

*Celebrating The
Life and Legacy of*

Eugene **MARSH**

JUNE 18, 1949 - JANUARY 29, 2021

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Calling Hours: 11:00am - 12:00pm

Viewing: 10am - 11:00am

Ministerios Fraternidad Cristiana

(formerly Lighthouse Outreach Ministry)

715 Bellevue Avenue • Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Rev. Lukata Agyei Mjumbe, Pastor,

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church



Eugene's Life Story

On Friday, January 29, 2021, Eugene Marsh, passed away at age 71, a loving husband, brother of eleven brothers and sisters and foster brothers and sisters, and dear friend to many friends and colleagues. He was born on June 18, 1949 in Lancaster, South Carolina and a long-time resident of Pennington, New Jersey with his wife, Elaine Walker, the love of his life, whom he married on August 19, 2000.

There are various characteristics that have been used to describe Eugene by the many people blessed enough to call him son, brother, husband, friend, colleague, student, classmate, or fellow veteran, such as: determined driven, ambitious, motivated, energetic and resolved; but who he truly was, in his inner being and if you had the precious opportunity to hear him speak, was compassionate, kind, brave, loving and patriotic.

The beginning of his extraordinary journey started in 1965, when Eugene became the first African American student to integrate into an all-white high school in Lancaster, South Carolina, which brought Americans face-to-face with the question of racial equality and the overturning of the "separate but equal" doctrine.

Thereafter, in 1967, Eugene served in the United States Army with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division 2/17 Cavalry Unit as an infantryman and a radio operator. For his service and sacrifice, he was awarded three medals including the Distinguished Vietnam Medal, Army Commendation and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor in combat.

Upon returning to civilian life, in 1998, Eugene started his own construction management firm, which in 2012, was selected by the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the U.S. Department of the Interior, as the first African American firm to provide construction management services for the "upgrade and renovation" of the Statue of Liberty Project.

In pursuit of his lifelong dream, in 2014 Eugene received both his bachelors of arts and then in 2018, earned a master's in Clinical Mental Health Counselling from Rider University. At the time of his passing, he was pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership at Rider University on the mental health disparity of veterans. Due to his many years of service, in 2018, Johnson & Johnson recognized and honored him with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award for his outstanding volunteerism and engagement in serving vulnerable populations.

As part of his advocacy mind-set, Eugene served on many boards, including the New Jersey Supreme Court Ethics Committee, United Way of Greater Mercer County, and the Philadelphia (CHERP) Veterans Community Advisory Board. In December of 2019, he was appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Institutional Review Board (C-IRB), responsible to improve the lives of Veterans by enhancing the quality of human research protection in VA multi-site research projects.

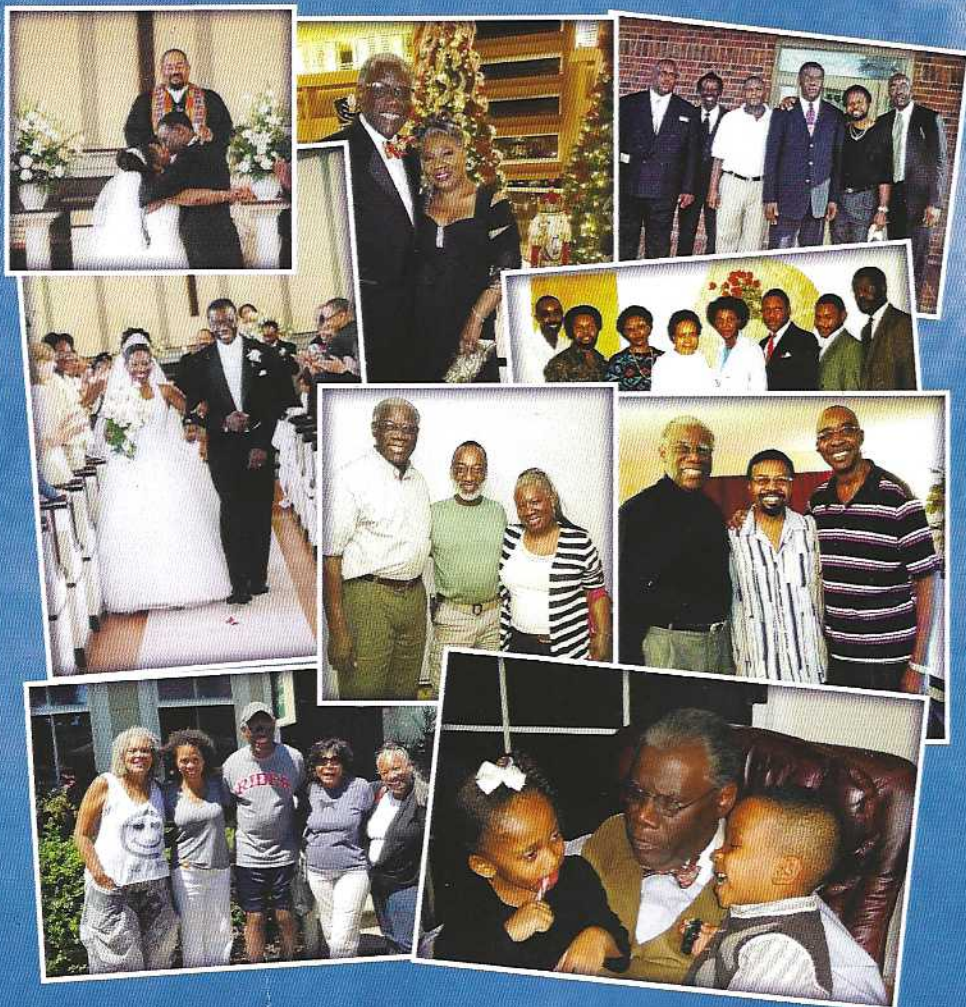
Eugene's passion in his faith in God was evidenced by his many service activities and leadership roles. He became a member of the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church in the mid-1980's after meeting members Ben and Deborah Colbert, with his decision to join influenced by the friendship extended by James and Gloria Fredericks. He revived the Men's Association, developed a remarkably successful Men Who Cook project, which raised several thousands of dollars for the Church, was a founding member of the Men's Chorus, and served on the User Board. Being a strong advocate of military veterans, for many years Eugene spearheaded the Church's annual Veteran's Day worship service. Several of Witherspoon's current members attribute their decision to join Witherspoon, in part, due to Eugene's warm and welcoming spirit.

