

OBITUARY

Pastor Emeritus Lionel Stafford Reckley

“For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.” ~ Colossians 2:5 (NIV)

PASTOR EMERITUS Lionel Stafford Reckley's life journey began on April 18, 1942, in New York City, New York, to the Late Naamen (Norman) A. Reckley and Olive Johnson Stirrup. He was the youngest of nine siblings.

His childhood was spent in New York and in a part of Miami, now known as Miami Gardens. In 1961, he graduated from the infamous North Dade Junior / Senior High School. In 1962, he enlisted into the United States Army, becoming a Vietnam Veteran, and was posted over the world. He honorably served until 1983, attaining the rank of Sergeant First Class. He also served and retired in civil service as a Legal Technician with Internal Revenue Services in 2004.

Lionel was in union with Dorothy Reckley, and from this God blessed them with their daughter, Barbara Reckley, and Barbara blessed them with six grand-children and seven great-grandchildren: Alex Reckley, Rakeem Reckley, Demetrius Alford, Douglas Alford (deceased), Shaquille Alford, and Jada Floyd; Dashia, Aimaya, Mackenzie, Daelyn, Jayce, Trinity and Rachel, respectively.

Lionel married his high school sweetheart, Maria Bell Barr, on October 26, 1985, and they shared a wonderful, loving, and devoted marriage of forty years until his passing. Lionel really loved food and music but especially enjoyed dancing with and singing to Maria. They shared a lifetime of memories, filled with much joy, laughter, and many celebrations. From this marriage, God gifted him with two daughters, Arlana Barr Harris and Monica Barr, along with two grandsons, Allen Harris II (Marshanna) and Allec Barr, and one great-grandson Azia Harris, and Goddaughter (niece) Brittany Jackson.

As God would have it, He transformed Lionel into a true and committed man of God, who earned a Bachelor, Master, and a Doctorate degree in Pastoral Ministry. On July 17, 1999, with Maria by his side, they founded Healing Place Ministries Church in Hollywood, FL, where he remained Senior Pastor until his retirement in 2017. He is also an Alumni Author of book, *On One Accord*, recognized at Jacksonville Theological Seminary – He LOVED the LORD beyond words.

The life and legacy of the devout man of Christian faith and the Perfect Work of the Master Script Writer was complete as Lionel heard the voice of the Holy Spirit and the Clouds of Witnesses – At approximately 0300 hours, Lionel transitioned peacefully in his sleep on Monday February, 2, 2026, in Tampa, Florida. “His master said to him, ‘Well done good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’” ~ Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

To God be the glory – Well done LIONEL!

Those left to cherish his memories are his devoted wife, Maria; daughters, Barbara, Arlana, Monica; grandchildren: Alex, Rakeem, Demetrius, Douglas (deceased), Shaquille, and Jada, Allen (Marshanna); great-grandchildren: Dashia, Aimaya, Mackenzie, Daelyn, Jayce, Trinity, Rachel, and Azia; in-laws: Mattie Reckley (Charles – deceased); Joshua (Risa) Bell, Derek Bell, MA; a host of nieces and nephews throughout Florida, New York, and family in Nassau Bahamas, his ancestral home. Siblings who preceded him in death: Gladys Brown, Vera Brooks, Ruth Stirrup, Oral Allen, Edwin, Reckley, Norman Reckley, Jr. Bloneva Reckley, and Charles Reckley – Lionel genuinely loved his family immeasurably!