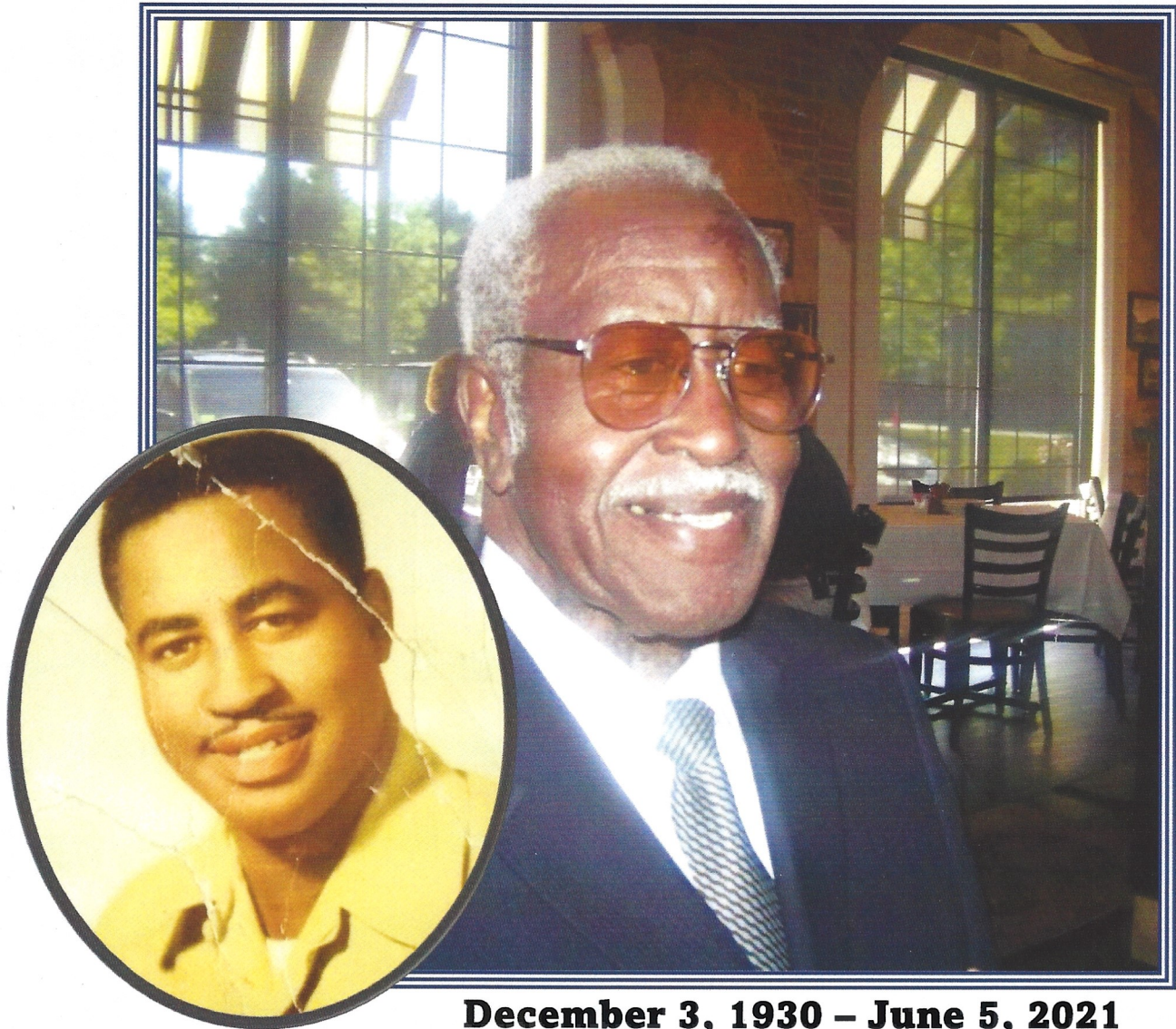


In Celebration of our Hero

Vester Linville Banner Sr.



