

“A LIFE WELL LIVED”



Pleze Crawford, Sr.

April 21, 1923 ~ July 4, 2021

Services

July 26, 2021 11:30 A.M.



Officiant Rev. Reuben W. Ford, Sr. Pastor
Parks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

San Fernando • California

A Life Well-Lived

Obituary



Pleze Crawford was born on April 21, 1923 in Rubyville, Ohio to Columbus and Annie Crawford. He was the fifth child of six children born to this union. The family moved to Birmingham, Alabama when Pleze was a small boy, where his father died tragically while working in a coal mine. His mother later met and married Will Turner, and to this union seven more children were born. Annie and Will had a full house with 13 children.

Pleze as a young child attended Spaulding School in Mason City, Alabama, where he met his partner in life, his wife Sophia Williams. They married on July 23, 1943--a marriage that lasted 75 years. They had five children: Pleze Jr., Sandra, Charles, Carl, and Jeanette.

In 1943, Pleze was drafted into the United States Army to serve in World War II. Following his medical discharge from the Army, he worked for Southern Pacific Railroad for 43 years. While working for the railroad, he was noticed by his supervisor for being a hard and dedicated worker. Because of his work ethic and attention to detail, he was selected and honored to prepare the coach car for our 33rd President, Harry S. Truman.

In search of a better life for his wife and children, Pleze was a pioneer and made the decision to transfer his job and move his family to California. Soon many other family members followed in his footsteps, initially staying with him and Sophia until they found a place of their own. Throughout the years, Pleze travelled various places but always made special trips to Alabama, Indiana, and Ohio, returning to visit family and friends.

Being the provider that he was, Pleze obtained additional employment with Manfulls Dairy Farm as a maintenance supervisor. As Pleze's endeavors continued, he became an entrepreneur by starting his own janitorial business, Crawford's Klear Vue Maintenance. Pleze was well-known throughout the San Fernando Valley as an expert carpet and upholstery cleaner.

When Pleze's children were young, he made fond memories by taking them out on special excursion to dinner at Clifton in downtown L.A., Disneyland, Pacific Ocean Park (POP), Knott's Berry Farm, Santa Monica, and Long Beach. These times were always delightful for Pleze's children.

Pleze was always known to keep a clean ride--from a station wagon, to Cadillacs, motorhomes, and a 1969 Lincoln Mark III. Pleze put his sons to work by having yet another business detailing cars to help pay for the family summer vacations.

Pleze accepted Christ at an early age and later became a member of Parks Chapel A.M.E. Church in 1957, until his passing. He was an active member serving several years on the usher board, the trustee board and working with the Men of Allen. Throughout the church, Pleze was well-known for being a very sharp dresser, appearing in several church fashion shows throughout the San Fernando Valley. He

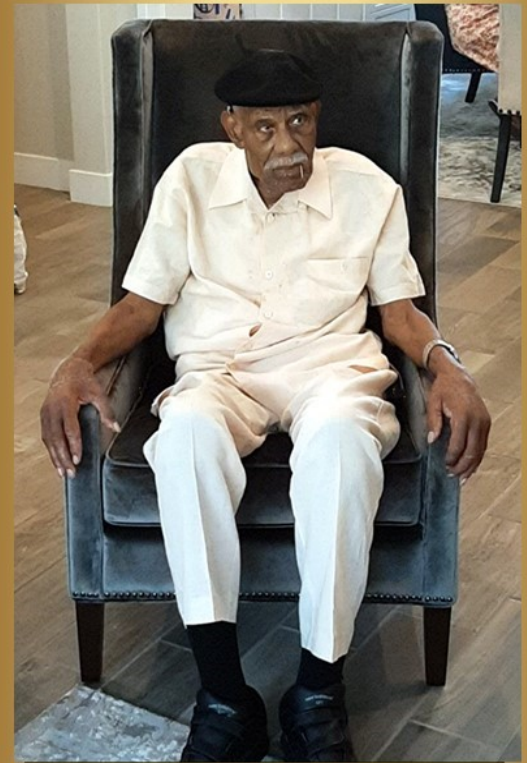
was their “Top Male Model.” People loved his style and class. When they asked, “How are you doing?” he would always respond, “Lovely.” He would become affectionally known as “Mr. Lovely.”

