

God chose the *strongest*, the *bravest* and the most *courageous*...

Honorary / Active Pallbearers

Mount Vernon Baptist Church

- Deacons and Trustees -



Acknowledgements

The family of Deacon Harvey R. Fields, Sr. expresses appreciation to each and every one of you who have journeyed with and supported us during this time of bereavement. We are eternally grateful for your kindnesses, friendships and work with our father. We are humbled by the extension of your grace to us as well. During this turbulent time in American history, we have been given the responsibility to lay one of her soldiers to rest. You have made that awesome responsibility more bearable. Your cards, calls, letters, visits, postings, service, food and gifts have been a balm to our souls. Again, we thank you. The family extends special appreciation and acknowledgements to: the W. H. Mays Mortuary leadership and staff; Reverend Andre L. Clanton and the historic Mount Vernon Baptist Church family; and especially to Ms. Bernice Bogan, one of our father's life-long friends and ardent supporters. On behalf of Deacon Harvey R. Fields, Sr.'s family, continue being well and pursuing well-being!

W. H. Mays Mortuary

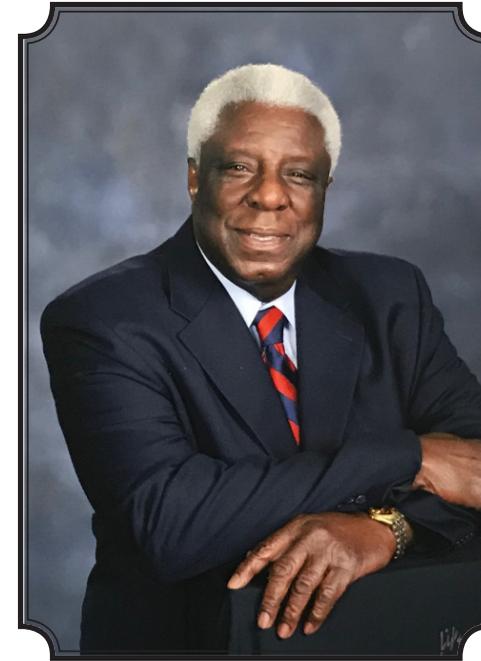
"PROFESSIONAL SERVICE A FAMILY TRADITION SINCE 1922"

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HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR
United States Army Colonel (Ret.)
Harvey R. Fields, Sr.



Wednesday, June 24, 2020

One O'Clock in the Afternoon

MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

1930 Olive Road | Augusta, Georgia



Officiating: Reverend Andre L. Clanton, Pastor
 Eulogist: Reverend Robert F. Donaldson, Assistant Pastor

The Obituary

UNITED STATES ARMY COLONEL (RET.) HARVEY R. FIELDS, SR. was called into active duty on March 22, 1936, in Appling, Georgia and fulfilled his tour of duty on Sunday, June 7, 2020, at his home in Augusta, Georgia.

Harvey grew up in Augusta and was educated in the Richmond County School System, graduating from the historic Lucy Craft Laney High School in 1954.

After graduation, Harvey attended South Carolina State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry in 1958 and served as Cadet Colonel in his senior year. Upon graduation, Harvey was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry in the United States Army via ROTC from South Carolina State University.

Harvey continued his education during his military service and he was a graduate of both the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. Harvey also earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University (Pennsylvania).

A consummate military professional, Harvey would become qualified as Ranger, Airborne, Special Forces/Green Beret, Counter-Insurgency, Pathfinder and Intelligence; he would also complete the Infantry Officer Advanced Course and the Inspector General Course, among others.

In August of 1967, Harvey commenced a memorable and highly successful tour as Battalion S-3 (Operations Officer) for Task Force 1/22, 4th Infantry Division, South Vietnam. This tour was highlighted by his leadership role in the Tet offensive of January 1968. As Battalion S-3, Harvey planned a highly successful four-day operation which resulted in his battalion's recapture of the provincial capital of Kontum and destruction of the North Vietnamese regiment which occupied it. In addition to his planning role, Harvey personally participated in the air assault on the city. Harvey was highly regarded for his leadership of troops in the field. His West Point trained first officer, Major (Ret.) Fred Bothwell, recently stated, "... I remember the events of 30 January 1968, and I am proud to have served under your command on that occasion. The leadership ability you demonstrated then, and during all of our service together, was an inspiration to me and to all of those who served with you." Harvey was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, for his performance during the Kontum Operation.

Harvey's Infantry career included his assignment in 1972, as Battalion Commander for the First Battalion, 48th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, Third Armor Division, Federal Republic of Germany. At the end of his tour, the Battalion was designated the number 1 Infantry Battalion in the division.

