



Celebration of Life

SUNRISE:
JUNE 10, 1922



SUNSET:
JANUARY 20, 2023

Deacon Saunders Draughn

January 28, 2023
Family Hour: 10:00-11:00 am
Service: 11:00 am

Unity Temple of the Apostolic Faith
17376 Wyoming Avenue

Bishop Alfred P. Singleton, II. Officiating
Reverend McKinley Graddick, Jr. Eulogy



OBITUARY

HUMBLE BEGINNING

On June 10, 1922, in Picayune, MS, Mitchell and Mary Draughn welcomed their third and youngest child, Saunders, into their family. His two older brothers were Curtis and ML.

When Saunders was still a toddler, the family moved to Bogalusa, LA where he attended grade school, completing the 7th grade. He was an obedient child and loved spending time with his grandmother Annie. Raised to serve the Lord and love His Word, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at a young age and was appointed Superintendent of their church Sunday School as a teenager. He was excited about this calling and took studying and teaching the Bible very seriously.

LOVE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Saunders met the love of his life, Lottie Melvena Magee, whom he affectionately called "Mel", when they were youngsters in Bogalusa and were married on July 8, 1944. Over the span of their 69 years of love and marriage, they were blessed to lovingly birth 7 biological children; 4 sons; (Kenneth, Ervin, Hiram and Eric) and 3 daughters; (Sandra, Vivian and Christa) and extended their love to raise a 5th son, William Price, Jr.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, his loving wife, Melvena, two sons, Ervin and Hiram, and dear son-in-love, James Newman.

MILITARY SERVICE

Saunders served in the United States Army and was stationed in Pearl Harbor during World War II. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to Bogalusa and moved his family to New Orleans where he completed auto mechanics and collision repair programs.

A BETTER LIFE

Saunders was a caring, protective and "present" father and husband who worked hard for his family. Of the many jobs he worked in his lifetime, one was driving a truck when he was in his 20's at a time when it was uncommon for black men in the south to drive 18 wheelers.

Seeking a better life and opportunities, he and Melvena moved their young family from New Orleans to Detroit, MI in the early 1950's. In Detroit he was able to use his work experiences and skilled trade talents to secure good jobs to support his family.



OBITUARY

He worked for various automotive companies, including Ford Motor Company, where he retired in 1987 after over 30 years of employment as a skilled tradesman.

An entrepreneur at heart, he started his own auto collision repair business in the early 1960's. After closing his business, he continued to work at Ford; however, partnered with many of his friends to repair automobiles as a side job. Auto collision repair in those days was mostly done by hand, and he was notably one of the best in the city. For many of the mechanics he worked with, he also provided training and expertise in areas where they may not have been skilled. Long time personal and family friendships were developed through these connections.

SERVANT OF THE LORD

Not only was Saunders a soldier in the US Army, but he was a faithful soldier in the Army of the Lord. In his early 30's he was called to the office of **Deacon** and faithfully served in this honorable ministry at several churches over his lifetime. He loved to sing the old 'meter hymns' and other spirit-filled songs, and amazingly knew all the verses. Deacon Draughn also served as Head Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent at Greater Ship of Zion for many years and remained a faithful member until his transition.

Deacon Draughn shared salvation through Jesus Christ to many and was a fervent praying man... a prayer warrior and intercessor. Many called on him to pray for them or their families and experienced healing and deliverance through his prayers for them. He did not take his relationship with his Lord and Savior lightly. He was serious about his salvation and about living his life according to the Word of God. And he and Melvena taught the Love of God and His Word to their family.

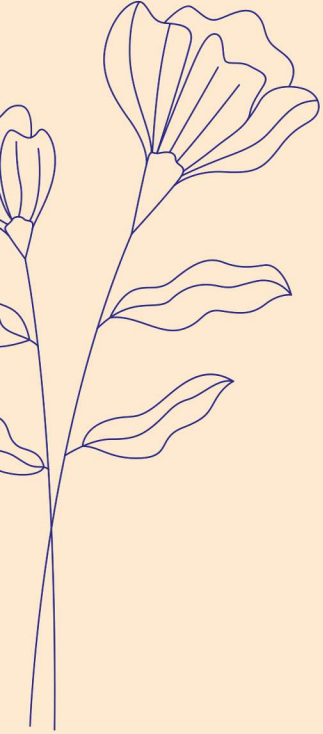
Deacon Draughn was a third-generation centurion, blessed to live **100 years and 7 months**. He transitioned from his earthly labor to his heavenly reward peacefully on Friday morning, January 20th.

He leaves to cherish his memory and legacy of prayer and faith: 3 sons; Kenneth, Eric (Ann) Draughn, William (Marthella) Price; 3 daughters; Sandra Newman, Vivian (Alfred) Singleton, Christa Williams; 15 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, 14 great-great grandchildren, a host of relatives, friends, church members, special cousin, Maeola Blackmon, and his personal cook and caregiver, Linda Darby.

*Well done good and faithful servant!
Enter into the joy of the Lord!*



CELEBRATION SERVICE



Praise Selection

The Bread House Praise Team

Opening Prayer

Bishop Alfred P. Singleton II

Old Testament Scripture

Reverend William Price, Jr.

