

A Celebration Of Life
for
Harry Jefferson, Jr.

September 9, 1934

October 27, 2023

Home Going Service
Saturday, November 11, 2023

Mount Hope AME Zion Church
65 Lake Street, White Plains, New York 10604

Viewing - 9-10:00 a.m.

Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, Senior Pastor



Obituary

Harry Jefferson, Jr. died peacefully in his home on October 27, 2023, surrounded by his family members. Harry was born as the fourth of five children to Bertha and Harry Jefferson, Sr. in White Plains, NY on September 9, 1934.

A White Plains native, Harry graduated in 1953 from White Plains High school where he was an athletic standout and the captain of the varsity and football track teams. Also, he was elected to All-County, All-Conference, All Metropolitan, and All National High School All-American Football Team. He was a New York State 180-yard low hurdles champion and a member of the New York State Champion 880-yard track team. He was also selected as a member of the All-County and All Metropolitan Track Team.

He received a full football scholarship at the University of Illinois and was selected to the All-Big-Ten Team and All-American in 1955. In 1955 Mr. Jefferson was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corp and became a close friend of Bill Cosby. Lt. Jefferson was named most valuable player and selected to the All-American Armed Forces Team. After his military service, he joined the New York Giants Professional Football Team, but sustained a serious leg injury which terminated his career as a professional football player.

Harry met the love of his life, Gerthalene Hines, at the University of Illinois and they got married on February 2, 1958, in Decatur, Illinois.

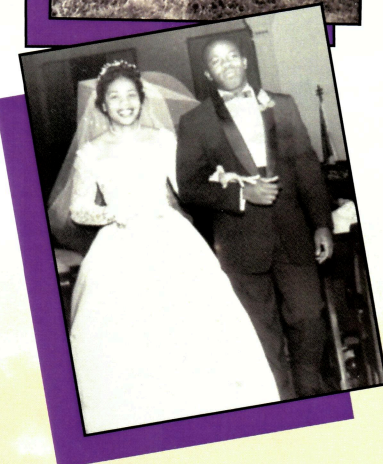
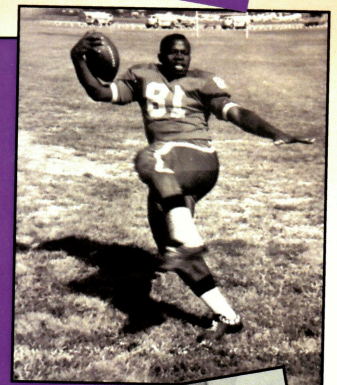
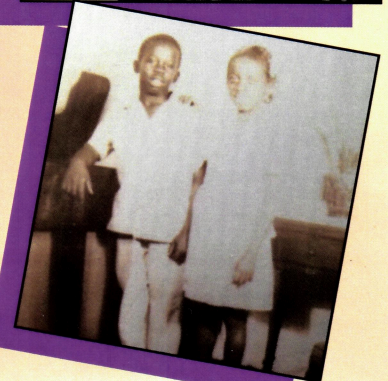
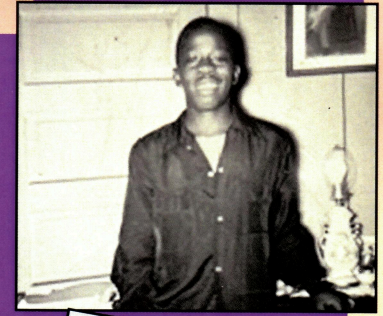
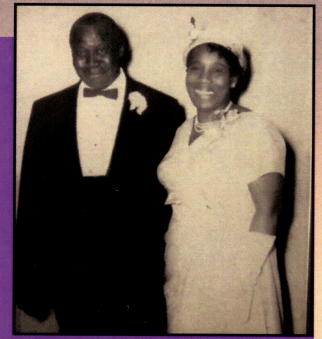
After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1958, Harry returned to White Plains as a teacher and coach in 1959. Later he earned his Masters' Degree from Columbia University. At White Plains High School, Harry coached the varsity basketball, football, and track teams for thirteen years. During that time, his extraordinary coaching skills led to two Section I Championships and resulted in many of his players receiving basketball scholarships. In 1966, Harry's peers selected him as Coach of the Year, and in 1984, Harry was inducted into the Westchester Sports Hall of Fame.