December 3, 1930 – June 5, 2021

Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church
3985 Massachusetts Ave SE
Washington DC 20019

June 21, 2021
Viewing: 10:00 AM
Service: 11:00 AM

Services

Celebration of Life

June 21, 2021 | 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church
3985 Massachusetts Avenue SE
Washington DC 20019

Interment

Date projected for Early December 2021

Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Avenue
Arlington, Virginia 22211



*HAPPY & BLESSED 90th
Birthday, Dad!!* 🙏🏠❤️🎉



06/21/2021

Order of Service

- Prelude** **Mr. Ernest Hargrove**
- Processional** **Clergy and the Family**
- Opening Hymn** *422 We're Marching to Zion*..... **Congregation**
- Prayer of Comfort** **Pastor Marcus Harris, D Min**
- Old Testament** *Psalm 91:1-4* **Vester L. Banner III**
- New Testament** *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* **Bruce A. Banner II**
- Song of Promise** *Until Then* **Calvin Cummings**
- Life Story** **Read Silently**
- Acknowledgements** **Denise Malone, Church Secretary**
- Dad's Song** *Come, Thou Fount* **Janice Chandler Eteme**
- Reflections**..... **Kathleen Shipp-Shelton,
Vester L. Banner Jr, Bruce A. Banner Sr,
H. Douglas Banner, Tiana Spruill**
- Song of Hope** *We Shall Behold* **Janice Chandler Eteme**
- Message of Hope** **Pastor Errol T. Stoddart, D Min**
- Closing Hymn** *633 When We All Get to Heaven* **Congregation**
- Benediction** **Elder Lamont Bailey**
- Recessional** **Everyone**

Life Story

Vester L. Banner was born on December 3, 1930, in a log cabin on the outskirts of Winston Salem, NC. He was the fifth of eight children to Percy and Nannie (Petree) Banner. Growing up in a strict household, he was instilled with a strong sense of duty and responsibility at an early age. This character trait was exhibited throughout his entire life. He dutifully carried out his assigned chores which often included, chopping wood, churning butter, tending to livestock and caring for his younger siblings. He often rose early in the morning to accompany his father, as he delivered firewood and produce to waiting customers.

Vester developed an early love of driving, but initially struggled to master the manual transmission. On occasion he humorously shared a story of losing control of the family truck, driving it through his father's woodshed, only to later be "taken to the woodshed" as a result. Undeterred, he perfected his driving skills enough to be among the few student school bus drivers, at Carver High School in Winston Salem.

After high school, Vester's sense of duty and adventure led him to enlist in the U.S. Air Force in July of 1951. He completed basic training and was assigned his first duty station, Carswell AFB in Ft. Worth, Texas, where he began medical training in Physical Therapy. Little did he realize at the time, this would become his life's work. He spent his career rehabilitating injured soldiers, helping them to manage pain and increase their range of motion which enabled them to return to their normal lives.

On November 10, 1952, he married his high school crush, Allean Shell, in High Point, NC and later, welcomed their first child. During that time, Carswell AFB was home, but not for long, after their second child was born, they were on the move again, beginning a biennial odyssey of assignments at Sampson AFB, New York, Scott AFB, Illinois, Otis AFB, Massachusetts, and Lockbourne AFB, Ohio. Their travels also included two overseas assignments at Clark AFB, Philippines and Tachikawa AFB, Japan. They welcomed a new child at nearly every location, six in all. In the latter years of his military service, Vester was stationed at Lincoln AFB, Nebraska and Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota.

At each duty station, Vester and Allean sought to provide memorable experiences for their six children to explore nature and culture, coupled with meaningful, consistent family worship. Such experiences provide fond memories to this day. Vester enjoyed stuffing the family into the station wagon (affectionally referred to as "the battle wagon") for long multi-state car trips, often to reach the next assigned duty station, but also to show his children this country from ground level. In those days, families of color were sometimes met with acts of subtle and blatant racial discrimination. Though it bothered him very much, he was always careful to protect and shield the family from such acts of hate.

