

Celebrating the Life of



Ralph Ricardo Leslie, Sr.

September 1, 1937

April 8, 2007

Services

Saturday, April 14, 2007

Visitation - 10:00 A.M. - Funeral - 11:00 A.M.

Covenant United Church of Christ

***1130 East 154th St.
South Holland, Illinois 60473***

Reverend Dr. Ozzie E. Smith, Jr., Senior Pastor

Obituary

Ralph Ricardo Leslie, Sr. was born September 1, 1937 in Athens, Alabama to the union of Robert Homer Leslie Sr. and Mildred Pennington. He was the second of four children. Ralph was educated at Miller Public Elementary and graduated from Trinity High School where he excelled in sports, particularly football. During this time in Athens he enjoyed a close relationship with his siblings, cousins and extended family.

He attended Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN where he was inducted into Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. While at Tennessee State he spent considerable time with, and was positively influenced by, his first cousins Hugh and Justine Pincham, and the Honorable R. Eugene Pincham, as well as his best friend Curtis Murphy. This special bond continued throughout their lives. Ralph graduated from Tennessee State in 1961 with a degree in Business Administration. He also served in the U.S. Army, based in Fort Collins, Colorado, receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1967.

Ralph married his high school sweetheart Willean Warren who was a loving and devoted wife. One child, Ralph Ricardo Leslie, Jr. (Rick) was born from this union. They resided in Chicago as Ralph pursued a successful career with the Illinois Department of Human Services, retiring in 2001 after 34 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer, Sr. and Mildred Leslie, siblings Robert and Jay Elise and numerous aunts and uncles.

He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Willean; son, Ralph, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Michelle; granddaughter, Taylor (the pride and joy of his life); sister, JoAnn Leslie-Gillie with whom he had a close relationship; nieces, Robin Archer, Ariel Cunningham, Olivett Boyd and Andrea Lightfoot; nephews, Robert Homer Leslie III, Russell Leslie and Randal Lightfoot; sisters-in-law, Dorelle Leslie, Elethea Cunningham (Oliver), Delane Warren, and Sheila Lightfoot (James), plus a host of cousins and friends.

He was a faithful member of Covenant United Church of Christ and along with his wife, recently traveled with Pastor Ozzie Smith and a delegation to West Africa to assist with the building of a school.

Ralph was an avid and passionate sports fan and particularly loved the Chicago Bears and Bulls.

Ralph left us suddenly and unexpectedly on Easter Sunday. He will continue to live in the hearts and memories of his family and friends.

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

CALL TO WORSHIP/INVOCATION

HYMN OF CONSOLATION

"Blessed Assurance"

THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

The Board of Deacons

Old Testament

Psalm 23

New Testament

John 14:1-6

PRAYER

Rev. Rhoda Barnes

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Choir Selection

TRIBUTES

Curtis Murphy

Cornelius Young

The Hon. R. Eugene Pincham

RESOLUTIONS

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Deacon Brian Smith

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pastoral Staff

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Rev. Dr. Ozzie E. Smith, Jr.

WORDS OF COMFORT

Rev. Dr. Ozzie E. Smith, Jr.

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

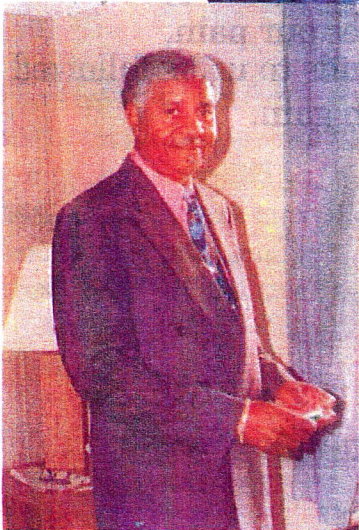
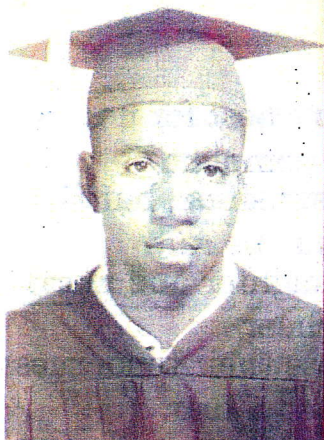
Interment

Lincoln Cemetery
12300 S. Kedzie Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Repast

2115 Sunset Lane
South Holland, Illinois
708-845-3006

Memories



God Knows Best

Our Father know what's best for us... So
why should we complain?
We always want the sunshine, but He
knows there must be rain.
We love the sound of laughter and merri-
ment of cheer,
but our hearts would lose their tenderness
if we never shed a tear.
Our Father tests us often with suffering
and with sorrow.
He tests us not to punish us, but to help
us meet tomorrow..
For growing trees are strengthened, when
they withstand the storm.
And the sharp cut of the chisel, gives the
marble grace and form.
God never hurts us needlessly, and He
never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us, is followed
by rich gain.

Pallbearers

William Kelley
Chad Harris
Derrick Young

Richard Evans
Kennedy Jones
Robert Pincham, Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

David Harris, Sr.
Curtis Murphy


Oliver Cunningham
Cornelius Young



Acknowledgements

The family of **Ralph Leslie** acknowledges with sincere gratitude the many expressions of love and sympathy extended to them through your prayers, calls, cards, visits and presence during his homegoing celebration. We will personally acknowledge your acts of kindness at a later date.

—Arrangements and Direction Entrusted To —

 **Frank and Sons Funeral Chapels**
(773) 846-6587