

Obituary for Brother Leroy Reed



“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” (II Corinthians 5:8).

On November 12, 1949, God blew into Leroy Reed’s nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul--a soul whose birth was a jubilation of joy to his parents, Henry Reed, Jr. and Alberta Burns Reed. Leroy was reared in Rapides Station Community and was educated in the Rapides Parish Public School System. He was a proud “Warhorse” of Peabody High School Class of 1967, who excelled in baseball. Upon graduation from high school, Leroy attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, majoring in Theater and Drama. Leroy furthered his studies at California Baptist University in Riverside, CA. On May 23, 1998, he was conferred with a Bachelor’s of Religious Education degree from United Theological Seminary in Monroe, LA.

Leroy began his Christian life at a young age at St. Matthew Baptist Church, when he was baptized by the late Reverend David Smith. Later in life, he moved to Riverside, CA and became a member of Park Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. At Park Avenue, Leroy served as Director of the Youth Department, a member of the choir, and diligently worked in the brotherhood, attending regular church services and special programs.

In 1970 during the Vietnam War era, Leroy was drafted into the United States Army, stationed at Fort Polk in Leesville, LA. Specialist E4 Reed received an honorable discharge on December 23, 1971, with an enlistment in the Army Reserves until 1976.

On December 24, 1972, Leroy married Ava Cyrus Reed in Riverside, CA. To this union, one beautiful daughter was born, Cyrian Alicia Reed.

In 1972, Leroy worked at the Harris Company as a stock clerk in Riverside, CA. In 1975, he was employed by the California Department of Corrections, Youth Authority Division. He was assigned to the Youth Training School in Chino, CA as a Youth Supervisor, later promoted to the position of Youth Counselor. In that role, Leroy was trained in Crisis Intervention situations, Behavior Modification practices and implementation, and in Case Management System. On May 11, 1983, Leroy medically retired as a Civil Service Youth Counselor and Peace Officer.

In 1991, Leroy returned to his roots and rejoined St. Matthew Baptist Church. At St. Matthew, Leroy was greeted by his brother-in-law, Reverend Joe S. Green, who became his spiritual leader and shepherd who understood the meaning of inspirational compassion and a nurturing spirit for his flock. God knew that Leroy needed a faithful, earthly vessel to minister to his spirit while serving as St. Matthew’s Coordinator of Community-Based Tutorial Program and Drug Prevention Counselor. Leroy endured more than 37 years of ill health, until God, in his infinite wisdom, healed all his infirmities by calling him to his heavenly home. Leroy’s soul departed his earthly tabernacle on November 16, 2018 at the Alexandria VA Medical Hospital System in Pineville, LA.

Leroy was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Reed, Jr. and Alberta Burns Reed, and his brother, Henry Reed III.

Leroy leaves to mourn his passing his daughter, Cyrian Alicia Reed of Riverside, CA; Cyrian’s mother, Ava Cyrus Reed of Riverside, CA, his sisters: Dorothy (“Dedo”) Woodland of Alexandria, LA, Willie Mae (“Mae-Mae”) Powell of Boyce, LA, Josephine Green (Joe) of Boyce, LA and Roberta Brown (Odell) of Dallas, TX; a special friend, Joyce Williams of Atlanta, GA; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.