Soldier

By: Ed Coet, Major, USA-Retired

I saw a burial with a bugler playing taps;
I turned to my father, "What happened?" I asked.
He clutched my hand and with a quiver in his voice,
He began to explain and his eyes became moist.
"My son," he said, "this is rather difficult for me;
For an old veteran like myself this is tough to see.
In that coffin lies a genuine patriotic warrior,
An honest-to-God hero, an American soldier.
I appreciate that soldier and the service he gave,
And I honor his sacrifice as he's laid in his grave.
He was honorable, selfless, courageous, and bold;
Please remember him son, as you grow old.
The value of his service, I must explain,
If not remembered, will be lost in vain.
As a nation we're nothing without soldiers like him;
And failing to remember would be a terrible sin."
I listened in awe as my father spoke,
It seemed as if his heart were broke.
I suddenly remembered when he went to war,
And when he returned I thought nothing more.
I never asked why he walked with a limp,
And I didn't care about why he was sick.
I was too busy enjoying the life that I had,
To realize that I had it because of dad.
I finally understood what my dad was about,
And it hurt so bad I cried out loud.
He sacrificed so much so I could be free,
And his battle scars were suffered for me.
It was my father's spirit that spoke to me that day;
Thank God I finally understood what he had to say.
I saluted his coffin as they laid him to rest,
And I thought about the medals pinned on his chest.
That I didn't honor him sooner, I will always regret;
And I pledged that day to never again forget.
I'm proud that my dad was a patriotic warrior;
I'm honored to be the son of an American soldier.



The Obituary Continued

When not leading troops in the field, Harvey held a variety of staff positions in Korea, Germany and the continental United States, including Instructor, Special Warfare Center, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina; Plans Officer, 18th Airborne Corps, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina; Readiness Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, the Pentagon; Plans Officer, J-3 U.S. Forces, Korea; Senior Army Advisor, 79th Army Command, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; and Command Center Operations Chief, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Other military awards and accomplishments include: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal; Army Commendation Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm; Combat Infantry Badge; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Presidential Unit Citation; Valorous Unit Citation and the Combat Infantryman Badge, among others. Harvey was inducted into South Carolina State University's ROTC Hall of Fame and into the Lucy Craft Laney High School Hall of Fame.

Harvey had a groundbreaking military career. In 1958, Harvey was one of five Black officers, including General (Ret.) Colin Powell, admitted into historic Ranger Class 4 – the first class in which Black officers were allowed to participate in Ranger training. Harvey successfully completed the Ranger course and continued to be actively connected to, and engaged with, Ranger Class 4 activities and reunions. Harvey retired from active military duty in 1988 with the rank of “Full Bird” Colonel.

After retirement, Harvey returned to Augusta, Georgia to commence his transition into civilian life. Harvey successfully completed the training to be certified at the Sales I, II and III levels in Real Estate. Harvey maintained membership, in good standing, with the Greater Augusta Association of Realtors and maintained his license with the State of Georgia Real Estate Commission. Harvey worked for Jim Courson Realty for many years. Harvey continued to excel and earned the achievements of being named top sales agent and top listing agent during his time with Jim Courson Realty. Harvey was an avid supporter of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive, and championed this effort for Jim Courson Realty. Later, Harvey would establish his own independent real estate practice providing essential services to the community.

Harvey was a long-term member of the Mount Vernon Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon; Superintendent of Sunday School, in this role also coordinating and directing Vacation Bible School; and as Midday Bible Study Teacher.

The Obituary Continued

Harvey's in-depth Bible Study preparation, teaching methodology and delivery style was of such reputation that not only did members of Mount Vernon attend, several members of other CSRA churches attended as well. Harvey was sought out as a speaker for church and community programs observing Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Flag Day. Harvey was involved with several veterans' service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and American Veterans (AMVETS) organizations. Harvey continued to be active in his church and community until his health started to decline. Ultimately, Harvey answered the call of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and entered into rest.

Harvey was an only child and was preceded in death by his mother and father, Mrs. Sarah (Lamkin) Fields and Ruben Fields, both of Appling (Columbia County), Georgia and his daughters, Sharolyn and Ronda.

Harvey leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Catherine Fields of Bear, DE; his children, Dr. Mark Fields of New Haven, CT, Christopher Fields of Augusta, GA, Angela (Laydell) Davis of Augusta, GA, Dr. Harvey Fields, Jr. (Valerie) of St. Louis, MO and Stanley Faison of Augusta, GA; grandchildren, Antonio Fields of Washington, D.C., Dr. Jordan Fields of San Antonio, TX, Alana Fields of Pittsburgh, PA, Brittany Fields of Los Angeles, CA, Vernon Marshall of Warwick, NY, Roderick Marshall of Raleigh, NC, Shaaron Faison and Stacey Faison, both of Augusta, GA; great-granddaughter, Eliana Faison; numerous veterans with who he served; and a host of other relatives and friends.



Order of Service

- Processional Music Ministry
- Selection Mount Vernon Baptist Church Choir
- Scripture Reading Reverend Herman Bing
Pastor, Carpentersville Baptist Church
- Prayer Reverend Coy Henderson
Pastor, Poplar Spring Baptist Church
- Selection Mount Vernon Baptist Church Choir
- Remarks
 - As A Deacon Deacon Antonio Lewis
Chairman, Mount Vernon Baptist Church Deacon Board
 - As A Life-Long Friend Sister Bernice Bogan
Minister of Music, Mount Vernon Baptist Church
 - As A Family Member Harvey R. Fields, Jr., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Student Success, Washington University in St. Louis
Retired Pastor, Union Baptist Church of Chesterfield
- Resolutions | Acknowledgements Sara Taylor
President, Board of Deaconesses, Mount Vernon Baptist Church
- Obituary Read Silently
Soft Music
- Pastoral Reflections Reverend Andre L. Clanton
- Selection Mount Vernon Baptist Church Choir
- Eulogy Reverend Robert E. Donaldson
- Committal Reverend Andre L. Clanton
(Interment to occur at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date)
- Recessional Mount Vernon Baptist Church Choir