In 1972, Harry was appointed to his first administrative position. Harry retired as the Assistant Principal of the White Plains High School in 1996. He created an extraordinary legacy of guidance as Harry served as a friend, mentor, spiritual, moral guide, and substitute father to thousands of students during his 37-year career as an educator.

Harry earned many awards and honors including: A White Plains Slater Center Honoree, the Martin Luther King Educational Leadership Award, the Westchester County Distinguished Service Award, and a White Plains High School Hall of Fame inductee. In 1993 The White Plains Board of Education established the annual Harry Jefferson Classic Basketball Tournament, in February 2000 he won a Fritz Pollard Award for high achievement in sports, and in recent years White Plains High School renamed their gymnasium in his honor.

He dedicated his life to serving the community. He joined Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – a public service organization - in 1956 when he was initiated through the Pi Psi Chapter at the University of Illinois. In 1978 he was one of the charter members of the Beta Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi in White Plains. Additionally, he volunteered with the White Plains Youth Board and the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

Much of Harry's success in life can be attributed to the richness of his spiritual and family life. He was a longstanding and active member of the Mt. Hope A.M.E Zion Church. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and uncle. Harry and Gerthalene are the parents of two wonderful children, Clifford (Hiromi) and Elaine, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Harry is also survived by his sister, Gloria, and many nieces and nephews.



Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Hymn of Comfort Hymn # 662

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Devine"

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament: Psalm 46

New Testament: Matthew 7:7-8

Prayer of Comfort

Choir Selection Vision Choir

Acknowledgements / Resolution

Hymn of Consolation Hymn #282

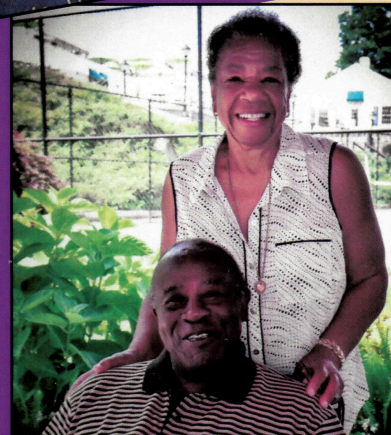
"What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Hymn"

Obituary *(Read Silently)*

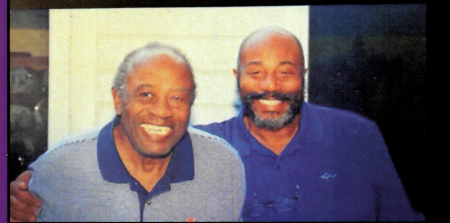
Musical Selection

Eulogy Reverend Gregory Robeson Smith

Recessional



Celebrating Harry's 85th & Clifford's 60th Birthday



Acknowledgements

My Work is Finished

*I did what I came to do.
As God has loved me,
so have I loved you.
To bring peace and happiness,
has been my goal
To serve my fellow man,
The young and the old.
My friends and family
Were meant to be,
God's greatest gift on earth to me.
Yes there were good times,
And there were bad.
But the secret of love
I've always had
Weep not for me,
I have finished my race.
I've gone to rest in a far greater place.
My work is finished,
I did what I came to do.
May God shed his grace
And blessings on each of you.*

Harry Jefferson, Jr.

Pallbearers

Byron Smalls, Sylvester Holmes, Frank Williams
Curt Hines, Terrance Scott, Dave Kaminer,
Nicholas Wolff, Alikhan Morgan

Contributions

American Red Cross
106 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10605
914.946.6500

Professional Services Entrusted to
Lee's Funeral Home, LLC
160 Fisher Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606
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