After being ordained as a Ruling Elder, Eugene served on the Session (the governing body of the Church) for six years, chairing the Stewardship and the Personnel Committees, served as Lector (liturgist), while also performing as a soloist during worship services. He mentored young African American males in their faith development and served on the Pastor Nominating Committee for more than two years resulting in the calling of our current Pastor. In 1998, when the Church was being renovated, Eugene contributed many ideas and guidelines to the new construction, which ultimately proved to be solid architectural renovations. These are just some of the ways Eugene contributed to the mission, ministry, and fellowship of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church and will be fondly remembered for his great big hugs, but only after asking for permission first.

In addition to all his varied interests and causes, Eugene was intrigued by the history of African Americans in Princeton, a topic of one of his research papers for his master's degree at Rider University, in particular the Princeton Colored Cemetery. He took great pride in learning and writing about the noted African Americans who are resting in one designated area of the Princeton Cemetery. Whenever he gave a presentation, received an award, or sang a solo in church, he eagerly invited as many of his vast colleagues and friends to share in his joy. Eugene was proud of his many accomplishments, but always in humility, gave God the glory.

Eugene is survived by his spouse Elaine Walker, Pennington, New Jersey; his brothers, Charles Blackmon (Lancaster, SC), Michael Marsh (Columbia, SC); and James Marsh (Columbia, SC), sisters: Francesca Alexander (Charlotte, NC), Ester Ruth Marsh (Lancaster, SC), and Susan Marsh (La Habra, California); foster siblings: Jeffery Harris (Columbia, SC), Kendall Paterson (Lancaster, SC); Maylene Stover (Lancaster, SC) and Jackie Harris (Lancaster, SC); and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws, and friends. He is predeceased by his parents: Joe Francis Blackmon and Ruth Marsh, brother, Larry Paterson and foster sister, Anne Ruth McCray.

The family request donations to Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church 124 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 0854.



Order of Service

MUSICAL PRELUDE - *Michael Gittens*

PROCESSIONAL - *Clergy and Family*

INVOCATION - *Rev. Lukata Mjumbe*

MUSICAL SELECTION - *Karen Yvette Jones*

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - Phillipians 4: 4-7

MUSICAL SELECTION - *Karen Yvette Jones*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - *Michael Marsh*

REFLECTIONS

James Jones, (friend)

Craig Kramer, (friend)

Jesse Glover, (friend)

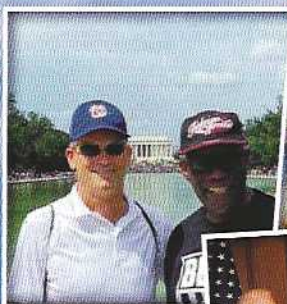
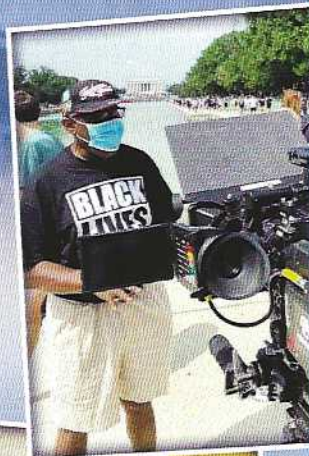
EUGENE'S LIFE STORY - *Read Silently*

