Service of Celebration For

THE RIGHT REVEREND
Hamel Hartford Brookins
91st ELECTED AND CONSECRATED BISHOP
of
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles
2270 South Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90018

Friday, June 1, 2012 • 11:00 AM

Mr. & Mrs.
Bishop H. H. Brookins & Rev. Rosalynn Brookins

The Last Dance

Reverend Dr. John J. Hunter
Host Pastor
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

THE RIGHT REVEREND H.H. BROOKINS

Lying in Repose (Parting View): 10:00 AM—11:00 AM

SERVICE OFFICIATED BY:
The Right Reverend John Richard Bryant
Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District

Scripture and Musical Prelude
Nehemiah 8:6
The Reverend C. Dennis Williams and Byron Kirkland
“Let the Church Say Amen”

The Sealing of the Bier

The Processional

Presentation of the Pectoral Cross

Opening Sentences
The Right Reverend John Richard Bryant
4th Episcopal District, AMEC

Hymn of Comfort
The Choir and Congregation “It is Well”
The Right Reverend Gregory G. M. Ingram
10th Episcopal District, AMEC

Invocation
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Choral Response “Order My Steps”
The FAME Freedom Mass Choir and the Walker Temple Mass Choir

The Anthem “Great is thy Faithfulness”
Brenda Jackson

Old Testament Scripture
The Right Reverend Carolyn Tyler-Guidry
8th Episcopal District, AMEC

New Testament Scripture
The Right Reverend Sarah Frances Davis
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The Gospel
The Right Reverend Jeffery N. Leath
19th Episcopal District, AMEC

Musical Selection “For Every Mountain”
The FAME Freedom Mass Choir and the Walker Temple Mass Choir

Acknowledgements

Thank You...

...Is a phrase uttered by many throughout the day, now it is our turn.

We, as a family have sailed through rough seas, but without your love, prayers and devotion, we could not have completed our journey.

Your kind words provide wind for our sails, your prayers have comforted us and your love inspired us to do what needed to be done.

With those kind words and deeds backing us each day, we have risen to face new challenges.

Let it be said, our debt to you, our special friends, can never be repaid.

We will share with you our love and prayers and at the end of each day, from our hearts we will say “THANK YOU”.

The Brookins Family extends a special appreciation to:
Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Mrs. Mary L. Kirkland and the Fifth Episcopal District,
Pastor John J. Hunter, First Lady Denise Hunter and the congregation of First AME Church of Los Angeles.

We express gratitude to the faithful members of Walker Temple AME Church, the entire African Methodist Episcopal Church worldwide, the Tribute of Judah, Daniel Villia and our great friends at Inglewood Park Cemetery, Brier Oaks Nursing Home and Hospice Care.

To leave condolences and view the on line tribute please visit: http://famechurch.org/Bishop-Brookins/

Services Entrusted To:
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Elder Charles Blake
Representing the Right Reverend Charles E. Blake
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The Right Reverend John F. White
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Musical Selection "I Still Have Joy"

FAME Freedom Mass Choir and the
Walker Temple Mass Choir

First AME Church of Los Angeles Tribute

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Hunter
Senior Minister, FAME Los Angeles

Tribute from the Family

The Rev. Francine Brookins

Special Tribute

Bishop Vinton Randolph Anderson
Retired Bishop of the AMEC

Musical Selection "My Tribute (To God Be The Glory)"

Janet Gloyd

Walker Temple AME Church Tribute

Connie Mills and Pastor V.P.Soto

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Religious Leaders and Resolutions

Michael Ellison-Lewis

Musical Selection "Amazin Grace"

Brenda Jackson

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
42nd President of the United States

Rev Dr. Themaj Bryant-Davis and
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U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
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Tribute by the Tribe of Judah

Yvette Williams, Brookins Community AME

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BROOKINS AME CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES
21 White Doves released in tribute to Bishop H. Hartford Brookins

Psalm 55:6. “Oh that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.”

The cortege of Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins will travel through the city of Los Angeles towards the final resting place at Inglewood Cemetery. The cortege will turn left on Western at Adams Boulevard traveling south and a right on 49th Street to The H.H. Brookins Square.
Messages of Love from The Children of Bishop H. H. Brookins

[Image of the children of Bishop H. H. Brookins]

Dear Dad:

Albert Einstein said, “the value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive. You often asked what is your mission?

