



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
**ARTHUR STEWART JR**

SUNRISE:  
APRIL 23, 1934

SUNSET:  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF SELMA  
500 SOUTH POLLOCK STREET • SELMA, NC 27576

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024  
11:00 AM SERVICE

REPASS DIRECTLY AFTER SERVICE

REVEREND MANFRED ISOM, OFFICIANT

# OBITUARY

Arthur Stewart Jr., better known as AJ to most, passed away peacefully on September 1, 2024 at his home in Selma, North Carolina comforted by his daughters. Like his parents before him, he lived a long life, transitioning at the ripe age of 90 years old. He was born on April 23, 1934 in Green Pond, South Carolina, the fourth child and first son of Arthur Stewart Sr. and Ammie Stewart.

Arthur was a man of few words, but he had a big heart and kindness that extended to all around him. He did not mind helping others. He believed the source of a family's strength came from staying connected. At every family reunion, he stressed the need for all to maintain contact during the periods between the bi-annual get-togethers. Throughout the years, he opened his home to many family members of both his and his wife's side, welcoming them to stay as needed. He found his purpose as a man of service, actively working on behalf of others over the years whether through his job, his social club, his lodge, or his church.

Arthur was a graduate of Colleton High School in Walterboro, South Carolina. After high school, he attended and graduated from barbering school at 19 years old. He worked in a barber shop in Walterboro. At 20 years old, he was baptized and became a member of AME Methodist Church in Green Pond. He had a caring relationship with Ruby Mae Milton from which his first child and only son, Clifford, was born. At 22 years old, he moved to Bronx, NY to live with a cousin and began working maintenance for Greyhound Bus Company, where he worked until he obtained his barbering license for New York. Upon getting his license, he worked at a barber shop in the Bronx. After about 4-5 years, the owner of the shop decided to move to Virginia and asked him if he wanted to buy the shop. He said yes, and Arthur's Barber Shop became an official hub of the South Bronx community. He owned the barber shop until he retired and moved to Selma, North Carolina.

He met Bessie Jane Cox at a club in Long Island. After a year of courtship, they married on August 16, 1964. His family grew from this union with the birth of his two daughters, Cynthia Elaine and Letecia. Arthur became a member of the York Rite Mason Lodge #6. He moved up to a Master and progressed through all of the degrees. He joined Trinity United Methodist Church where he served as Treasurer and remained a member there until he retired to Selma, North Carolina. In Selma, he joined First Baptist Church where we served as part of the Men's Choir and Mass Choir.

He is survived by his children Clifford Milton Stewart of Hudson, FL, Cynthia Elaine Stewart of Selma, NC, and Letecia Stewart of Bronx, NY; Grandchildren Luzviminda Milton of Las Vegas, NV, Ernest Milton (Claudia) of Fontana, CA, Kristen Smith (Caleb) of Las Vegas, NV, Christopher Hopper of Selma, NC, and Joseph Houston of Bronx, NY; Great-grandchildren Malaya, CJ, Carter, Cameron, Evan, and Nathaniel; Sister Ruth Edmonds of Randalstown, MD, and Brother Walter Stewart (Linda) of Bronx, NY; A host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, sisters-in-law, and brother-in-law.

He was preceded in death by his parents Arthur and Ammie Stewart, Sr.; brothers Thomas and Isiah (Teddy) Stewart; sisters Earnestine Blue, Helen DeVoe, and Ethyl Floyd; his wife of 57 years Bessie Jane Stewart; and grandson Christian Hopper.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional.....Reverend Manfred Isom & Family  
Old and New Testament  
Scripture Reading.....Pastor Alfonso Meeks  
Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Alfonso Meeks  
Musical Selection.....  
Words of Encouragement.....Family & Friends  
(2 minutes per person)  
Acknowledgments.....Janice McFarland  
Obituary Reading.....Janice McFarland  
Musical Selection.....  
Eulogy.....Reverend Manfred Isom  
Recessional.....

# SPECIAL THANKS

Cousin Arthur Wadley, Wayne Byam, Pandora Stancil, First Missionary Baptist Church of Selma, Sanders Funeral Home, and Kogers Mortuary.

To the nurses, home health aides, and other amazing workers at Johnston County Home Care and Hospice with special shouts to Erin, Robin, and April...Thank you so much for the comfort you provided during a time when hope seemed impossible. We sincerely treasured your partnership through this journey