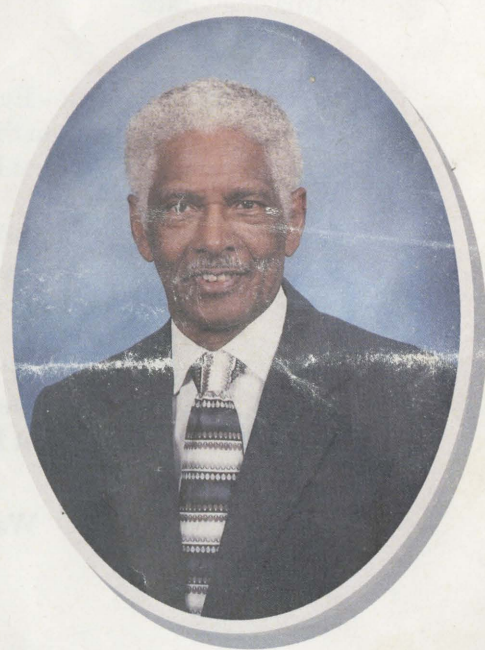


Homegoing Celebration for Gentry S. Roberts

Sunrise
November 20, 1925

Sunset
February 12, 2013



Saturday, February 16, 2013
10:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Hampton
229 North King Street
Hampton, Virginia 23669

Reverend Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr., Pastor

Service of Triumph

- Prelude Dr. Effie T. Gardner, Minister of Music
- Processional Reverend Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr., Pastor
- Hymn of Comfort Comfort Choir
"Amazing Grace"
- Scriptures Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 7: 1-5
Deacon Sherman Brown
First Baptist Church
New Testament - Philippians 4:10-13
Deacon Earl Chaplin
First Baptist Church
- Prayer of Comfort Rhomie Heck, Jr.
Deacon Emeritus
First Baptist Church
- Solo Waymon Murphy
"Center of My Joy"
- Reflections Minister Rosa Harris, Niece
- Selection Comfort Choir
"Lead Me, Guide Me"
- Message of Hope Reverend Dr. Richard W. Wills, Sr.
- Recessional Comfort Choir
"We Will Understand It Better By and By"

His Journey

Gentry S. Roberts was born to James Early Roberts and Carrie Sawyers Roberts on November 20, 1925 in Patrick County, Virginia. He attended elementary school in Patrick County before moving to North Carolina where he graduated as Salutatorian of his class from the J.J. Jones High School in Mount Airy. Gentry was also an Eagle Scout.

At an early age, Gentry joined the Samuel Grove P.B. Baptist Church in Ararat, Virginia and was a faithful member until he united by letter with First Baptist Church of Hampton in 1959. He was ordained there as a deacon in 1972 and worked faithfully with the Deacon Family Ministry, the Men's Action Fellowship and the Soup Kitchen Ministry, serving as their spiritual leader. He was an active member of the Goodwill Circle and was named Saint Salute in 1998. He was a dedicated servant of the Lord and was always concerned about the less fortunate as well as the sick and shut-in.

Gentry served in the Pacific Theater during World War II with both the renowned 24th Infantry Regiment and the 93rd Infantry Division. He was awarded the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Combat Infantry medal. He was also decorated with the Philippine Liberation Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal with a battle star, the Asiatic Pacific Theater Service Medal, and a Bronze Service Star.

He was united in Holy Matrimony to Elaine Coles of Danville, Virginia in 1957; a young lady he met during his tenure at Hampton Institute and they reared two wonderful children, Tamra and Mark.

Gentry fulfilled his life's dream when he matriculated at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education in 1953. Gentry was encouraged by his advisors to continue in the field of education and he began teaching in Charlotte, NC. While seeking to further his education, Gentry returned to his Alma Mater where he obtained the Master of Arts degree in School Administration and Supervision. Additionally, he was employed there as Supervisor of Student Accounts. After approximately 30 years of service, Gentry retired from Hampton University as Internal Auditor in 1987.

While at Hampton, the Comptroller of Hampton Institute sought his help at the Peoples Savings and Loan Association, a financial institution founded by a trustee of Hampton Institute and other local citizens. He served as an assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Peoples Savings and Loan Association. Later, he was named to the Board of Directors of the Savings and Loan where he served as Treasurer, Security Officer, and Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Gentry served as Coordinator for the Crime Prevention/Neighborhood Watch Program from 1989 until his death and was a graduate of the Senior Citizens Police Academy. He was a member of the Hampton University Quarter Century Club, the HU Boosters, Treasurer of the HU Class of 1953, and a member of the Emeritus Class. Gentry was also a member of the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In 2007, he was inducted into the J.J. Jones High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

Gentry was preceded in death by his mother, father and his brother, Clarence. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Elaine Coles Roberts of Hampton; two daughters, Linda Shuff of Mt. Airy, NC and Dr. Tamra Roberts Cobb (Lt. Col. (Ret) Gary Cobb) of Hampton; one son, Mark Roberts (Cherise) of Hampton; four sisters, Frances Brim of Mt. Airy, NC, Hazel Strickland (Robuster) of Phoenix, AZ, Pearl Abercrombie and Mabel Richardson of New York; one brother, Aaron Roberts (Iva) of Ararat, VA; five grandchildren whom he loved dearly; several great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, and relatives.

Pall Bearers

Roycee A. Bland
Alexander Davis
John Epps

Phillip Lomax
Larry Manlove
Harlon Mitchell

Honorary Pall Bearers

Deacons Emeriti of First Baptist Church of Hampton

Floral Bearers

Goodwill Circle of First Baptist Church of Hampton
Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Deacon Family Ministry

Deacon Sherman Brown
Deacon Barbara Ford
Deacon Willie Glasby

Acknowledgement

The family extends its deepest appreciation to the ministers, pallbearers, flower bearers, relatives, and friends who through their tireless and numerous acts of kindness and adoration have lessened the impact of the family's loss. We are especially thankful to Roycee Bland, Lois and Freddy Fears, Iris and Clarence Braxton, Audrey Cobb and Henry and Lanetta Davis.

Services Entrusted To

Cooke Brothers Funeral Chapel
Hampton, Virginia

Interment

Hampton Memorial Gardens
155 Butler Farm Road
Hampton, Virginia 23666

Repast

Repast will take place in W.D. Booth Activity Center following the Interment for the family, out-of-town guests and close friends.