

~Reflection of Life~

Cleveland L. Rice was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to the late Eugene Rice and Odist Rice.

Having confessed hope in Christ, and joined Beulah Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend William Benison.

He was a student in the public-school systems having graduated in 1975 from Druid High School. He loved sports, in particular football which led him to sign a letter of intent February 13, 1975 to play for Alabama A&M University in Normal, Alabama. He was an Industrial Arts major. Cleveland played the positions of offensive tackle and center.

In 1978 he was named to the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) all conference team first team as an offensive tackle. Other football honors included the Atlanta Daily World Black College All-American first team for 1979. Two-time All SIAC lineman, the 100 percent Wrong Club's All SIAC selection for two years and the Atlanta Journal's All SIAC team.

Cleveland is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 39 years, Lynette Thomas-Rice, a son, Deris L. Rice (Kristin) of Phoenix, Arizona, and a daughter who was definitely a "daddy's girl", Danai Rice of Tuscaloosa. He was Papa to his two grandsons, Harlow and Boesen whom he loved dearly and bragged of often. He is preceded in death by his father, the late Eugene Rice. Cleveland has one sister, Ossie Billups, two brothers, Herman Rice (Mary) and Roy Rice (Edwina), all of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

He also has several nieces and nephews and a host of friends. He had a very special bond with his mother-in-law, Frances Thomas and friends, Brian James, Bruce Merriweather, Nate Carter, and Teddy Keaton who checked on him regularly.

Cleveland joined St. John Baptist Church after marrying Lynette. He was a faithful servant, always willing to lend a hand in any activities. He served on the Senior Usher Ministry, and also worked with and

mentored young men on the Junior Usher Board Ministry. Cleveland loved St. John and its members.

He was employed at Elk Roofing for 16 years and then B.F. Goodrich (his dream job) for 16 years. He was medically retired from B.F. Goodrich in 2013 after undergoing a triple bypass.

He loved mowing his lawn, he took great pride in having a manicured yard. He loved grocery shopping and finding bargains. He always knew what was on sale at his favorite grocery stores. Cleveland never met a stranger; he would strike up a conversation with anyone.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer & Words of Encouragement.....Reverend Roy L. Ferguson
St. John Baptist Church

Song.....Earnestine Wilson

Presentation of Proclamation.....Vanessa Rice

Message from nieces and nephews.....Danisha Billups-Lee

Words for the family.....Deris L. Rice

Committal.....Reverend Roy L. Ferguson

All My Tears

When I go, don't cry for me
In my Father's arms I'll be
The wounds this world left on my soul
Will all be healed and I'll be whole.
Sun and moon will be replaced
With the light of Jesus' face
And I will not be ashamed
For my Savior knows my name.

It don't matter where you bury me,
I'll be home and I'll be free.
It don't matter where I lay,
All my tears will be washed away.



Acknowledgement

The family of the late Cleveland L. Rice wishes to express our sincere thanks for all prayers, cards, calls, text, and visits during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless you all.

~The Rice Family

Professional Services provided by:



Rainey Mortuary Service
4807 20th St.
Tuscaloosa, AL
205-758-1300

Homegoing Services For Brother Cleveland L. Rice



Sunrise

June 19, 1956

Sunset

March 5, 2021

Graveside Service

Friday, March 12, 2021 * 1 PM

Cedar Oak Memorial Park
1401 Mimosa Park Rd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Reverend Roy L. Ferguson, Officiant