



Arthur Ray Shelton

SEP 25, 1947 - NOV 24, 2022



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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Arthur Ray Shelton

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On September 25, 1947, the late James and Mary Jane Jordan Shelton welcomed a baby boy named Arthur Ray, whom his father and others in the community affectionately called Top. At an early age, Mr. Shelton was baptized at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Sumrall, Mississippi. Arthur started his education at the Sumrall Colored Training School. After some time, the county built John Jefferson School in Purvis, MS., for Black students, causing Arthur to travel twenty-six miles one way to school daily. Sometimes, he was the backup bus driver and graduated in 1966 from John Jefferson High School. Arthur matriculated at Tougaloo College, where Addie Woods was introduced to Arthur by Joyce, Addie's roommate, and Arthur's sister. A courtship developed, and they were married on October 13, 1970, in Jackson, Mississippi, in the home of the late Presiding Elder Jacob Hilton, Sr. of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, having as witnesses the late Alberta Hilton, wife, along with Jacob Hilton, Jr. and other younger Hilton's children. Three children were born to the union of Arthur and Addie, Sheletha (Shel) Elizabeth Shelton-Robinson (John, deceased), Washington, DC., James (Jamey) David Shelton (Andrea), Fort Lewis, WA., and Arthur (Art) Ray Shelton, II, Memphis, TN.

In 1971, Arthur was one of two Black men inducted into the Mississippi National Guard in the Military Police Unit in Canton, MS. Later, at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC, Arthur received his basic training and the Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) training at Fort Gordon, GA as a Military Policeman. After a job transfer to Birmingham, Alabama, he joined a Personnel Unit. The last job transfer was to Memphis, TN, in the late seventies. Continuing his military service, Arthur joined the 3/115 Artillery Service Unit, which later became a transportation unit. After 9/11, Arthur was deployed to Virginia to protect the Army bases on the Southern Virginia Coast and later retired from military duty as a Food Service Chief after 36 years of service.



Obituary

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In late 1980, after hours of discussion, Arthur and Addie decided to find a Methodist church in Memphis. Mrs. Shelton searched and found Taylor Chapel CME Church in Germantown, TN., a quaint little church with very friendly, mature, and welcoming Christians. One of the older men, the late Mr. Luke Hill (Big Boy), gave Mrs. Shelton a business card requesting her to give the business card to Arthur. Mr. Hill wanted to invite Arthur to the Church personally, and later the Shelton family became members of Taylor Chapel. With encouragement from the older men at Taylor, Mr. Shelton became an active member in the Ministries of the Taylor Chapel. At Taylor Chapel, he was a Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, President of the Steward Board, a Trustee, the Church Bus Driver, the Lay Council Leader, a member of the Choir, the Board of Christian Education, and an Exhorter seeking to become an ordained Minister in the CME Church. In Virginia, Arthur became an associate member of St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME) where he worked in the Finance Room as an observer. Troopers would often ride with him to Church, and they would tease Arthur because they were unfamiliar with CME Church's worship structure and style. Arthur was also active in the former South Memphis District, now Northeast District, and the West Tennessee Region Annual Conference levels and served as the District and Annual Conference Lay Leader and was the present Annual Conference Lay Leader. He was a delegate to several General Conferences and the General Connectional Board. He served as a delegate to four Quadrennial and General Conferences. Arthur's involvement in ministries beyond the local Church started under the leadership of the late Dr. Cheryl Golden, who encouraged him to attend his first Lay Institute at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. Later, she encouraged him to attend the Annual Convocation, now Summit. He loved traveling, meeting people, and learning new things. He never met a stranger. He was the National Sales Manager for J. Strickland & Co., Memphis, TN, and Mirage, Oxnard, California. Arthur was semi-retired, working in his sales & marketing company and part-time for United Airlines. He was active in the community and was the treasurer for Zion Community Cemetery Project and an election official for Germantown from 2004 to 2011.

Arthur departed this life on Thursday, November 24, 2022, at Germantown Hospital,



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Germantown, TN, and he was preceded in life by his parents, James and Mary Jane Shelton, and a granddaughter, Alisa Jones, a life gone too soon.

He leaves the following individuals to mourn: Wife, Addie Woods Shelton; children, Shel, Jamey (Andrea), and Art, II; grandchildren, Terrell Shelton, Dominic Angel Shelton, Marley Lee Shelton, Alexis Jada Shelton, Isabell Melissa Shelton, and Mary Jane (MJ) Nicole Shelton; siblings Mary Shelton Bellard (Gerald, deceased), Ypsilanti, MI; Joyce Shelton, Ypsilanti, MI; Sherry Butler Johnson, Harrisburg, PA; and Dr. Joy Elaine Butler Jackson Hooper (Hank), Jackson, Mississippi; and was a brother in Love to James Ford Lindsey, Jr., London, England; Samuel Stevenson, Los Angeles, CA; David Clarence Woods (Patsy), Spring, TX; Inez Woods, Atlanta, GA; Howard Neil Woods, Washington, DC; Dan Ford Woods, Seattle, Washington, John Robert Woods, Atlanta, GA, and Katie Woods Henderson (Kenny), Atlanta, GA. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends will also cherish the love and memory of Mr. Arthur Ray Shelton.

