

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

for

Houston and Patricia Bridges



October 3, 1944
to
December 23, 2025

August 4, 1942
to
February 15, 2026

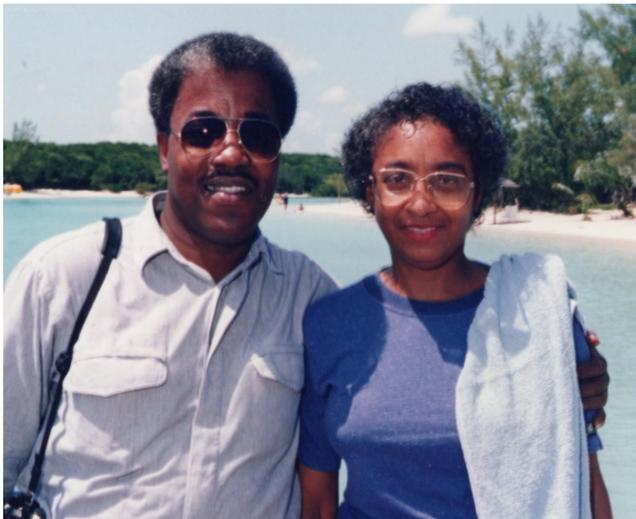
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Viewing: 10:00 a.m. | Service: 11:00 a.m.

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES•

4949 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746

BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR



Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Isaiah 41:10
New Testament: Philippians 4:4-9

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Mrs. Linda Gray

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Mr. Michael Garcia, Friend
Mr. Vernon Rhodes, Friend
Mr. Doug Sands, Friend
Mr. Terrence J. Nealy, Nephew
Ms. Paula Patrick, Friend
Ms. Latrice Price, Friend
Mr. Courtland Akers, Brother

Poem Mr. Marshall Opie

Obituary *(Read Silently)*

Song of Preparation Mrs. Linda Gray

Message of Hope Bishop John A. Cherry, II

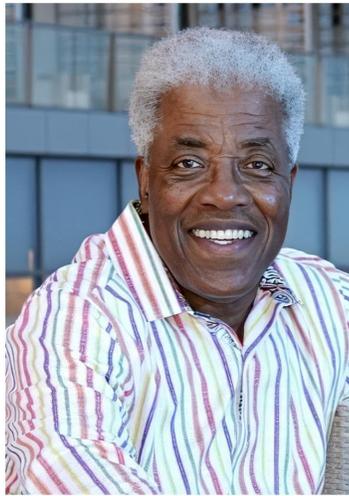
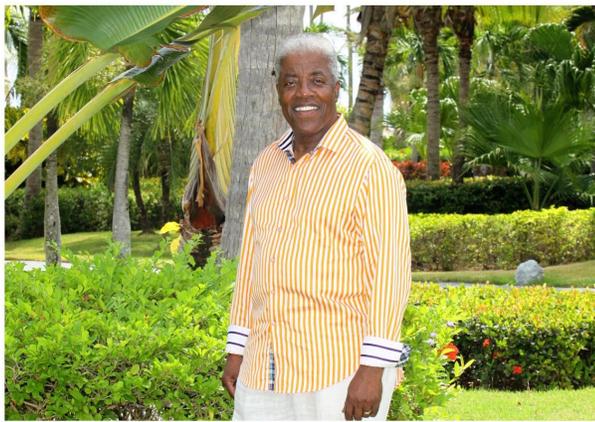
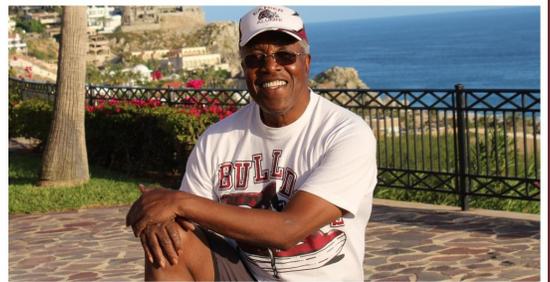
Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.
Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
11301 Crain Highway | Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



Obituary

Houston Bridges, Jr. was born on October 3, 1944, in Jackson, Mississippi, to the late Houston and Lizzie Harris Bridges. The sixth of eight children, he was preceded in death by his sister, Yvonne Bridges; and brothers, Julius “Dick” Harris, Roosevelt “Trigg” Harris, and Willie “Bill” Charles Bridges.