Vester's last assignment was at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where he eventually retired on August 1, 1971. With his final move, he chose the Washington Metropolitan area of Maryland, where he continued his career in physical therapy at the Washington Veteran Affairs Medical Center.

Vester and Allean joined the Dupont Park SDA Church in the early 1970's, where he later served as a deacon and eventually assistant head deacon. He had a love of people and practiced servant leadership. He especially loved children, a fact experienced by his 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Such a large brood, 37 plus and with in-laws, totally over 50, making for chaotically enjoyable family gatherings. Along with Allean, he always sought to make every holiday gathering special. He could hardly wait for the gathering to begin, and after a full day of feasting, he probably also could hardly wait for the gatherings to end. He was a man of peace that also enjoyed his peace, but unconditionally loved his family and consistently gave of himself. He was a person of good character, honoring God and providing for his family and helping friends and even strangers in need. It was common for him to turn the car around to help a stranded motorist, and never allow them to pay for his assistance. He always gave to the best of his ability. During his career he even received multiple Superior Service Awards for dedication and work excellence. This is *who* he was and how he should be remembered.

After more than a decade at the Washington VA Medical Center, Vester moved on to the physical therapy clinic on the adjacent campus of the U.S. Soldiers Home, now known as the Armed Forces Retirement Home. In 2004, Vester and Allean retired, and moved back to Winston-Salem, where it all began. Settling into their new house, they soon became members of the Ephesus SDA Church and later the First SDA Church, both in Winston-Salem. Vester and Allean enjoyed 15 plus years reconnecting with relatives, old friends while making new ones.

Vester's health began to falter, and it became clear he would face difficult years ahead. He moved back to Maryland for more aggressive treatment and care. His health continued to decline, requiring several inpatient hospital admittances. Due to an acute illness, he was admitted to the Washington, DC Veterans Medical Center for treatment on Wednesday, June 2nd. As his family held him up in prayer, he fought with everything he had. Early Sabbath morning, June 5, 2021, Vester Linville Banner Sr. began his earthly rest. He was 90 years of age.

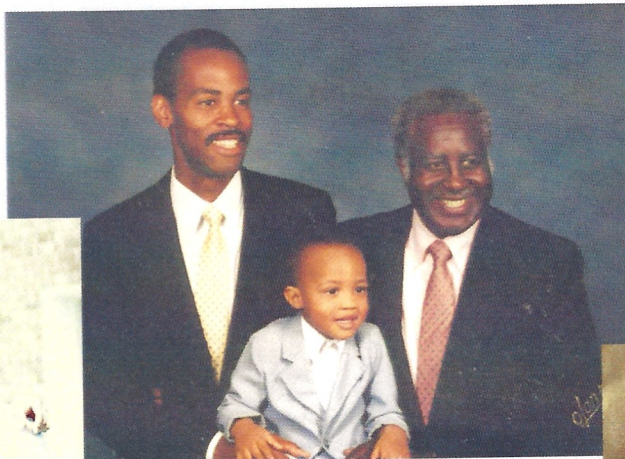
He was preceded in death by his parents; Percy and Nannie Banner; his five brothers and one sister, Harry, Otis, Vanwood, Nathaniel, James and Pauline.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 69 years, Allean Banner; Also Daughters: Pamela G. Banner, Panola D. Golson and Paula D. Spruill (Matthew); Sons: Vester L. Banner Jr. (Karen), Bruce A. Banner Sr. (Lilliam) and H. Douglas Banner (Gail); Sister: Kathleen Shelton; Granddaughters: Lisa Abbott (Quortez), Tanya Banner, Tamara Harper (Rahman), Tiesha Golson (Tanisha), Tara Nolan (Eugene), Chloe Hiland (Brian), Tiana Spruill, Chantal Spruill, Felisha Spruill, Rochelle Banner-Cummings (Calvin), Briana Barnwell (Demitris); Grandsons: Vester Banner III, Shelton Banner (Veronica), Von Abbott (Jennifer), Bruce Banner Jr, Nekko Banner and a host of great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

