SPIRITUAL JOURNEY SERVICE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2014

FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES
2270 SOUTH HARVARD BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90018

PASTOR J. EDGAR BOYD
SENIOR MINISTER
FIRST AME CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

REVEREND EDUARDO VICKERS
OFFICIATING

REVEREND DR. CECIL L. “CHIP” MURRAY
EULOGIST

Ezell Earl Ford

OCTOBER 14, 1988 — AUGUST 11, 2014

“And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:22
Order of Service

RECEIVING HIS SCHOLARSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HEAVEN
EZELL EARL FORD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2014
11:00 AM

OFFICIANT
REVEREND EDUARDO VICKERS, ASSOCIATE MINISTER
FIRST AME CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

Pre-worship “Amazing Grace” .................................................. Johnny Britt
Processional “I am the Resurrection and the Life” ............... Ministers and Family
Prayer of Comfort ............................................................... Reverend Eduardo Vickers
Old Testament Scripture - Psalm 121 [KJV] ..................... Reverend Louie James
The Gospel - John 14:1-7 ...................................................... Reverend. Dr. Carolyn Herron
Musical Tribute “Goin Up Yonder” ........................................ Elis Hall

Special Remarks .......................... United States Congresswoman Diane E. Watson (Ret)
Liturgical Dance Presentation “The Storm Is Over Now” .... Monique Williams
Special Remarks ............................................................... Eddie Levert Jr.
Musical Tribute “How Great Thou Art” .............................. Brenda Lee Eager

Family Tribute ................................................................. Tritobia L. Ford
Musical Tribute “Come Sunday” ........................................... Sherri Payne

Obituary Read By .............................................................. Roland Bynum

Video Presentation of the Spiritual Journey of Ezell Earl Ford

Resolutions ................................................................. United States Congresswoman Diane E. Watson (Ret)
Acknowledgements ....................................................... Ambassador Duane Moody
Musical Tribute .............................................................. AKNU (A Kind Never Understood)

Words of Comfort .......................................................... Reverend Dr. Cecil L. “Chip” Murray

Recessional “A Ribbon In The Sky” .............................. Ellis Hall, Ambassador of Soul
Recessional “ I am the Resurrection and the Life”
Ezell Earl Ford was born on October 14, 1988 to proud parents Edsell Ford and Tritobia Perkins. He suffered some complications at birth including breathing complications. By the age of three, Ezell had been diagnosed with asthma and had many emergency room visits and even hospitalization due to bouts with asthma. Exell knew of the Lord. He grew up around his grandmother (Gladys Dukes), a devout saint and prayer warrior who preceded him in death.

Ezell believed in the powers and miracle of the Lord as he himself had a few testimonies of God's works. He attended such schools as 66th Elementary, Marcus Garvey, Victory Baptist, Pacific Hills Prep, Verbum Dei and Bethune Middle School. He was known for his athleticism, dancing and humor. He loved himself some “Kobe Bryant” and even sported the same number whenever possible. In his younger years, Ezell loved to be in the presence of lots of family and friends. He loved to party and, in most cases, was the life of the party.

After facing challenges in life and being diagnosed with bipolar schizophrenia, Ezell became a loner and a drifter. He still maintained a free spirit and heart. He would walk endlessly. If he had a cigarette and someone asked for one, he would give them four. More often, he would be the one asking and others would give him whatever he would ask for. They had compassion for Ezell.

Ezell Ford leaves to mourn his Father: Edsell Ford; Mother: Tritobia Ford; Brothers: Tramell Ford, Lavell Ford, Malik Ford, Ahmir Ford and Zaire Ford; Sister: Sakari Ford; Grandmother: Dorothy Clark; Grandfather: Clevell Perkins and a host of aunts uncles, cousins and friends.

Ezell Ford will be forever missed and loved. May justice prevail and his soul rest in peace.
Ezell Earl Ford
Memories

EZELL EARL FORD
MEMORIES
An Open Letter To My Son

Dear Ezell,

Let me just first say I apologize, I don’t know why I went to football practice with Ahmir that day, because I would have been home. I apologize for not being by your side, riding in the ambulance, but the police wouldn’t let me. I tried! Although I was not there my mind often takes me to the scene and I envision what you must have went through and I cry until I can’t cry anymore. I am outraged, but I have prayed and given it to God and it is now in His hands. And I know He has the fighting power it will take to win this one. You have been through a lot. God has brought you out of so many situations where you could have lost your life. Remember the time when you were two years old and fell from the second story landing. When we got to the Emergency Room at Daniel Freeman Hospital, the doctor said it was a miracle that you had only cut your finger from the items in your hand when you fell. Or the time when we were driving our old Regal you were three years old, the door opened while I was driving and you tumbled onto Broadway and jumped up running in the direction of the car yelling momma.