“Sin” Bishop said goes to the point of having the ability to do something for the good of the whole and (not doing it), not just giving people some sort of anesthesia to get through life here on earth.

The footprints that you made in life have left a legacy for the AME Church and your family which you so dearly loved. Dad, as you watch over us all I hope that you can see the footprints that you made in life have walked right into us to all.

Regards, Steve Brookins

Dear Dad:

“I am so grateful to God for giving me you and allowing us this time together in life. Thank you for sharing your wisdom and for all your words of encouragement and for your prayers.”

Rev. Francine Brookins

Dear Dad,

“The Bible says, “how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel.” I would add another component; I would say, how beautiful are the hands of those who help to build the Kingdom of God. You have built the kingdom of God all over the world. I am so proud to have you as my father. I love you so very much.”

Sir-Willington Hartford Brookins

Service of Committal / Interment

INGLEWOOD PARK CEMETERY
720 East Florence Avenue, Inglewood, California 90301

BISHOP JOHN R. BRYANT, PRESIDING

Hymn Nearer My God to Thee
Prayer
Scripture Psalm 23
Musical Tribute Going Home
The Committal
The Lord’s Prayer
The Benediction

The Brookins Family cordially invites all to join in a reception at the Allen House Earl Green Pavilion.

The Active Pallbearers
Attorney Larry Brookins
Jeffery Brookins
Billy Winfield
Lionel Brookins
Edgar Brookins
Craig Brookins
Rev. Mark E. Whitlock

The Honorary Pallbearers
The Southern California Ministerial Alliance
The Board of Stewards and Trustees of First AME Church of Los Angeles
The Board of Stewards and Trustees of Walker Temple AME Church of Los Angeles

The Flowers Bearers
Ministerial Staff of First AME Church of Los Angeles
Ministerial Staff of Walker Temple AME Church of Los Angeles
Combined Usher Boards of First AME Church of Los Angeles
Combined Usher Boards of Walker Temple AME Church of Los Angeles
Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins wore all of these titles and then some.

From his birth as the seventh child of (father) and (mother), sharecroppers in the abundant soil of Mississippi, Bishop Brookins knew of the daily struggles that people of color faced, and he took up the mantle to seek equality, fairness and inclusiveness. He was educated in the Mississippi school system, and earned his bachelor degrees from Wilberforce University and Payne Theological Seminary.

From the beginning of his ministry, Bishop Brookins could capture the congregation’s attention with his fiery and impassioned delivery. He spread the message of God’s Word with energy and enthusiasm, whether preaching to ten or ten thousand. His rich baritone and crisp diction filled rooms with directions to “Give God praise, praise Him one more time, now praise Him again like you mean it!” He had his own style of ‘hooping’ and would bring the church to its feet as he lifted his arms and threw back his head while calling upon the Lord.

Bishop Brookins knew that education can lift up any person or people. He was active in the school desegregation movement in Kansas after the United States Supreme Court ruled on Brown v. Topeka Board of Education. He had a vision for the African Methodist Episcopal Church to have qualified and educated clergy and lay leaders, and encouraged the development and support of scholarship opportunities for the membership. He understood that the civil rights of the community needed the support and leadership of the church. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. others in support of those stalwart souls on the long walk home. He dared his members to dream larger than they had ever dreamed before, and then to go after those dreams with heads up, shoulders back and surrounded by the shield of faith.

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In m oving to his new  assignm ent, Bishop H am el H artford B rookins is survived by his w ife, R everend R osalynn Kyle B rookins, his brother H erbert "S andy" B rookins (S hirley), and one granddaughter M arina B rookins and a host of other relatives and im media-tion to build the church on the hill. He led the procession in 1968 from the former home at Eighth and Towne to Harvard Boulevard with a star-studded group of some of the best known actors in Hollywood, many of whom called him their preacher. He moved through the church with a fluid grace and ease, running up and down the stairs from one activity to the next in his beloved "First Church". While leading his congregation into a new edifice, he didn’t neglect his commitments to be a beacon for the leading the way for the church on the hill, but also for the addi-tion of numerous buildings to the A M E Church in Kansas and in California. The Allen House of First A M E Church, Brooking A M E Church, numerous apartment complexes, which now house the elderly, disabled, and addresses the need of m em bers of the community, all stand as reminders of his ability to build the human spirit and the kingdom.

