

### **Acknowledgement**

*The family of John Lewis Leonard, Sr. wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the many prayers, care, expressions of love, concern, and kindness during the time of his illness. Special thanks to Tammy D., Aaron R., Mommie and all the excellent staff at The Grove at Oakleaf Village, National Church Residences, Cheryl M. with Ride Share, the great staff including Hiba, Sarah & Dualeh with Complete Adult Daycare, and the excellent medical teams of OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital and Chalmers P. Wiley Veterans Clinic.*

*We also thank our immediate and extended families both far and near for your prayers, love and support, International Christian Center church, community, friends, and colleagues.*

### **Pallbearers**

*Bernard Leonard – Johnathan Leonard – Syvon Keys – Joel Lauderdale  
Derrick Short, Sr. – Derrick (D.J.) Short, II*

### **"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 dawn of day.

If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss. Oh yes, these things I too will miss. Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow

My life's been full, I've savored much, good friends, good times, my loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free

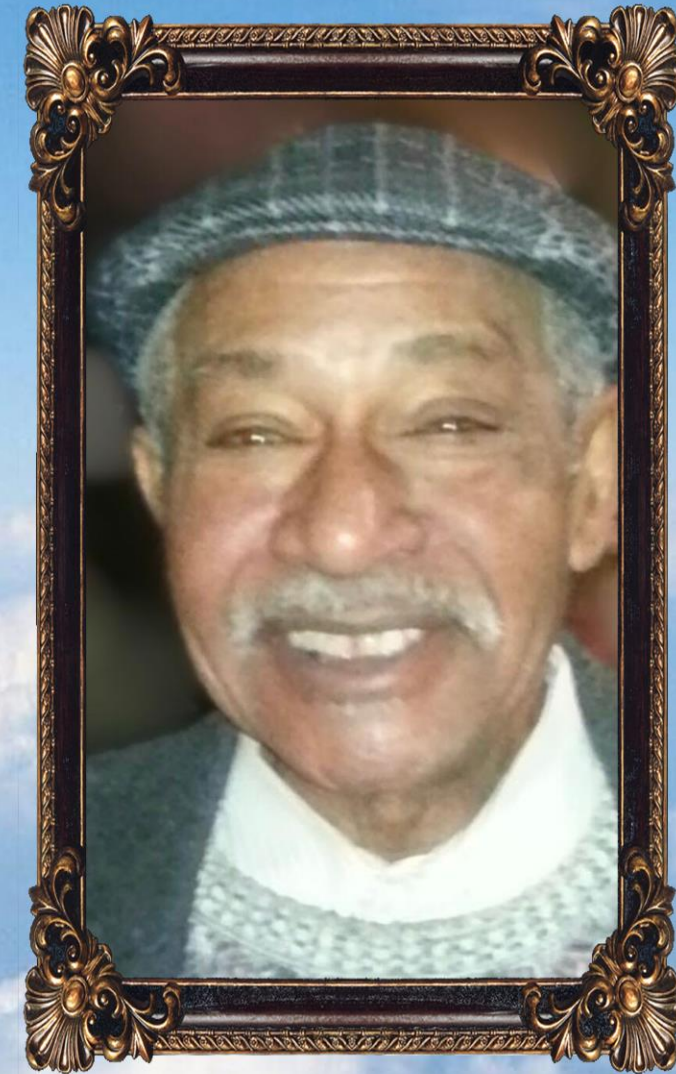
We would like to extend an invitation to friends and family to join in the walk to end Alzheimer's 2023.

Sunday September 25, 2023 Columbus Commons 160 S. High St. Columbus, Ohio 43215

To offer condolences to The Leonard Family,  
visit [www.TheChapelOfPeace.com](http://www.TheChapelOfPeace.com)



# *A Celebration of the Life of*



# *John L. Leonard Sr.*

March 24, 1936 - May 18, 2023

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

***The Chapel Of Peace East***

**Visitation: 10:00am**

**Service: 11:00am**



# Obituary

John Lewis Leonard, Sr., 87 was born March 24, 1936 and went home to be with the Lord on May 18, 2023. He was born to proud parents, Willie F. and Claude Leonard in Hissop Community in Coosa County, Alabama. He attended and graduated from Coosa County Training School. He served in the U.S. Army as a Specialist Four where he worked as an Engineering Equipment Mechanic with a special designation as Sharpshooter (Carbine) during the Vietnam War, until he received an honorable discharge from active duty. John worked a number of "good paying jobs" with companies including Westinghouse, National Can Corporation and The State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections, where he was a corrections officer until he retired.

John was known for being stylish and always wearing his hats. He was a very diligent and hardworking man who would tell anyone that he "always kept a good paying job" to provide for his family. He would never call off sick due to his diligent work ethic. His hobbies were fishing and gardening. His favorite pastimes were playing cards, betting on horse races, and playing the lottery. He loved music and always had a song to sing or a tune to whistle. He loved Mahalia Jackson's music and would often tell a story of how she would come to the annual May Singing at New Home Baptist Church in Hissop, Alabama.

