoyed serving the people. They literally opened the doors of the church by being one of the first in line to get their “designated” seats. They were wise counselors, friends, and confidantes to their church family as well as their neighbors’ friends and family, children, and even their children’s co-workers. On any given Sunday, after parking in premier spots on the church parking lot, arriving before most ministry workers and members, Brother and Sister Brooks were known to “hold court” before worship services, in their “reserved seats” in the middle rear area of the church before services began.

Along with his passion for cooking, he had a passion for fishing, photography and travel. He often went deep sea fishing to Chincoteague Island, Chesapeake, and Wachapreague Island or enjoyed pier fishing from Deale Island, Solomon’s Island, and Cambridge Island in Maryland. His love for photography found him spending countless hours behind his 35mm Canon camera, taking thousands of photographs. His love of travel took him to local and international venues. Lorenzo, his family and friends enjoyed traveling to see plays in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, taking pictures at the Hoover Dam, taking his grandchild to Disney World, visiting family members in Bowling Green and Lynchburg, Virginia or New York, visiting friends in Ohio, Alaska, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands or traveling across the continent to Thailand.

Lorenzo had such a lively personality that it was never hard to approach him about any topic. He was able to relate to the young and the old. He was the kind of person that would give you the shirt off of his back. At the same time, Lorenzo demonstrated some tough love; always willing to give advice and teach others how to do things with his many talents. Growing up, he was thought of as the sergeant as everything would have to be organized, and before time, not on time. He was a stickler for time. If you were on time, then you were late.

There was nothing that he did half way. He lived life to the fullest and loved being around others, whether watching his beloved Washington Redskins play (even though he would get mad at them), or celebrating a personal victory with a family or friend. He believed in excellence whether he was cooking, making the bed, cleaning, doing projects around the house, or studying the Word of God. He was known for giving tons of advice to those who were cooking, often putting on the apron and offering his expertise, giving detailed instructions, while sticking his finger in the pot to see if it was PERFECT! He loved to drive and tell you how to drive. He woke up early and was always ready for his next adventure. He looked at people as though it was his job to serve them.

Lorenzo was never ashamed to say how much he loved the Lord Jesus Christ and how grateful he was for his wife and family, church and many friendships. Staff in the hospital units where he often stayed came to know Mr. Brooks as family. When his health continued to decline, Lorenzo continued to listen to the From the Heart Church Ministries’ livestream, CDs and DVDs. He always expressed his appreciation for all of those who cared for him. We have peace knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. It is comforting to know that Lorenzo is resting in the arms of Jesus. This is not goodbye, but a celebration of a life well-lived and a job well done! It is—see you later Lorenzo, daddy, granddaddy, uncle Lo, Brother Brooks, an awesome husband, father, father-in-love, grandfather, uncle, cousin, friend and neighbor!!! It is for these things we are so grateful for the life of Lorenzo A. Brooks. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Lorenzo leaves to cherish his memory the love of his life and wife of 63 years, Catherine Clara Smith Brooks; six children, Arvell Brooks, Carletta (Darrell) Renee Brooks-Nelson, Deborah Brooks, Alonzo Brooks, Stephanie Brooks and Jason Brooks; one beloved grandchild, Ryan Christian Nelson; long-time friend, Robert Garrett; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Lorenzo was preceded in death by his sister, Marguerite Brooks, and great-grandmother Hattie L. Jett.