New Testament Scripture

Word of Faith ICC Minister

Military Honors & Flag Presentation

Honor Guards

Obituary & Acknowledgments

Christa Williams

Special Remarks

Deacon David & Paulette Fells

Deacon Willie & Norma Lyte

Minister Linda Darby

Reverends Edward & Christine Wingate

Reverend Carl Livingston

Video Presentation

Family Remarks

Grand and Great-Grandchildren

Children

Open Remarks

2 minute limit please

Musical Selection

Vivian Singleton, Bianca Taylor, Bread House Praise Team

Eulogy

Reverend McKinley Graddick, Jr.

Pastor, Greater Ship of Zion MBC

Recessional



FAMILY TRIBUTES



Children

"I love you Dad!"

from your firstborn, Kent

"The Song of Saunders... Like the Song of
David: Dad, A man after God's own heart,"

Sandra

"I love you to life and beyond Dad!"

Eric

"You served well as our Daddy and in God's army, now
rest well in His arms! Honorably discharged from earth
to eternal life. Love you Dad!"

Vivian

"Thank you for your guidance and training in God's
Word. Well done thou good and faithful servant. Now
eternally rest well."

Bill

SAUNDERS

SOLDIER, SOLDIER HE KEPT MARCHING 100 YEARS AND ON!

AN OINTED ONE, WHO SANG OLD HYMNAL SONGS.

UNDERSTANDING AND WISE; HE BROKE DOWN GOD'S WORD WHEN HE TAUGHT.

NOT MANY CAN DENY HE WALKED A RIGHTEOUS WALK.

DEACON, DEACON, HE KEPT PRAYING LONG,

ENDURING HARDSHIPS, WHILE HE KEPT FAITHFUL AND STRONG.

RESCUEING AND RESTORING MANY OTHERS ALONG THE WAY,

STAYING FOCUSED ON THE PRIZE, TO RECEIVE HIS CROWN ON JUDGEMENT DAY!

My Dad, Saunders Draughn, forever, love Christa

Grand Children

Loving father, grand and great, you always had wisdom to relay, No matter what the time, without ceasing to pray.
Heartfelt words, poems, and joyful songs. Dependable Deacon who kept a praise in your heart all day long.

Skilled in auto body repair, who made sure we stayed safe and knew the importance of treating our cars with care.
A faithful husband who loved his wife so dear, Mel and Saunders- their voices we can still hear.

All the tests and trials He brought you through, such a hard-working man, and a veteran too.
You left such a legacy! An extra year you kept fighting, after 99 1/2 wouldn't do.

You've finished your race and kept the faith, God is welcoming home His son.
You've kept your eyes on the prize and with His arms open wide, you will hear Him say,

"WELL DONE!"

Beautifully written by Dr. Britani Marshall (granddaughter) on behalf of all his grandchildren.

Great Grand Children

Great Granddad Kept a Garden

Our Great-Granddad kept a garden. A garden of the heart.

He planted all the good things, that gave our lives their start.

He turned us to the sunshine and encouraged us to dream: Fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem.

And when the winds and rain came, He protected us enough; But not too much because he knew we would stand up strong and tough.

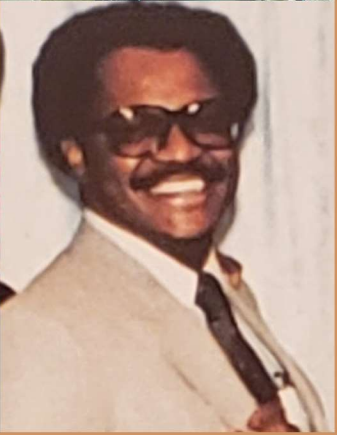
His constant good example always taught us right from wrong; Markers for our pathway that will last a lifetime long.

We are our Great-Granddad's garden. We are his legacy.

Thank you Great Granddad Draughn, we love you!

Loving Memories That Will Last Forever









"You have granted him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. You came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head. He asked you for life, and you gave it to him- length of days, for ever and ever. Through the victories you gave, his glory is great; you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty. Surely you have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence."

Psalm 21:2-6 NIV

PALLBEARERS

Darryl Draughn
Jermaine Newman
Alfred P. Singleton, III
Adam Williams
Nicholas Singleton
Tyrice Brown
Anthony Taylor
Joe'l Marshall

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Kenneth Draughn
Eric Draughn
William Price, Jr.
Alfred P Singleton, II
Dion Draughn
Kevin Williams
Larry Price

FLOWER BEARERS

Friends of the family

INTERMENT

Grand Lawn Cemetery
23501 Grand River Avenue
Detroit, MI 48219

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

Hutchison Funeral Home
6051 East Seven Mile Road
Detroit, MI 48234

THANK YOU!

We, the family of Deacon Saunders Draughn, extend our heartfelt "Thank You" to all of our family, saints, friends and co-workers for your outstanding outpouring of love, support and prayers during our loss! Your phone calls, text messages, words of encouragement, visits, meal preparation, gifts and floral arrangements, along with your willingness to assist in whatever way you could, are so greatly appreciated. We also thank the nurses & aides at Heart to Heart Respite Care Center in Troy for their genuine caregiving to our Dad in his final weeks.

May God forever shower His blessing upon each of you! More personal expressions of thanks will be sent at a later date.

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Bishop & Mrs. Steven Staten and the Unity Temple Church Family
Reverend & Mrs. McKinley Graddick, Jr. & the Greater Ship of Zion MBC Family
Bishop & Mrs. Alfred P. Singleton, II and the Bread House Church Family, Lansing, MI
Minister Linda Darby for your many years of excellent personal caregiving for Dad ❤️