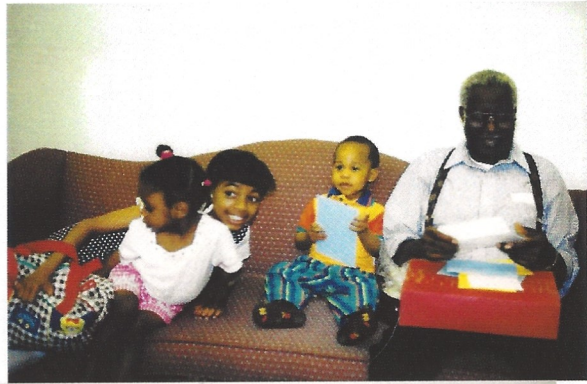


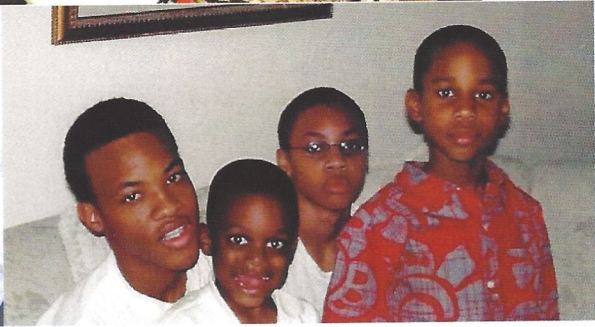
*HAPPY & BLESSED 90th
Birthday, Dad!! 🙏👉👈❤️🎉*





The Banner's "Brady" Bunch





Goodbye Dad

Adaptation of a Poem by Leanne Brady

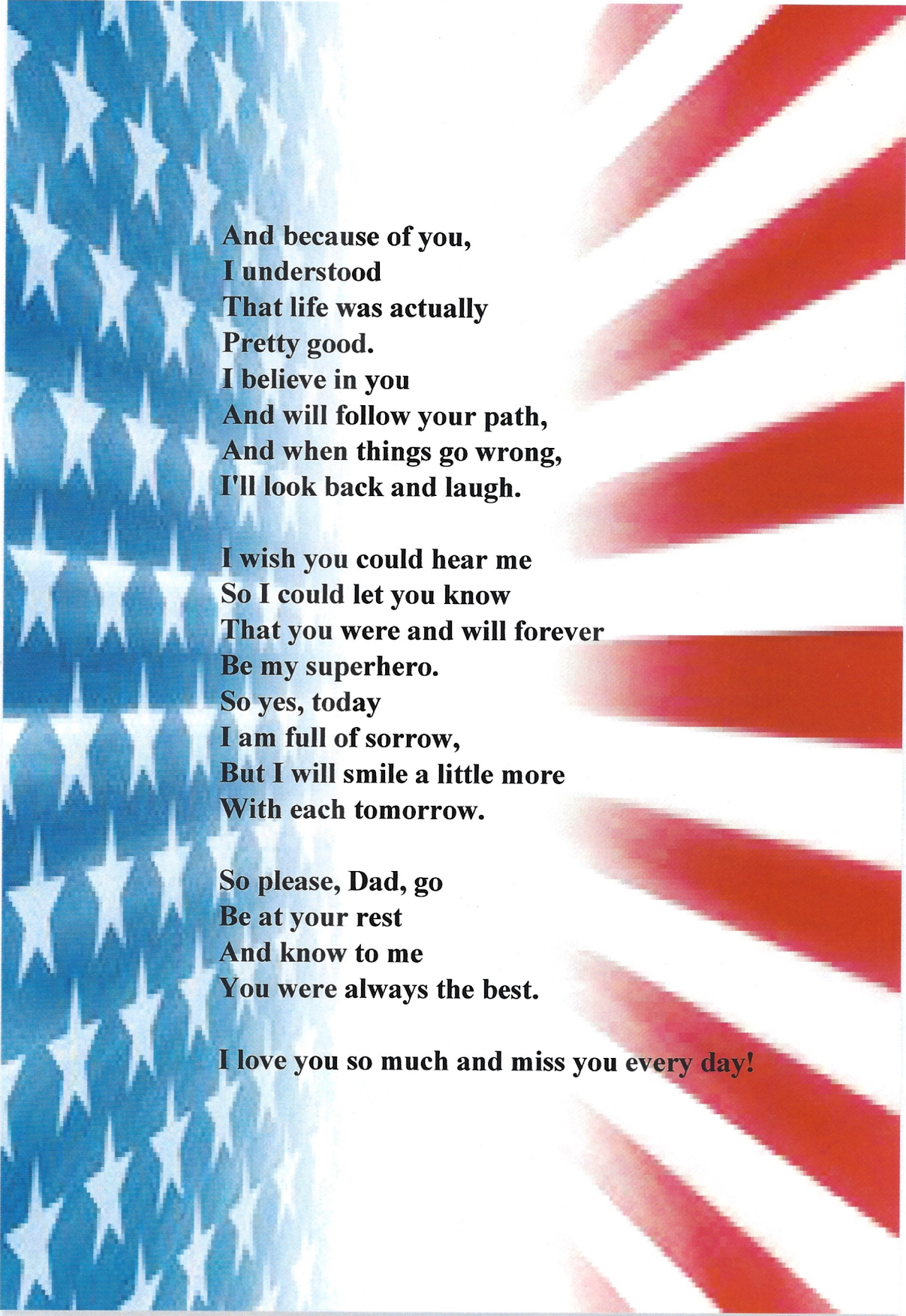
**It's never the right time
To say goodbye.
I will miss you, Dad,
And here is why.
You taught me so much:
To show no fear,
To always have fun,
And face the day with cheer.**

