

Order of Service



Processional

"Oh Beautiful" by Ray Charles

Prayer

Deacon Howard Roberts

Old Testament Scripture

*Reverend Anthony Miller
Joy of the Lord West Park, Florida*

New Testament Scripture

*Reverend Stephanie Bevill
St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Miami, Florida*

Selection

"Let It Be" by Jerry Butler

As a Family Friend

Mrs. Myrtice Murray

Open Reflections

*(Family, Friends, and Community)
(2 minutes limit)*

Selection

Yes God Is Real (Dad's favorite song)

Words of Comfort

*Assistant Pastor, James Walden
Koinonia Worship Center, Miramar, Florida*

Acknowledgments

Eric S. George Funeral Home Staff

Benediction

Processional



Just a Memory Away

I'm no longer by your side,
But there's no need to weep;
I've left sweet recollections,
I'm hoping you would keep.
Eternal joy and memories
Stay in our hearts forever,
Strengthening our special bond
that parting cannot sever.
Now it's time to journey on,
So let your faith be strong,
For I am in a better place...
I'm home where I belong.
And if times of loneliness
Bring sorrow and dismay,
Don't despair, for I am there...

Just a Memory Away



Repast

For family at the McDowell's House
5240 SW 18th Street
West Park, Florida 33023

Acknowledgements

A friendly smile, A casual touch,
These are the things that mean so much.
To know you are with us in our time of sorrow,
Sharing our prayers, Today and tomorrow.
God gives us comfort in the form of good friends,
May His peace be with you, His love never ends.

The Family of Oddible McDowell



Eric S. George
Funeral Home

"To Serve the Present Age"

6107 Miramar Parkway
Miramar, Florida 33023

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Remembering A LIFE WELL LIVED



Oddible
MCDOWELL, SR.

SUNRISE: JULY 8, 1935 - SUNSET: MARCH 24, 2022

Eric S. George Funeral Home Chapel
6107 Miramar Parkway
Miramar, Florida 33023

"He Who Looked Up and Lived"

Oddibe was the first-born son of a single mother Elnora McDowell (1918-1994).

While thinking back through her joys and though her pains. The last words from the heart of this proud mother used to describe her son to her grandson were, "He Who Looked Up and Lived".

He Will Look Up and Live Again, From the Holy Scriptures we know he now remains in Jehovah's memory. Since he knows even the number of the stars in the heavens and has named them all as well as numbering the hairs on our heads, through his power, love and perfect justice he will be resurrected with an opportunity to continue an everlasting life, free of hunger, sickness or the enemy death, in a perfect form on a perfectly restored paradise of a new earth through exercising faith in our lord and savior Jesus Christ God's only begotten son, we have an opportunity to see him again, if we keep our eyes on this prize.

His early childhood was a very difficult. He was raised by his mother in a poor rural segregated town of Notasulga, Alabama. Otie B. Moore was the name shown on his original birth certificate, later amended to Oddibe McDowell by his Elementary School teacher.

As an infant of only two years old he was always energetic and playful. However, while playing outside near a ground fire where all the neighbors gathered to keep warm during the cold winters, tragically his shirt caught fire. He suffered severe burns to his right arm and shoulder before neighbors were able to catch him and extinguish the flames. Without emergency medical assistance his mother nor friends were able to help with his healing. This left him with limited movement from the burned untreated skin formation. However, although scared for the rest of his life, he was not deterred nor handicapped.

In 1937, he was taken to Belle Glade, FL while his mother remained in Alabama by a friend of his mother's eventual husband Wilbur McDowell when he was just 2 years old. Later after encouragement by his mother, Wilbur demanded his friend Samuel Brown, to move the family down to Hallandale, Florida where he, his mother and sister Rosalee lived for a time in apartments off 9th street. His mom and her now growing family were forced to move back and forth between homes in Hallandale, Carver's Ranches and Davie. Once he recalls, they were forced to move after a tornado had destroyed their home in Davie. While still becoming a young man, he often took responsibility for the family and even built a boat for them to ride out the flooding caused by the 1959 hurricane.

He who looked up and lived to become a gentleman, was a standout in several school sports, especially baseball, which he was a gifted player and hitter. Resilience, humility, and "exercising faith are not a possession of all men", the bible states.

