



Francis Alexander Bethel Jr.

June 12, 1931 - May 8, 2018

Francis Alexander Bethel, Jr., went to Heaven on May 8, 2018, joining his beloved wife of 57 years, Edith. He was born in Reidsville, North Carolina, on June 12, 1931, to the union of Francis A. Bethel, Sr. and Mabel (Johnson) Bethel. From the age of three, Francis lived with his grandparents, Isaac and Mamie Neal Johnson, in Reidsville. A strong bond was formed with his grandparents, aunts, and uncles (the Ike Boys).

At the age of 12, Francis went to live with his mother and stepfather, Anderson Heron. During his early years, he worked on his grandfather's tobacco farm, was a paperboy, a golf caddy, and a dietary aid at a hospital in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

After graduation from Carver High School, Francis attended Winston Salem Teacher's College, now Winston Salem State University. He left college to join the Air Force, and was stationed at Dover Air Force Base in 1952. He served four years active duty and eighteen months as a Civil Service Load Master. He was employed by the DuPont Company for 25 years and retired from the Chestnut Run Plant in Wilmington, Delaware.

Never one to be idle, Francis worked as a janitor at the Methodist Peninsula Delaware Conference for 13 years. He often worked two jobs for many years to support his family.

In 1955, Francis and Edith Hovington were married by his pastor, Reverend J. H. Williams. He and Edith had a strong work ethic and emphasized family values. They stressed the importance of education. While providing for his family, Francis attended Delaware State College (now University) and Adelphi Business School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Francis was a kind, caring man who was always willing to help others and would share his advice. He believed in "Telling it like it was." He enjoyed cooking, maintaining his flowers and yard, and spending time with family, friends and neighbors.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edith, his parents, and sister, Doris Heron. He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted children, Shereatha Baines (Tyrone) of Durham, NC, Gwenevere Bethel Griffin, and Francis Bethel, III (Debbie) from Dover, DE; brother, Wallace Heron (Audrey Pitts) of Charlotte, NC; grandchildren, Tyrone Baines II (Courtney) of Alpharetta, GA, Tonita Brooks (Darrell) of Smyrna, GA, David Griffin, Renee Griffin, and Deandra Hilts of Dover, DE; sister-in-law, Frances Crawford of Dover, DE; five great-grandchildren; Union Baptist Church Family; neighbors for 62 years, Mrs. Thelma Brown & Family, Mr. Alphonso Miles & Family, Mr. Donald Landry & Family and Mrs. Frances Lamb & Family; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Francis Alexander Bethel Jr., please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ I am sorry for your loss, please accept my sincere condolences. I hope the family will find some comfort and strength in Jesus promise of the earthly resurrection(Acts 24:15)and the renewed Paradise earth, where death will be no more and no family will mourn the death of a loved one.-Revelation 21:3,4;John 5:28,29;Luke 23:43. may GOD(Psalms 83:18)grant you peace and comfort now, during this grievous time.-Matthew 5:4.

M Jones - May 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief, by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible, you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

H. Fields - May 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ Sorry for your loss of a loved one. Read Isaiah 41:10 for words of comfort and peace.

Irene - May 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one. May the wonderful memories of your loved one continue to provide a measure of comfort to you until God's promise is fulfilled at Rev. 21: 4.

JoyceA - May 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss!*
Jesus Loves Me!

Thomas & Libby Widgeon - May 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM