

PJ returned home to NC, settling in Aberdeen in 1997, where he served on the board of the Kensington Village HOA, and as Treasurer for the Upchurch Alumni & Friends Association, his alma mater's organization.

He also followed in his father's footsteps, joining the Freemasons. He was a 32nd degree Worshipful Master in the Prince Hall.

PJ was a stickler for being on time and on task and had little patience for anyone who was neither. Furthermore, he was a man of his word. He was also a charming gentleman full of curiosity and a desire to always learn more. Those characteristics enabled him to rise through the ranks of the New York Transit Authority. He started as a bus driver, then became a motor operator on the trains, and later retired at age the ripe old age of 57 as a motormen instructor. He enjoyed his 30 years with "transit" and liked to reminisce about it. He often said, "If you like what you do, then it is not work". He also said "If you don't like your job, find something else.....BUT DON'T QUIT UNTIL YOU DO"!

In addition to his first wife and his parents, Prentis was predeceased by siblings, Lawrence and Dorothy Lee Rogers.

Prentis leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Veronica, of the home; children: Deborah Purcell (David), Chynetha Blackmon (L. C.), and Da'nah Steele, all of Raeford, NC, Tyrone Rogers of Sacramento, CA, Tal Rogers of Far Rockaway, NY, Diann Joseph (William) of Prarieville, LA, and Michele Rogers of Stoney Point, NY, one sister: Audrey Theresa McLean of Raeford, NC; two special nieces, Vickie Sinclair of Greensboro, NC and Audrey Matthew of Raeford, NC; one aunt, Addie Wright of Washington, DC; mother-in-law, Priscilla Steele; one sister-in-law, Gloria Virgil both of Raeford, NC; one brother-in-law, Anthony Steele of East Orange, NJ; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren with one more on the way, and long-time friend, Thomas T. Holmes, and a host of relatives and friends.

FLORAL BEARERS

Family and Friends

PALL BEARERS

Family and Friends



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family would like to thank everyone for your prayers, uplifting words, calls, cards, and all acts of kindness during our most needed hour. Because the outpouring was so numerous, we will acknowledge your gestures of love at a later time.

REPAST

Everyone is invited to dine and fellowship after the services at St. James UCG



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Home Going Service

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

Mr. Prentis Rogers, Jr.

Sunrise

June

20,

1

9

3

0

Sunset

September

26,

2

0

2

1



Friday, October 1, 2021

4:00 PM

Buie Funeral Home

543 Vass Road

Raeford, North Carolina

Min. Regina Carpenter

OFFICIATING

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL	Clergy & Family
SOLO	Deacon Larry McPhatter
SCRIPTURES READING	
Old Testament.....	Myrtice Pollard
New Testament	Elder Annette Adams
PRAYER OF COMFORT	
.....	Deacon Larry McPhatter
SOLO	Minister David Purcell
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & APPRECIATION	
.....	Barbara Buie
OBITUARY.....	Read silently
SOLO	Deacon Larry McPhatter
REMARKS	Retha Hardimon, Myrtice Pollard, Anthony Steele
EULOGY	The Rev. Regina Carpenter
MILITARY HONORS	Military Representatives
COMMITTAL	The Rev. Regina Carpenter
RECESSIONAL	



INTERMENT
ROCKFISH CEMETERY
Raeford, North Carolina

THE OBITUARY

On the morning of Sunday, September 26, 2021, “Our Father which art in Heaven” called His worthy disciple home from Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst, NC. **Prentis Rogers, Jr.**, also known as PJ, began is life on earth June 20, 1930, in Hoke County, NC. He was the 2nd of four children born to the late Irma Lee (McFayden) and the late Prentis Rogers, Sr. PJ’s maternal grandparents were Rosa and Elsie P. McFayden. His paternal grandparents were Lisa (Henegan) and Ansel Rogers.

PJ was educated in the Hoke County Schools System and graduated from Upchurch High School in 1949. He was a member of the Glee Club and the starting five of the Soaring Eagles basketball team. According to him, “When a pretty girl was watching me play, I would show off and hit every shot.” But, this young man with the pretty eyes was also watching the girls, and although some caught his attention, only one captured his heart: Lauretha Terry.

PJ has always known God. Miss Irma saw to that. As a young boy, Prentis and his sister, Theresa, attended Piney Grove MBC with their parents. This strong Christian foundation allowed him to broaden his horizons within the faith and govern his moral compass. Every Wednesday in the Rogers’ household, Mr. Prentis Sr., would have a family meeting for a school update but also, to remind Prentis Jr. to look after his little sister. At one of those meetings PJ asked why, because as it turned out, his “little sister” was fighting battles for him!

Upon graduation, PJ’s plan was to go to Washington, D.C., where two of his father’s sisters, Addie and Jean, lived. However, on his way to the bus station, he bumped into a friend who had an extra bus ticket to NY. So, PJ bought the ticket (at a discounted price, of course), and was on his way to the big city, “green as grass”. He had no money, family, friends or a job waiting for him, but he had good sense, learned fast, and survived on his wits.

PJ had several menial jobs in those early days in NY, but one day on his way home, he saw a poster with the image that said, “Uncle Sam Wants You”. When telling that story, he joked, “I thought they meant me, so I joined.” That was in 1950, two years after segregation in the army was “officially” over.

Like many mothers of that era, Miss Irma was fearful of her son joining the army, but like all parents who witness their child’s accomplishments, they were filled with pride (and a few bragging rights) at the sight of their son wearing the uniform of the US Army.

PJ’s military occupation was a driver, stationed with the 505th battalion of paratroopers at Ft.Bragg, NC, for which he received an honorable discharge in 1953. He made several jumps (yes, out of air planes)and established friendships that would later be revived through membership in an organization that promotes the legacy of the first black paratroopers of the 555th battalion, aka the Triple Nickles.

While on leave in Raeford, he rekindled that spark with Lauretha, and after he returned home to NY, he began the process of bringing her there, where they married and began a family. They were blessed with six children and their marriage lasted until her passing in 1971.

PJ became a young widower faced with the monumental task of raising six young children. But he did it, successfully. PJ married a second time to Minnie M. Murphy. This union came with the addition of her son, Michael, but ended in divorce.

They say the third time’s a charm. As a single man with adult children who were living their lives, PJ decided it was time for him to do likewise. His third and last wife, Veronica, is the daughter of his good friend, the late Emmett Steele, Jr. To this union one more child was added. PJ liked the song, “Be Without You”, recorded by Mary J. Blige, because it seemed to represent this couple at this time. He especially liked the beginning, “Chemistry was crazy from the get-go, neither one of us knew why” and later where she sings “I’ll be waiting up until you get home, because I can’t sleep without you.” It was played for him each night during his illness.





APPRECIATION

Brandon McKeithan

The entire staff at Moore Regional Hospital

Davita Dialysis Center

Samuel Council Chapter 555th Paratrooper

Infantry Association

The Upchurch Alumni & Friends Association

St. James UCG