In 1963, Houston graduated from Lanier High School, where he was crowned “Mr. Lanier.” He later attended Tougaloo College and went on to graduate cum laude from Park University with a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Human Resources. Houston proudly served in the United States Air Force as a security policeman, earning numerous honors before retiring with distinction.

In 1971, Houston married the love of his life, Patricia. From the beginning, their shared love of travel took them across the globe, exploring places such as the Caribbean, Ghana, Tangier, Uganda, and Mexico. From horseback riding to snorkeling, they were always looking for some new adventure to enjoy together. This dynamic duo was married for 54 years. Their love was a beautiful testament to how deeply two hearts can be intertwined in life and, ultimately, in death. Patricia passed away just 54 days after Houston.

Houston’s Christian journey began at Mount Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, where he attended annual revivals with his grandparents. In 1958, he joined and was baptized at Mount Helm Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He rededicated his life to Jesus Christ in 1993 and joined From the Heart Church Ministries. For more than thirty years, Houston faithfully served and participated in the life of the Church through the New Members and Academic Tutorial Ministries, weekly worship services, and numerous churchwide events. Alongside his wife, he served as ministry head of the Seniors Ministry, where they revitalized the program and expanded events and activities beyond the walls of the church. Their energy and enthusiasm sparked a renewed sense of excitement and interest, so much so that the seniors were ready to roll, no matter the time or place.

Houston Bridges, Jr. was an extraordinary man who deeply loved his family and community. Whether attending a funeral, celebrating a birthday, or cheering at a child’s robotics tournament, he made every effort to show up and support others. A man with many talents, Houston was an exceptional cook, which is no surprise since he came from a long line of great cooks! He was also an avid photographer who enjoyed capturing images of family and friends every chance he got. In his quiet time, Houston enjoyed researching his family history and proudly served as the family historian. And if you knew Houston, you know about his style. He had a sharp eye for clothes and wore them well. His natural confidence and classic look always set him apart.

Houston will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. He leaves to cherish his memory his stepdaughter, Krista Hurley of Okinawa, Japan; brothers, Donald Bridges of Jackson, Mississippi and Herbert Bridges of Madison, Alabama; sister, Lillie Crook of Las Vegas, Nevada; sisters-in-law, Ruthie Bridges and Barbara Bridges of Jackson, Mississippi; brother-in-law, Courtland Akers of St. Louis, Missouri; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, dear friends, and his church family at From the Heart Church Ministries, all of whom will forever treasure his life and legacy.



Obituary

Patricia Wylean Bridges, née Akers, was born on August 4, 1942, in St. Louis, Missouri, to the late Jesse and Lorene Anne Akers. She was the oldest of four children. Patricia attended St. Bridget of Erin Parochial School and graduated from Rosati Kain High School.

In 1971, she married Houston Bridges, Jr. Patricia loved to travel and often shared that it was Houston's promise to "show her the world" that first captured her heart. Being a true Missourian, she responded, "Show me." And he did. That promise blossomed into 54 years of extraordinary adventures spanning five continents, 51 countries, and 47 states.

Patricia earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Education from Park College and completed post-baccalaureate studies in gerontology at Ball State University. Her strong academic foundation led to a distinguished career in the federal government. Recognized for her excellence and dedication, she received the prestigious Air Force Civilian Personnelist of the Year Award; the highest honor in her field. She retired in 1997 after years of exemplary service.

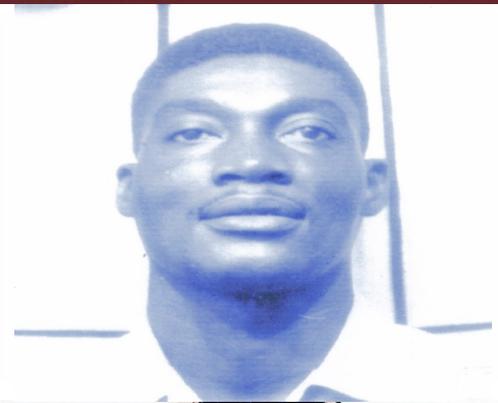
In 1992, Patricia received a life-saving kidney transplant of which her daughter, Krista, was the donor. She was forever grateful and vowed to give continual praise and thanks for this gift of life and not let the sun go down without sharing her gift in some way. Patricia truly lived out the meaning of *Matthew 5:16*, allowing her light to shine through service and kindness.