Pleze enjoyed listening to gospel music and some good ol’ downhome blues. Pleze always believed he was a “winner” and had one day hoped to win the Publisher’s Clearing House Sweepstakes. He was always shaved and ready; waiting for them to bring his big check and balloons. He was an avid news watcher and enjoyed discussing politics with various family members and friends. Pleze was elated to vote for our first African American President; he cried when President Barack Obama was elected.

Pleze, our patriarch, father, grandfather, and trusted friend instilled in each of us the importance of family, friendship, and the love of God. Although Pleze came from humble beginnings, he never forgot the values that were instilled in him. He was a strong man of faith and conviction who believed in family, integrity, and the value of a good education. He thought those were priceless. Pleze would always say, “there was no using the word can’t.” No matter what he set out to do, he accomplished it.

Pleze is survived by his five children: Pleze Jr., (Ruth) Sandra, Charles (Geneva), Carl (Merrion), Jeanette (Darron); 14 grandchildren: Tamala (Gilbert), Dennis, Leah (Michael), Tameiko (Anthony), Rodney, Sean, Devin, Pleze III (Maria), Titus (Aisha), Adriana, John, Kira, Jasper; 15 great grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren; one sister Elsie Foster; and four sisters -in-law: Helen Crawford, Vivian Turner, JoAnn Turner Adkins, and Artney Turner; a host of nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his loving wife Sophia, of 75 years, 11 siblings, son-in-law Dennis M. Rose, daughter-in-law Delores Campbell-Crawford, grandson Donyale Harvey, and granddaughter Shelly Thompson.

Dad
Always Forever
on in
our mind.. our heart..







Order of Service



Musical Prelude

Andrae Alexander, Minister of Music

Processional

Ministers and Family

Welcome/Prayer

Rev. Reuben W. Ford, Officiant

Parks Chapel AME Church

Selection

William Watkins

If I can Help Somebody

Old and New Testament

Pastor Thomas Carter

Living Stone Cathedral of Worship

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3:1-4

Matthew Chapter 5:3-8

Selection

Martina Berry

Order My Steps

Acknowledgements/Resolution

Myrna Cantrell

Reading of the Obituary

Tamala Crawford

Remarks and Reflections

Jeanette Crawford-McCuller

Words of Comfort

Bishop Henry Hearn

Selection

Angela Hearn

Take Me to the King

Eulogy

Rev. Ira L. Woodfin Dickason

Parting View and Processional

“Going Up Yonder”



~ REPAST ~

Immediately following service

Terrace Clubhouse

25191 Via Princessa

Santa Clarita, CA 91387

(818) 601-4012



~INTERNMENT~

Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10 am

Eternal Valley Memorial Park

23287 North Sierra Highway

Newhall, CA 91321

(661) 259-0800



**Mason Chapel United Methodist Church,
Mason City Alabama**

**Dad's church he attended
when he was 3 years old.**





*In Memory
of
Our Loving Father*

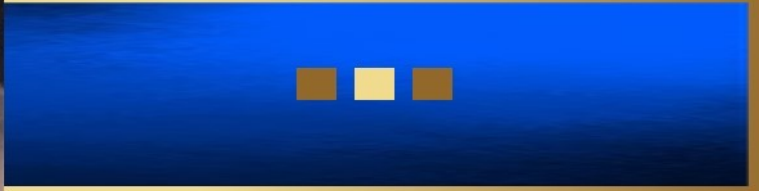
*If we could write a story
It would be the greatest story told
Of a kind and loving Father
Who had a heart of gold
If we could write a million pages
We would still be unable to say,
Just how much we loved you
And will miss you every day
We will remember all you taught us
In your loving and guiding way.
We won't be sad and we will always love you as
Our Great and Wonderful Dad.
Always in our hearts,
Pleze Jr, Sandra, Charles, Carl, and Jeanette*



Big Daddy

*Our Beloved Grandfather
Heaven has received another angel
The night sky has another star
Your lifetime has become our memories
For we know you will never be far
We know you are watching over us,
As our lives move on,
We will treasure our memories we have of you
It's hard to believe you're gone.
You were our loving and caring Grandfather
Who was there for us a lot,
You will always hold a place in our hearts
A loving treasured spot.
You were one in a million,
A cut above the rest,
All that knew you would agree,
You were simply one of the Best.
Big Daddy we will love and miss you,
With all our hearts, but we all know,
We will never be too far apart.
Love,
The Grandkids*