He attended Carver's Ranches Elementary grades 1st through 5th, Lanier High School 6th through 10th. Although he did not graduate HS, his continued his quest for learning stretched far beyond High School, and after marriage and becoming an adult. He supported and inculcated the importance of religious principles, education to all his children and their offspring.

He told stories of his elementary school friends. Especially, his friend Roscoe, who once satirically, asked the teacher, how do you conjugate pushing a wheelbarrow? Because that was his inevitable future as far as he could see, and so, he didn't need to learn anything that day.

He went against the grain and was an extraordinary student and was recognized and inspired by his teachers. Although, he was forced to leave HS school at 10th grade to pursue work as a migrant laborer to help support his family, he was optimistic and determined. He continued pursuit of his education through mail-in home study courses. He learned to speak correct English from imitating movie stars, news reporters and through reading the bible and newspapers. He received an Automatic Transmissions Mechanic Specialist Certificate, Radio and Electronics Repair Technician Certificate and he learned to read music through home self-study courses, achieving an Intermediate Standard on Piano.



He loved to play many songs and would be heard practicing every day after work for many years. He especially was fond of Nat King Cole, Johnny Ace, Brook Benton, BB King, Bill Withers, and Lionel Richie. He managed to marry the most beautiful girl in the world, his high school sweetheart, whom he fell in love with at first sight, an enduring union for 63 years, until death do us part. He was one who looked up and lived.

Picking beans on the weekends, Saturday's, he would meet at 5:00 am in the morning to ride the Bean Bus, traveling across the state from the east to the west coast city of Belle Glade for a wage of \$2 or \$3 dollars a day. He often heard the melody "Mona Lisa" and would sing it to himself. It was back breaking work, as the sun's heat would be bearing down, he carried his baskets, reaching down and picking up beans from the soil, to be weighed at the end of the day to determine your pay, gas was only 29 Cent a gallon back then.

He worked as a truck driver for 84 Lumber, driving routes as far north as Boston.

After learning the tile setting trade, through "Whitey" he joined the local tile setter's union out of Miami, for nearly a decade until it was disbanded shortly after the Mariella boat lift and a weak economy. Oddibe's determination was relentless. He was able to change his focus to Appliance and TV repairs and get work estimating and doing tile projects independently for Color Tile, D & B Tile Distributors, and buying schematics from Stanton Electronics for TV and appliance repairs which he continued for the past 40 years working out of his self-built shop.

He was a man with a green thumb, he found solace in his backyard gardening adventures growing fruits trees and vegetables of all sorts. He studied their uniqueness with awe appreciation for what God has done. If you've visited his home you would see the multitude of fruits trees, flowers, plants and all other types of living things that he nurtured and had great pride in.

Oddibe was a ferocious checker player and played often with a group of friends in his backyard. He was also an avid pool player and could perform many trick shots. It was extremely difficult to beat him. He was able to accomplish any feat set before him.

Oddibe attended Ebenezer and Tabernacle Baptist church, shortly after marriage, and Community Baptist where he was Sunday school teacher. He was a man of great faith.

He became a living soul, a man, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and great-grandfather. They became one flesh and were well known and loved by many, through their many skills, discipline, kindnesses, and charities provided to the community. He deeply loved, cared, and cherished his wonderful wife of 63 years, who often said, she gained encouragement from his strong faith in God. She was a special kind of person, unique and joyful. He often said after her passing that he missed her very much.

His surviving children are Gregory Nelson (Patricia), Karen (Craig), Oddibe Jr. (Betty) Valerie (Danis), Vicki (Timothy). He has 14 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren. He is survived by his sisters, Rosa-Lee McDowell, Mae-Lois, Annie-Ruth, and Ella. His loving wife (Mary Frances) preceded his death. Siblings preceding his death are, Olivia, Martha, Katie-Mae, Willie, James, and Wilbur Jr. Oddibe leaves behind a host of relatives, and friends.

"Lift your eyes to the heavens and see. Who has created all these things? It is the one who brings out their army by number; He calls them by name. Because of his vast dynamic energy and his awe-inspiring power, not one of them is missing.

- Isaiah 40:26