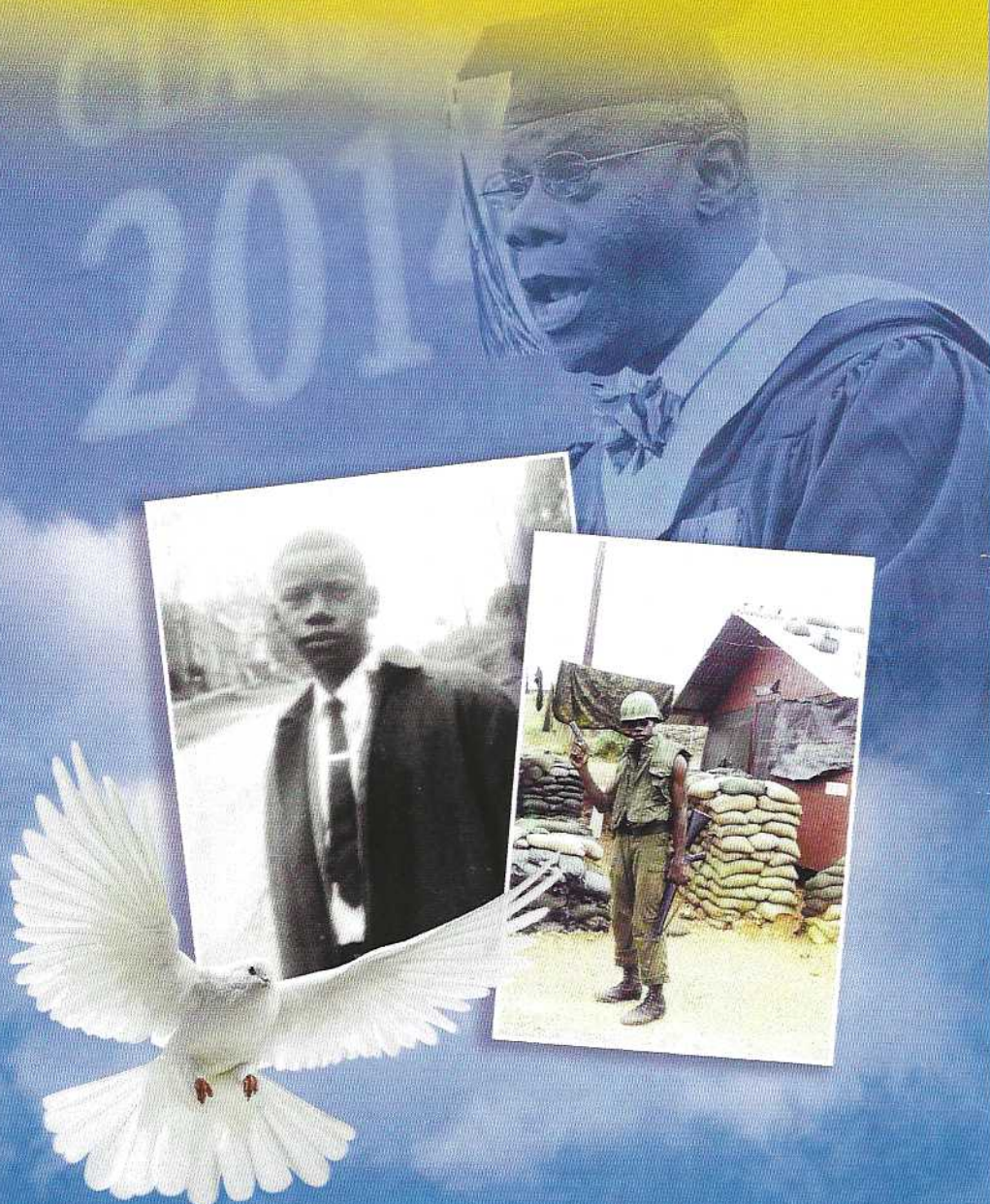
MUSICAL SELECTION - *Jaime Escarpeta*

EULOGY - *Rev. Lukata Mjumbe*

RECESSIONAL - *Michael Gittens*

INTERMENT - *Private*





PALLBEARERS

Family and Friends

FLOWER BEARERS

Friends of the Family

Acknowledgements

The family of the late Eugene Marsh would like to take this opportunity to extend their sincere appreciation for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them during their time of bereavement. May God forever bless you and keep each one of you in his tender loving care.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to: Hughes Funeral Home LLC.

324 Bellevue Avenue • Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Programs by: EvolutionsInDesign&Printing 609.658.3991

Kahlil Gibran On Death

You would know the secret of death. But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life? The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.

Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honor. Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling, that he shall wear the mark of the king? Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun? And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