The police that witnessed the whole incident was so blown away he let me go without a ticket after we marveled of God’s Miracle. I could go on but what I’m trying to say is this time God chose to take you home. I used to always tell you that God had something special for you. Never did I dream it would be on this magnitude. Baby our whole neighborhood has come together in the fight for justice in your name and others like you. People around the world have come together all in support of you, and others like you who have died at the hands of Police Officers. What I’m telling you is remember how you always wanted to be famous, well baby it’s just sad that the price you paid is your life. But your name, as well as others like you, have been in papers and on TVs across the nation. Even the people who used to call you weirdo, they’ve been marching too. We are tried and we vow that we will fight until the end for answers, accountability and change. I know that you were hungry and trying to get home. I think about the fact you died hungry, but I know God has all your needs right now. You have no more worries. I apologize for being on you about showering or the way you wore your clothes, or the fact you wouldn’t shave. I did it in love. The way you would purposely snap the mailbox to make that sound that annoyed me so much I would give anything to hear that sound from you again. That song you would repeatedly play by Justin Beiber, it is now my favorite. I love you. I miss you and I am challenging the world to shower people with mental illnesses with love. In honor of your name.

Love always,
Your mother

Tritobia L. Ford

P.S. I take comfort in knowing your Granny will be near.
God has your back. Mom has your back. We all love you Little E.

Your sister,

Sakari Ford

Man I can't believe you are dead.
We love you, but now you're in good hands.

I love you.

Big Bro. Miss you.

Your brother, Ahmir Ford

Dear Ezell,
I am sorry this had to happen to you this way. I wish that I could've had one last chance to embrace you and tell you how much I love you. However, I know that you are watching over us from a better place. I miss you and you will never be forgotten. Rest in peace big bro. I'll see you when I get there hug granny for me.

Dear Ezell,
Words cannot explain how I am feeling right now. Just to know that you are not going to here with the family anymore. Although I miss how you used to come to the door and pop the mailbox to wake us up in the mornings. It feels strange not to hear that anymore. I just want you to know that you have a lot of people out here supporting you in this fight to get these devils prosecuted. Pops love you little Ezell. Oh before I go, tell grandma I love her.
A mother’s love towards her son is unbreakable, it is memorable, and it cannot be erased,

He touched my heart in many places that could not be reached, found, or discovered until I saw his face his eyes his hands, I counted every finger and toe...My baby...My son,

His smile brightened my day to come. His laughter made me realized how much I love him. He made me remember the first time he touched my heart and soul over and over again, my thoughts are slow but steady in thinking of how this day could ever come....Gone too soon, I know he has angel wings, he is free to soar in a perfect space, no pain, no sadness, A mother's love, a mother's peace, a mother's tears, running live rivers slowly frying like wells,

I imaged you growing old, telling of stories of your childhood,

Now that I am old, I now tell the story of your childhood,

Now that I am old, telling of stories of your childhood,

Now that I am old, I now tell the story of your young youth, there is no ending in how you made me feel, so proud, young again, so vibrant,

You are a shining light, my son, a brother, a friend our all, my happiness, our joy.

You are in a better place, a higher place, go on...and be free...go on...you are set free...no more pain, no more confusion, no more tears.

So shine bright my son,

Shine bright my love,

You are my shining light,

Keep shining!

Written by: Queen Blackshear
Special Thanks and Appreciation

REVEREND DR. CECIL L. “CHIP” MURRAY
Tanzy Chair of Christian Ethics, Senior Fellow at the Center for Religion and Civic Culture, USC and Pastor emeritus, First AME Church of Los Angeles

PASTOR J. EDGAR BOYD
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First AME Church of Los Angeles

A very special thank you is extended to Attorney Steve Lerman and Firm for your dedication and support during this most difficult time.

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Executive Produced by Imagine That
(Ambassador Duane Moody, Chief Executive Officer)
Pallbearers
Treyvon Johnson
Thomas Black
Dante Richardson
William Henderson
Duane Moody

Honorary Pallbearers
Tramell Ford Mahalia Clark
Lavell Ford Arthur Ford
Malik Ford Shirley Ford
Ahmir Ford John Ford
Zaire Ford Ronnie Ford
Sakari Ford Louise Ford
Terry Ford Jeremiah Dukes
Calvin Williams Anthony Ford
Sharon Miller Teresa Robinson
Clevell Perkins Neisha Stroud
Gregory Turner Staff of Patton State Hospital
Staff of Tele Care

Acknowledgment
We, the family of Ezell Earl Ford, acknowledge, with heartfelt sincere appreciation, all of the prayers, acts of kindness and, love extended to our family during this time. Thank you and God Bless You.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a donation to the following organizations: Youth Justice Coalition - freelanow@yahoo.com or LA ON CLOUD 9 - www.laca.org.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO
Angelus Funeral Home
3875 South Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90008

ENTOMBMENT
Inglewood Park Cemetery
720 East Florence Avenue
Inglewood, California 90301

100 DOVE WILL BE RELEASED IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF EZELL EARL FORD.
25 WILL BE RELEASED FOR EZELL FORD (75 FOR HIS MOTHER, FATHER, BROTHERS AND SISTER)