Forever In Our Hearts



75 years ago in 1943

Current Events:

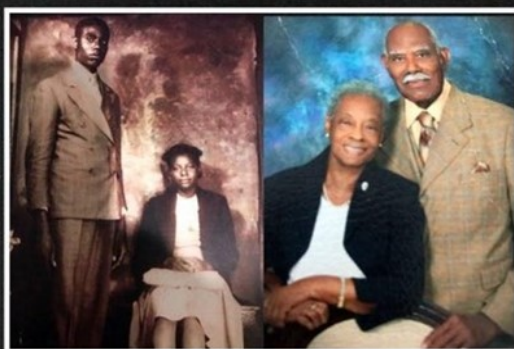
Car Tax Reg.
Introduced
Detroit Race Riot
Tuskegee Airmen
Fly in First
Mission

Popular Actors:

Dorothy Dandridge
Lena Horne
Moms Mabley
Hattie McDaniel

Theater Performances:

Paul Roberson - Othello
Porgy & Bess - On
Broadway



BORN:

Arthur Ashe
Florence Ballard
George Benson
Leslie Uggams

Personal Facts:

Met at Spaulding
Elementary
Married on the porch of the
Pastor's house
The bride and groom were
both 20
Elsie Foster was 3-years-old
Jackie Parson was
1-years-old

Black Films:

Cabin in the Sky
Stage Door
Canteen
Stormy Weather



Radio Show:

Fireside Chat
Ed Sullivan Entertains

FRANKLIN D.
ROOSEVELT
WAS PRESIDENT
OF THE U.S.A.

WHAT THINGS COST:

Avg. Cost of Home: \$3,600
Avg. Wages per Year: \$2000
Avg. Cost of a New Car: \$900
Army Doctor/Nurse Kit: \$1.98
Cost of a Gallon of Gas: \$0.15
Bottle of Coca-Cola: \$0.05
Avg. Cost of House to Rent:
\$40

Popular Artists:

Duke Ellington
Lena Horne
Nat "King" Cole
The Ink Spots
The Mills Brothers

Gospel Artists:

The Dixie Hummingbirds
The Golden Gate Quartet
The Five Blind Boys of
Alabama
The Soul Stirrers

Happy 75th Anniversary
Pleze Sr. & Sophia
July 23, 1943

Pallbearers:

Michael Brackin
Pleze Crawford III
Titus Crawford
Devin Harvey
Gilbert Leon
Dennis Rose



Honorary Pallbearers:

Kenneth Banner
Anthony Cockrell
John Crawford
Justin Crawford
Sean Crawford
Darron McCuller



~In appreciation and acknowledgment~

The Crawford family would like to thank you Mr. Franklin (Joe) for the past sixteen years, you and Dad were true friends (OLD ROAD DOGS and PARTNERS IN CRIME). We thank you Mr. Franklin for checking in on our sister Rose and dad weekly. Words cannot express our appreciation for your personal sacrifice during your own illness. Sometimes you would drop by or call to say, "I am just checking in on you." Thank you does not cover what the Crawford family feels in our hearts. We love you and may God continue to bless you.

The Family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support, with a special thank you extended to Reverend Ira Woodfin Dickason and Bishop Hearn for their love and support. Thank you to the Doss Family, The Moore-Davidson Family, and Les Hogan and family.

A very special thank you to the BISC women for their loving support to the family.

With grateful hearts, we would like to thank Reverend Rueben Ford and the angels of Parks Chapel AME Church who selflessly gave of themselves in the support of the Crawford family. We appreciate all you have done for us in our time of sorrow.

We would also like to give our sincere gratitude and thanks to Dr. Sami Nafsoosi and staff at High Desert Medical Group and all the staff at Caremark Hospice who provided such amazing care to our dad and Grandfather.

It is difficult to express our heartfelt appreciation – except to simply say thank you, one and all – we will always cherish your love!

*~ Humbly submitted ~
The Crawford Family*



Dearest Sandra and Dennis

*The love and sacrifice you gave to our Father and Grandfather
will be forever in our hearts. It was difficult, but you did it perfectly.*

*With all our love,
The Family*



Services Entrusted to

RUCKER'S MORTUARY

*12460 Van Nuys Boulevard, Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 899-1138*