John met Loretta Thompson in 1959, and they were married in Seaside, California. From there, they moved to Atlanta, where they started their family having two sons, John Jr. and Bernard. In the early 60's they relocated to Ohio, where their daughters Sherry and Michele were born. They were married for over 30 years and remained good friends.

John was preceded in death by his son, John L. Leonard, Jr.; parents, Willie F. and Claude Leonard; siblings, Plesby Leonard, Vallie (Samuel) Goggans, Charles, David and Earlie Leonard; granddaughter, Tiauna Leonard; and a brother-in-law, Edward Lauderdale.

John leaves to cherish his memory, three children, Bernard (Cassandra) Leonard, Sherry Leonard, and Michele Leonard; three siblings, Augusta Lauderdale, Lee Dorothy (Holman) Edmond, and Loretta (Jack) Marbury; two sisters-in-law, Rebecca Leonard and Lillian Leonard; 9 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; former wife and best friend, Loretta Leonard; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

We little knew the day that  
God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone.  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories.  
Your love is still our guide,  
And though we cannot see you  
You are always by our side.

Our family chain is broken  
and nothing seems the same,  
but as God calls us one by one  
the chain will link again.

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Order of Celebration

ORGAN PRELUDE ..... The Chapel of Peace Music Ministry

SCRIPTURE READING..... Elder Marvin Robertson  
Old Testament ..... Psalm:23  
New Testament ..... John 14:2

PRAYER..... Pastor Tyus Need

SELECTION ..... Mahalia Jackson  
“ His Eyes Is On The Sparrow”

REMARKS..... Family, Close Friends, and Bernard & Cassandra Leonard

READING OF OBITUARY ..... Silently

SELECTION ..... Hezekiah Walker & The Love Fellowship Choir  
“I Need You To Survive”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... Kendra McGaughy

The Eulogy  
Pastor Tyus Nedd

BENEDICTION ..... Elder Marvin Robertson

RECESSIONAL ..... Clergy, Family and Friends

Interment  
Evergreen Burial Park  
1340 Woodland Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43219

Repast

immediately following the interment, the family, close family friends and out-of-town guests will be served repast at John L. Leonard, Sr.'s favorite place to dine:  
Golden Corral Buffet & Grill 4750 E Main St. Whitehall, Ohio 43213

DO NOT STAND  
AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP  
I AM NOT THERE. I DO NOT SLEEP  
I AM A THOUSAND WINDS THAT BLOW  
I AM THE DIAMOND GLINTS ON SNOW  
I AM THE SUNLIGHT  
ON RIPENED GRAIN  
I AM THE GENTLE AUTUMN RAIN  
WHEN YOU AWAKEN IN THE MORNING'S HUSH  
I AM THE SWIFT UPLIFTING RUSH OF QUIET BIRDS IN CIRCLED FLIGHT  
I AM THE SOFT STARS  
THAT SHINE AT NIGHT  
DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND CRY  
I AM NOT THERE. I DID NOT DIE





Grandson Syvon



Grand Children



Granddaughter Terrica



Derrick

Tanae



Grandchildren and Greats



John's niece and great niece



Grandchildren



First Grandson Johnathan & Ariel Leonard

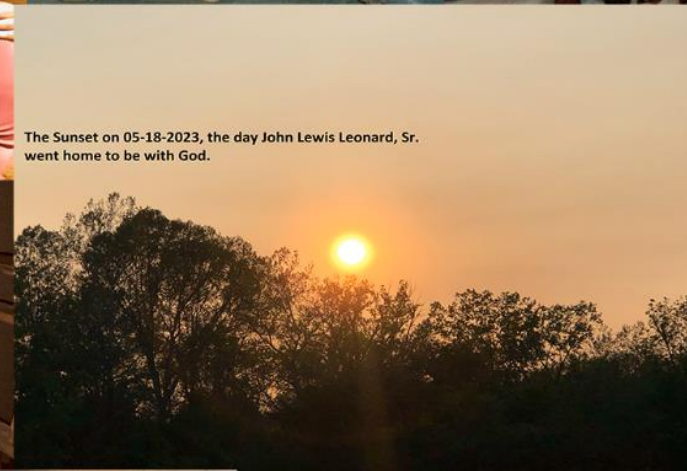


LORETTA MARBURY

LORETTA LEE



Granddaughters Simone & Serina



The Sunset on 05-18-2023, the day John Lewis Leonard, Sr. went home to be with God.



SISTERS AND BROTHER



2017 FAMILY REUNION IN ATLANTA, GA



JOHN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY!



Holman & Lee Dorothy Edmond