Committed to transplant awareness and healthy living, Patricia learned to swim and bowl competitively. At first, she competed in the Eastern Shore Senior Games, then on to the Maryland Senior Olympics, which eventually led to the National Transplant Games. Competing well into her late 70s in both categories, Patricia always brought home medals, but she would humbly say, "The Games aren't about winning; they're a celebration of life."

In 1993, Patricia joined From the Heart Church Ministries where she served with unwavering dedication. Whether teaching noonday Bible Study, visiting nursing homes, or delivering medical supplies to the homebound, she gave of herself wholeheartedly. She was both a member and ministry head of the Bookstore (Tape Distribution) Ministry. Alongside her husband, she served as ministry head of the Seniors Ministry. Under their tenure, events such as the High Hat Tea, Vintage Fashion Show, and Afternoon of Praise became treasured memories for many.

Patricia was preceded in death by her husband, Houston Bridges, Jr.; brother, Jesse Akers, Jr.; and sister, Debra Louise Akers.

Patricia will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Krista Hurley of Okinawa, Japan; brother, Courtland Akers of St. Louis, Missouri; sisters-in-law, Patricia Akers and Carolyn Akers of St. Louis, Missouri; Lillie Crook of Las Vegas, Nevada; Ruthie Bridges and Barbara Bridges of Jackson, Mississippi; brothers-in-law, Donald Bridges of Jackson, Mississippi, and Herbert Bridges of Madison, Alabama; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, dear friends, and her church family at From the Heart Church Ministries, all of whom will forever treasure her life and legacy.





Family Sentiments



Dear Aunt Pat and Uncle Houston,

There are no words big enough to express how much you both meant to me or how deeply your love shaped my life. You taught me to walk with my head high, shoulders back, and with purpose — not just physically, but spiritually and emotionally too. You showed me how to stand strong in who I am, to carry myself with dignity, and to trust the path God has placed before me. Those lessons live in me every single day.

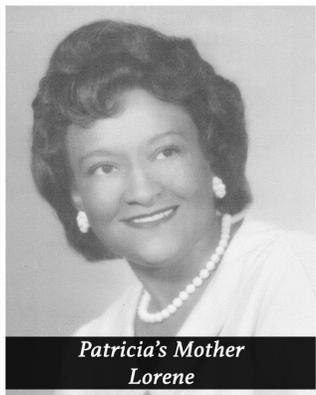
Some of my most treasured memories are the summers I spent visiting you for those couple of weeks each year — from the walks through the Pentagon halls, to the strolls down the Museum Mall, and even my first experience riding the subway. More than the places themselves, I remember how safe, proud, and deeply loved you always made me feel.

I truly believe God blessed my life by placing you both in it. Your guidance, your example, and your faith continue to guide me even now. Though my heart aches missing you here, I find comfort knowing you are at peace, wrapped in eternal love, still watching over all of us. Your spirit, your strength, and your love will forever be part of who I am.

Thank you for loving me, believing in me, and helping shape the woman I've become. I carry you with me in my heart, in my faith, and in every confident step I take. Until we meet again, please know how deeply you are loved and how profoundly you are missed.

With all my love, always, Your niece, Jessica Day





Patricia's Mother
Lorene



Patricia's Father
Jesse Akers, Sr.



Congregational Hymn

AMAZING GRACE!

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come,
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.*

Acknowledgements

The Bridges and Akers families thank you for your presence, prayers, calls, messages, and unconditional love. Seeing so many people come together to honor our beloved Houston and Patricia Bridges was a beautiful reflection of the same kindness and generosity they shared with others. May God bless you for the comfort and strength you have given our family.

We extend a special thank you to From the Heart Church Ministries for your unwavering support. To the clergy, musicians, and everyone who helped make this celebration of life so meaningful, we are forever thankful. Also, to everyone who showed up for Houston and Patricia, whether you gave them a ride, prepared a meal, sat with them, stopped by to visit, made a call, sent a text, or said a prayer, thank you. Every act of kindness, big or small, meant so much and helped them feel loved each and every day.

Pallbearers

*Michael Bridges, Danny Bridges, Demetrius Bridges,
Terrence W. Nealy, Terrence J. Nealy, Frederick Lutu,
Marshall Opie, Gerald Fauntroy, Doug Sands*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Services Entrusted To:

*Wiseman Funeral Home and Chapel
4591 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746*