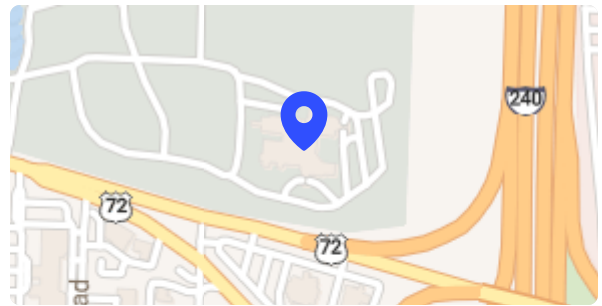


Events

Arthur Ray Shelton
SEP 25, 1947 - NOV 24, 2022

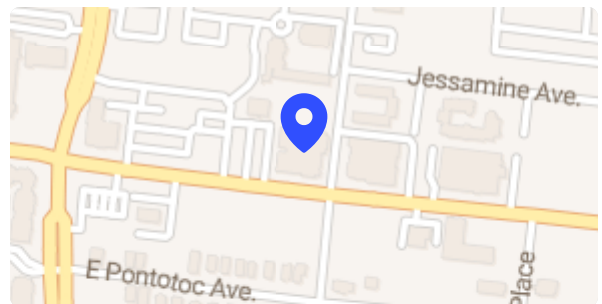
Visitation

- Wednesday**, December 7, 2022
- 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM cst
- Memorial Park Funeral Home**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119



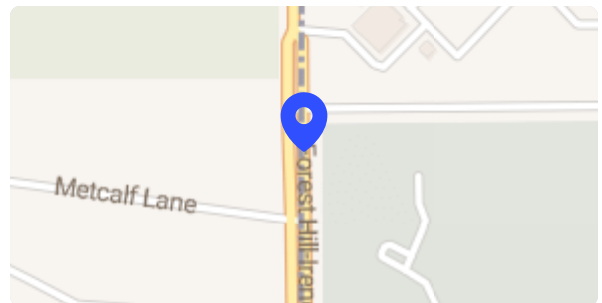
Funeral Service

- Thursday**, December 8, 2022
- 11:00 AM cst
- Mount Olive Cathedral CME Church**
538 Doctor MLK JR Avenue, Memphis TN 38126



Cemetery Details

- West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery**
4000 Forest Hill Irene Rd., Memphis TN 38125





Tribute Wall

Arthur Ray Shelton

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You Cousin, Willie Richard Ellington sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Shelton family.



December 7 at 5:08 AM



Melinda posted:

I am heartbroken to hear that Mr. Shelton has passed. At the same time, I am uplifted knowing that he is standing before the Lord, our God, who I watched Mr. Shelton praise with all his love and heart on Sunday mornings. Mr. Shelton always greeted me with a laugh and a smile. I know I have a new angel in my corner because Mr. Shelton only offered me love, smiles and support throughout the 30 years I have known him. Mrs. Shelton, I will have a huge hug for you when I am back in town. Right now, I send you all my love and prayers. Melinda Wilson Ramey & Family (Sacramento, CA)

December 6 at 1:15 PM



Virginia Boyd December 8 at 6:44 AM

Love and Blessing to the Family my thoughts and prayers are with you. It was always a joy to sit with Mrs. Addie and talk the we would be joined by Mr. Arthur and be enlighten about what was really happening 🍷🍷🍷



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Shelton family.



December 6 at 12:04 PM



Monica Ellington posted:

To God be the Glory for sharing Arthur Ray! He will always be remembered fondly. I am so grateful to him for the willingness to share his time and resources with so many others. May friends and family find peace in the love shown prior to his transition.

December 6 at 7:06 AM



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OM

Olivia Myart posted:

Mr. Arthur, I'm in such disbelief of your passing but I know your faith and how you lived your life and I'm grateful to have known you. Our many lengthy conversations were the highlight of my evening when I came to work. Coming to work in the evening, peeking around the corner until you saw me, and hear you say, "Ms. Union Rep!" That was definitely my highlight of the evening. You are deeply missed.

December 6 at 2:59 AM

KK

Kim, Desmond, & Kaysha Fry sent a Joyful Memory to the Shelton family.



December 5 at 6:49 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Shelton family.



December 5 at 12:00 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Shelton family.



December 5 at 10:17 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Shelton family.



December 5 at 8:24 AM

RL

Robin Locke posted:

My dear brother in Christ my heart has been heavy since I heard. You are now resting in paradise. My condolences to the family. May the Holy Spirit comfort you all in this time of grief. I loved Mr. Arthur

December 5 at 1:33 AM



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David Bradford posted:

Mr Arthur Ray, where do I begin? I've known you for a few years from working with you at United Airlines but it always felt like I had known you for years. I truly know that you were not only my coworker but you were my friend. I will miss our conversations on any topic under the sun. I will never forget he we always saluted each other to begin our work shift! I will cherish those memories forever. I'm thankful that you were able to meet my father, even if it were only through FaceTime because we could never coordinate a time to meet face to face whenever he would come to Memphis. You two reminded me so much if each other. I have always admired your work ethic and desire to want to see us all succeed and be the best at what we do. To my friend, I knew that this is never the end. It's just your time away until we meet again. I don't think of this as a goodbye, but as a time to say I will see you later. You will be missed. I love you friend. David J. Bradford

December 4 at 12:58 PM



David Bass lit a candle in honor of Arthur.

I'm still in disbelief as we were just talking about getting together when you came up to see Jamie. Thank you for the advice and guidance over the years, I truly appreciate you. With a heaven heart, your cousin David. Heaven in Heaven

December 3 at 6:17 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Shelton family.

December 3 at 6:13 PM



Sharon Stewart lit a candle in honor of Arthur.

Arthur Ray, you will always be my favorite cousin. I am missing you right now. Rest in peace.

December 3 at 4:29 PM



Thomas Ellington Jr. & Family sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Shelton family.

December 3 at 7:42 AM





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Deanna Robinson posted:

He was an excellent cousin and I shall miss him. His smile would brighten up your day. He was genuinely concerned about your well being. Deepest sympathy to his dear Addie and his children.

December 2 at 11:56 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Arthur by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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