

ROCKFORD BRITT PENN SR.
IN LOVING MEMORY



Saturday, May 11, 2013

Viewing 12:00 PM

Service 1:00 PM

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

423 Nelson Hill Rd

Mount Airy, NC 27030

Rev. Thomas M. Williams Jr. Officiating

Rev. Benjamin Mittman Sr. Eulogist

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating: Reverend Thomas M. Williams, Jr.

PROCESSIONAL	The Penn Family
SONG SELECTION	Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Choir
SCRIPTURES	
OLD TESTAMENT	Rev. Cecil Thompson
NEW TESTAMENT	Elder Victor Jessup
PRAYER	Elder Manuel Jessup
SONG	The Russell Family
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RESOLUTIONS	Alethia Penn
OBITUARY	Please Read Silently
SONG SELECTION	Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Choir
TRIBUTES	Randy Penn Karen Love Brittany Rice Darria Penn Jarrad Henderson Justin Penn Darrin Penn

OBITUARY CONTINUED

A Time to Die - Our Dad fought a good fight and kept the faith as he departed this life on May 6, 2013 at Forsyth Medical Center with the love and support of his family by his side.

A Time to Mourn- In addition to his parents, Britt was preceded in death by his wives, Virginia Rucker Penn, Marlene Hawkins Penn, two daughters, Brenda Pruitt, F. Selena Penn Rice, and eleven brothers and sisters. He leaves behind his two sisters Rev. Mildred Joyce of Ft Washington, Md., Barbara East, of Pilot Mountain, NC. who will joyfully continue to celebrate his life. Also in his legacy he leaves behind seven children, Robert (Meral Jean) Brown of New Bern, NC; Victoria (Elder George D Jessup, Sr.-deceased) of Westfield, NC; Rockford Britt (Rev. Katherine H.)Penn Jr., of Pfafftown, NC; JoAn (David T.) Russell Sr. of Winston-Salem, NC; Randy (Cynthia G.) Penn of Mount Airy, NC; Cynthia Marie Penn of Winston-Salem, NC; Darrell Edward Penn of Jacksonville, AR. One very special son-in-law, Glasco M. Rice of Winston-Salem, N.C.; One son-in-law Tommy Pruitt of Memphis, TN. There are seventeen grandchildren, thirty-seven great grandchildren and twelve great-great grandchildren, numerous more loving nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews along with a host of relatives and friends.

during WWII. He graduated from basic training at New River, North Carolina as part of the Montford Point Marines: a prestigious group of the first African Americans to enter the United States Marine Corps from 1942 to 1949. While En route on a supply ship that supported missions for the Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa Japan, the ship's number one pastime was boxing. One of the older Marines 'took a liking' to young Britt and taught him how to box. They nicknamed him "Baby Face". Britt left the Marines with the discipline, work ethic, and confidence he needed to begin his life again in Mount Airy.

A Time to Work - Britt was always gainfully employed until his retirement as a security guard from Prime Flight Aviation Services at the age of 84. He was also a former employee of Lynn Hosiery Mills, Bassick Sack, R.J. Reynolds, Pilot Freight Carriers, Salem College and Winston Salem State University. He was an entrepreneur of several small businesses including the Sweet Shop, a gas station, bondsman, janitorial services and a food truck.

A time to Remember - Britt will always be remembered for his love of his family. He was a smooth and expert dancer. He also enjoyed sports, especially golf. He loved cooking for his family and golfing with his brothers and friends. He was an active member of the NAACP, American Legion, NC Voter Registration and a mediator for race relations during the civil rights era. He had a vast knowledge and interest in politics. His legacy continues in the heritage he leaves behind through all the lives he touched in his 87 years on earth.

OBITUARY

A Time to be Born – Rockford Britt Penn, Sr. was born on August 14, 1925 to the late Luther William and Annie King Penn in Stokes County, N.C.

A Time to Grow – Britt and his 13 brothers and sisters were nurtured by their parents with love, strong Christian values, and a fierce love for each other as brothers and sisters. They were taught that family comes first and the love they shared for one another represented a bond that could not be broken. The same bond Britt shared with his siblings, he passed on to his children.

Britt's parents left Stokes County when he was a little boy in search of a better life for their children. Ma Penn was determined they would no longer be sharecroppers. They settled in Mt. Airy and began their new life. Britt's acuteness to the pain of others started at an early age. He sensed his Mother's pain of not having her own home. He vowed to her that one day he would have a home of his own.

Some of Britt's treasured memories growing up were: riding on a cart pulled by horses as his older brothers and sisters walked, going to his father's job every evening and walking with him home. This was a very special time he shared time with his father and it meant a lot to him.

As Britt became older he knew he needed to work and make money for his family. At the tender age of 14, Britt left Mount Airy in hopes of finding a good job. He wasn't sure how or where, but he knew he had to take a chance and see what the world had to offer. One of the first places was in New Bern, N.C. There he landed a government job clearing 'right of way' for the railroad. This job was brutal manual labor for the young skinny teen, but he stayed with this job until he found something better. After being all he could be in the civilian job world, he joined the Marines at the age of 17 to "*Be all that he could be*"

ORDER OF SERVICE CONTINUED

SONG SELECTION	Eileena Boyce <i>Dance With My Father</i>
REMARKS	Reverend Mildred Joyce Barbara East
FAMILY REFLECTIONS	Alethia Penn
SONG SELECTION	Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Choir
EULOGY	Rev. Benjamin Mittman Sr.
RECESSIONAL	
INTERMENT	State Line Cemetery
MILITARY RITES	United States Marine Corps
THE FINAL FLIGHT HOME	

PALL BEARERS

David T. Russell, Jr.

George D. Jessup Jr.

Christopher B. Russell, Sr.

David T. Russell III

Michael Justin Russell, Sr.

Kawasak Penn

FLOWER BEARERS

Jordan Penn

Jayla Penn

Jania Penn

Jasmine Penn

Imani Jessup

Selena Jessup

Nakiyah Penn

Bari Jae Love



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family acknowledges with deep, sincere appreciation your cards, telegrams, flowers and all acts of kindness and most of all your prayers in the loss of our loved one. May God richly bless you and keep you forever.

REPAST

Following the interment, the family will receive friends and relatives in the Fellowship Hall of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

SERVICES OF COMFORT

Spencer Funeral Home
824 North Main Street
Mount Airy, NC 27030
336-786-4161