

"I'm Free"

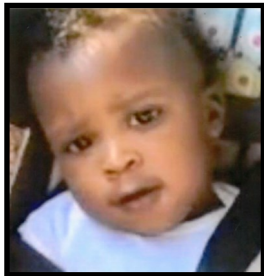
Don't grieve for me for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow:
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full I've savored much,
Good times, good friends, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, **He set me free.**



O
U
R

H
E
A
V
E
N
L
Y

A
N
G
E
L

Floral Bearers
Friends of the Family

Pall Bearers
Friends of the Family

Acknowledgements

Words cannot adequately express the gratitude we have
for our family and friends who have consoled us during
this time of bereavement. Your presence, prayers, love,
and many acts of kindness have truly
sustained us. Again, we say Thank You and may
God continue to bless you all.

~The Family



Professional Services Entrusted To
Knott's Funeral Home

719 Wall Street
Sanford, North Carolina 27330
Phone: (919) 776-4345 / Fax: (919) 776-0911
www.knottsfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory
Of



Mr. Earl Nelson Sumpter

Sunrise
November 11, 1945

Sunset
September 4, 2019

FUNERAL SERVICE
Sunday, September 8, 2019
3:00 PM

Church of God
416 Rosser Pittman Rd.
Broadway, NC 27505
Reverend Arthur Simmons Jr.
Pastor / Eulogist

Order of Service

- Prelude.....Musicians
- Processional.....Clergy and Family
- Selection.....Cameron Grove Choir
- Scripture Reading:
 - Old Testament.....Pastor Minnie Cameron
 - New Testament.....Elder Robert Earl Campbell
- Prayer of Comfort....Minister Donnell McCormick
- Solo.....Brittany Yarborough
- Tributes (limited to two minutes)...Earl’s Siblings
- Acknowledgements/Obituary.....Tina Binaxis
- Special Remarks.....Elder Sylvester Quick
- Selection.....Cameron Grove Choir
- Eulogy.....Pastor Arthur Simmons Jr.
- Recessional.....Cameron Grove Choir



Interment
Church Cemetery
Olivia Road

Obituary

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course and I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only but unto all them also that love His appearing. 2 Timothy 4: 6-8

A Time To Be Born

Earl Nelson Sumpter, the son of the late Fred and Evelyn Sumpter was born in Baltimore, Maryland on November 11, 1945. Earl was a man passionately known as the eldest son of 10 children. Three brothers; James, Bernard, and Mario, and six sisters, Algene, Carrie, Shirley, Savannah, and Constantina. Earl’s biological mother, Evelyn passed at an early age. His father, Bishop Fred Sumpter later married Zettie Swann. Together, they had a daughter, naming her Sherri, giving her the title as the 10th Child. Zettie Swann Sumpter would become the step-mother, providing care for a great number of grandchildren as well as great grandchildren. One brother, James Sumpter, preceded him in death.

A Time to Plant

Earl received his education in Lee County Public School System where he graduated with a High School Diploma from W. B. Wicker School in 1964.

Because Earl was so inspired to be like his father, he started a career in professional logging. He would fluctuate between logging and manufacturing periodically. Because of his periodic fluctuation, he became a Jack of All Trades, fixing, repairing, building, and planting.

At one point, in his early adulthood, he had moved into an apartment in Greensboro, North Carolina. Earl quickly reached the conclusion that Greensboro was too fast paced for him. This decision propelled him to move back home close and near to his father.

On June 1, 1974, Earl was united in Holy Matrimony to Kathy Veronica Swann, and from their union four children were born, an infant daughter who preceded him in death; three boys, Demetrius, Keith, and Nicholas.

Over the course of his life as a father, he would share a unique relationship with each son. Earl had various attributes and talents. Each son bares either one or more than one of his various attributes and talents. His first son, Demetrius, loves to fix, repair, and build just like him. His second son, Keith, loves to read and talk. His third son Nicholas is becoming an entrepreneur.

A Time To Serve

At an early age, Earl accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at the Church of God Broadway. He loved to share his affection for God wherever he went. Earl would boldly tell, if you decided to listen or not, that The Lord was His Shepherd.

As a result of the Vietnam War, Earl was drafted into the U. S. Army where he served from 1966 to 1968.

A Time to Die

During his short stay at Sanford Health & Rehabilitation, Earl kept saying that he wanted to go home. He would often say that he wanted to go to 1221 Cedarhurst Drive during the early weeks of August. However, towards the end of August he stated a different address. Earl said that he was tired and needed some eternal rest. Earl knew that his time on this side of glory was gradually coming to an end. When asked what he wanted his obituary to say he stated; ***“I am little piece of leather well put together.”***

During the eight pm. hour of Wednesday, on September 4, 2019, God dispatched His angels to go into Sanford Health & Rehabilitation, escorting him to his permanent home of peace and rest, and where the Saints that have gone on before him were there rejoicing and welcoming him home.

A Time To Rejoice

He leaves to cherish his memories; a loving and devoted wife of 45 years; Kathy Veronica Sumpter of the home; three sons, Demetrius Nelson Sumpter of Olivia, Keith Andra Sumpter of Morrisville, and Nicholas Scott Sumpter (Shebeia) of Charlotte; two grandsons, DJ and King; five grand-daughters, Raysha, De’shele, Nia, Sa’llai, Laila; two great-grand-daughters, Harmony and Ke’Siah; two former daughters-in-law, Keisha and Nicole; four sisters-in-law, Robin, Angela, Janice, and Brenda, seven brothers-in-law, Tom, Eugene, Timothy, Michael, Wonderful, Frank and Jamie; and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

*He Only Takes the Best
God saw that you were getting tired,
A cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around you
and whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes, we watched you suffer,
And saw you fade away.
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes "the best".*