In aspire casting to higher office in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Pastor Brooking sought to enlarge the vision of the Connectional Church. He was elected and consecrated the 91st Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1972 in Dallas, Texas with his seven classmates. He immediately got busy with his first assignment to Rhodesia, speaking truth to power and opposing the minority rule of the majority. They retaliated by banning him from the country, but he continued to rally support for the disenfranchised citizens.

Here at home, he encouraged another country preacher to step out boldly to launch an organization that will reach across color lines to bring opportunities to the African-American community. Reverend Jesse Jackson looked to Bishop Brooking for advice and counsel as he launched Operation PUSH and then later counted the Bishop among his inner circle during his presidential campaigns. The Bishop accepted no excuses from eligible non-voters here in America: no vote, no voice! He met with corporate, civic and political leaders around the nation, discussing ideas and programs to bring needed resources to the people.

He was a peacemaker during the Watts Riots in Los Angeles in 1965, encouraging people not to burn up their dreams by burning down their property. He was attentive to the agen-das of the Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC). He mentored and encouraged a quiet public servant by the nam e of Tom  B radley in races for Mayor of Los Angeles (serving five terms) and governor (losing by the slim m est of margins). He prayed diligently for a young senator from Illinois who dared to dream of the highest office in the United States. When Barack Obama was sworn in as the forty-fourth president of the United States of America, Bishop Brooking was the honored guest at the inauguration prayer breakfast here at his beloved "First Church", bringing the crowded room to its feet with cheers and applause as he made his way to his seat to watch another chapter of history come to life. As he watched the ceremony that day, he saw another presidential face in the crowd, whom he had known since his Episcopal service in the twelfth District. The protocol of greeting President Bill Clinton always began and ended with him seeing Bishop Brooking before any other else, no matter what the location or occasion.

In retirement, Bishop Brooking continued to be a source of counsel and encouragement for seasoned and neophyte clergy-persons. While he walked with powerful leaders and power brokers, he was available to the everyday people, greeting the newspaper vendor with equal enthusiasm. He enjoyed a good cup of coffee and watching the Los Angeles Dodgers ballgames. He prayed with and for visitors at church and wherever he happened to be. He encouraged his brothers and sisters in African Methodism to “never let go of the church, never let go of God.”

In moving to his new assignm ent, Bishop H am el Hartford B rookins is survived by his wife, R everend Rosalynn Kyle B rookins, their son Sir Wellingt Hartford B rookins, his son Steven Hartford B rookins and his daughter R everend Francine A. B rookins, his brother Herbert “Sandy” B rookins (Shirley), and one granddaughter Marina B rookins and a host of other relatives and num erous friends.

"Death is not the final sleep, but the Great Awakening.”  ~  A uthor unknow n
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Dear Dad:

Albert Einstein said, “the value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive.
You often asked what is your mission?

“Sin” Bishop said goes to the point of having the ability to do something for the good of the whole and
(not doing it), not just giving people some sort of anesthetia to get through life here on earth.

The footprints that you made in life have left a legacy for the AME Church and your family which you so dearly
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Dear Dad:

“I am so grateful to God for giving me you and allowing us this time together in life. Thank you for sharing your
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The Planning Committee
Michael Ellison-Lewis
Reverend Eduardo Vickers

Special Thanks To Committee Members:
Connie Anthony • Craig A. Worsham • LeSean Tarkington • Eduardo Soriano-Hewitt
Cassandra Clark • Walter Garrett • Yevette Williams • Dr. Velma Union
Dr. Helen Easterling Williams • Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis • Jackie Broxton
Naomi Webb • Jane Kim • William P. Miller • Gloria Lightner • Abdul Henderson • Meeka Robinson
Steven K. Miller, Jr., District Director for The Office of Assemblyman Mike Davis
13th Episcopal District, AMEC

Acknowledgements
Thank You...
...Is a phrase uttered by many throughout the day, now it is our turn.
We, as a family have sailed through rough seas, but without your love, prayers and devotion,
we could not have completed our journey.
Your kind words provide wind for our sails, your prayers have comforted us
and your love inspired us to do what needed to be done.
With those kind words and deeds backing us each day, we have risen to face new challenges.
Let it be said, our debt to you, our special friends, can never be repaid.
We will share with you our love and prayers and at the end of each day,
from our hearts we will say “THANKYOU”.

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Daniel Villia and our great friends at Inglewood Park Cemetery,
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