**You were always so able,
So fast and so strong.
In your children's eyes
You could do no wrong.
You would always listen,
And you never pried.
You were the arms around me
When I cried.**

**You never looked for praises,
And you were never one to boast.
You were always there
For those you loved the most.**

**You worked so hard,
And those strong working hands
Led me through life
And helped me understand
That life can be hard,
And tough, and sad,
But through it all
I had my Dad.**





**And because of you,
I understood
That life was actually
Pretty good.
I believe in you
And will follow your path,
And when things go wrong,
I'll look back and laugh.**

**I wish you could hear me
So I could let you know
That you were and will forever
Be my superhero.
So yes, today
I am full of sorrow,
But I will smile a little more
With each tomorrow.**

**So please, Dad, go
Be at your rest
And know to me
You were always the best.**

I love you so much and miss you every day!

Scriptural Reflections

Psalm 91:1-4

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of
the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will
trust."*

*³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the ^[a]fowler And from
the perilous pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those
who have fallen ^[b]asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no
hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so
God will bring with Him those who ^[c]sleep in Jesus.*

*¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are
alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means
precede those who are ^[d]asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend
from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and
with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise
first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up
together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And
thus, we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one
another with these words.*

Acknowledgements

Pall Bearers

Vester Banner, III
Shelton Banner
Bruce Banner II
Neko Banner
Von Abbott
Quortez Abbott

The family wishes to acknowledge all the phone calls, messages, emails, cards, flowers and other gestures of kindness shared with us in our time of bereavement. We may not yet have had an opportunity to respond with our appreciation but we would like at this time to express our profound gratitude for your kind and loving, compassionate care.

The family further shares their appreciation to the Dupont Park Church Family for welcoming us back home for this special service of celebration

We also extend our gratitude to Mrs. Janice Chandler Eteme, Mr. Ernest Hargrove, Ms. Denise Malone, Mr. Lamont Bailey, Pastor Marcus Harris and Pastor Errol Stoddart for ministering to us in our time of need

Professional Services Entrusted to
Pridgen Funeral Home, PA
9455 Lanham Severn Road

