

~Order of Service~

GATHERING OF FAMILY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....Ms. Evelyn Booker
Mrs. Dorothy Bellamy

SCRIPTURE.....Keith Anderson

OBITUARY.....Ervin Smith

PHI BETA SIGMA MESSAGES &
RESOLUTION.....Bernard Dockery

MESSAGE FROM THE MORSE FAMILY

MESSAGES TO OUR FATHER...Mrs. Denise Marshall
Decatur "Ward" More, Jr.

MESSAGES FROM GRANDCHILDREN
Ms. Laura Morse

MESSAGES FROM LIFELONG FRIENDS

MESSAGES FROM FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

MOM'S SENTIMENTS.....Mrs. Dorothy Bellamy

CLOSING PRAYER

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Monday, June 8, 2020

3:00 PM

Pine Forest Memorial Gardens
770 Stadium Drive,
Wake Forest, NC



Acknowledgement

The family of Decatur Ward Morse is grateful for the kindness love and comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement.

The Family

Professional Services Entrusted To:

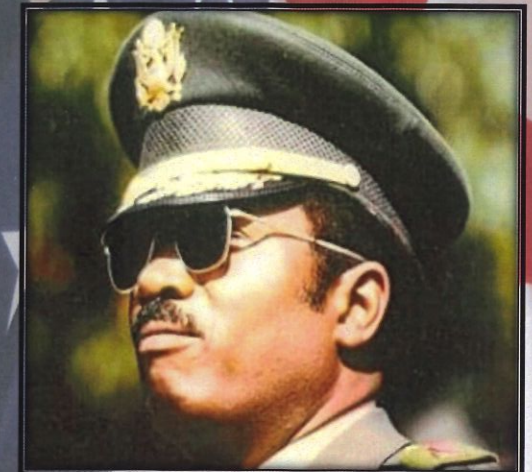
Peoples

Funeral Home of Whiteville
P. O. Box 796
707 Vinson Boulevard
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472
Phone: (910) 642-4055 – Fax: (910) 642-8535
Email: www.peoplesofwhiteville.com

Celebration of Life

Decatur Ward Morse

Sunrise: March 6, 1935 Sunset: June 2, 2020



Sunday, June 7, 2020

1:30 PM-2:00PM -Viewing

2:00 PM – Funeral Service

Peoples Funeral Chapel

707 Vinson Boulevard
Whiteville, North Carolina

~Obituary~



Posterity by

Decatur Ward Morse, Sr.

(Written in the late 1950's/early 1960's).

**Maybe someday in this world I will grow
Large enough my talents to show,
Maybe somewhere on this Earth I'll find
Some small portion I can call mine,
Maybe somehow a field unemployed
Something different by none else enjoyed,
I'll make my bid in this world renown
And show my measures pound for pound**

It is impossible to fully capture the impact of the life and legacy of Retired Colonel Decatur Ward Morse, Sr. He came from humble beginnings and was heavily influenced by the love of his mother, Gertrude Goldsmith Morse, and the rearing of his father, the Honorable Dr. Leonard F. Morse.

Also known as Catur, Deke, "Pops", Daddy, Granddaddy, brother Morse, cousin Decatur and The Colonel, he was an inspiration to many. His journey would take him from Jacksonville, FL to Germany and many other domestic and international destinations. Italy was his favorite overseas destination and it fueled his adoration of art and history. Ft. Leavenworth, KS was his favorite US assignment where the family celebrated the bicentennial in 1976. Most notably, as a career US Army soldier, he would fight for this country in Vietnam, command a battalion in Korea, provide security and protection during the March On Washington, serve three years at Redstone Arsenal, AL; the centre for the US Army's missile and rocket and programmes and hold a post with the Small Business Administration at the Pentagon before retiring. He retired as a full Colonel.

The youngest of five children, Decatur was a curious child who had a love for music, food and art which he would pass on to his children and grandchildren. He was enthusiastic about life, was a generous humanitarian, loved to dance and eat and was a spectacular storyteller. His memory was impeccable and he could recount the time, day, weather, surroundings and details of events from his childhood, his wartime experiences and the many characters he met during his travels. If you wanted to learn, he would teach. If you wanted advice, he would counsel. If you needed support, he was your biggest advocate.

After attending Edward Waters College, where he enrolled in classes taught by his father and served as the Vice President of his class, he went on to North Carolina A&T State University to study engineering. He joined the ETA chapter of Phi Beta Sigma in 1956. He maintained his father's legacy by teaching and showcasing Sigma history so that future generations of Sigma would never forget the principles of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service.

As fate would have it, while at A&T he met a Nakina, NC girl named Estherlene Smith. He would watch her daily from the window of the Engineering building before one rainy day, he mustered up the courage to run under her umbrella. He courted her, they dated, he wrote eloquent love letters while she lived in NYC and then, on May 16, 1961, they were married. They would love each other through the loss of triplet boys and then recover through the births of a daughter, Denise and then another son, Ward.

Decatur proudly served in the US Army from 1959 through 1988. He took every opportunity to represent his family lineage and to set an example for his peers, family members, children and grandchildren. His legacy will be proudly carried by those of us who were fortunate enough to be in his presence and absorb all that he was willing to share. As a proud Black man, he navigated Officer

Candidate school and many of the assignments that would follow, where he would be either the only African American or one of very few, "in the room". He never took his journey for granted and undoubtedly changed hearts and minds by overcoming stereotypes unfairly assigned to him.

Decatur is preceded in death by his beloved parents, older brothers Leonard F. Morse, Jr. and Frederick G. Morse and older sisters Mary Helen Robinson M.D. and Dorothy (Dot) Gertrude Cornelia Brown. Decatur's loving family includes his wife of 59 years, Estherlene Smith Morse, daughter Denise L. Marshall (Warren) of Raleigh, NC and son Decatur "Ward" Morse, Jr. (Laura) of Atlanta, GA. He was immensely proud of and received great joy from his five grandchildren; Warren Keith ("Kee Kee") Marshall, Jr., Marcus DeShawn ("Duke Duke") Marshall, Jasmine Nicole ("Jazzy") Marshall, Gabrielle Alexandra ("Breezy") Morse and Decatur Ward ("Trey") Morse III.

Decatur dreamed big for himself and for his family. He wanted better for those in his circle of influence and for mankind. We adored him and are devastated by this tremendous loss. What we can hold on to is the blessing of this man's existence and the cherished memories that remain.

