

Honorary Pall Bearers
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Deacons

Active Pall Bearers
Grandsons and Nephews

Honorary Flower Bearers
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Mothers

Active Flower Bearers
Granddaughters

Interment
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

Repast
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Masks are Required

Acknowledgement
The family of Charles Hardaway thanks you very much for the prayers, visits, calls, food, and all other expressions of love you have shown. Please know that words alone cannot convey the depth of our gratitude; you will always hold a special place in our hearts as you did Charles'. We extend a special thanks to the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Family and Community. We also extend a heartfelt thanks to Charles' awesome support team whose love and dedication have meant the world to him and his family. They include Ms. Evelyn Addie, staff members from Always On Time Home Care, Ms. Geraldine Parks, Ms. Deltrice Bussey, and Mrs. Michelle Smith, the Hogansville Walgreens, Drs. Stan Smith, James Combs, Husham Mishu, and Julian Bragg; and Homestead Palliative Care.

Professional Services Entrusted To



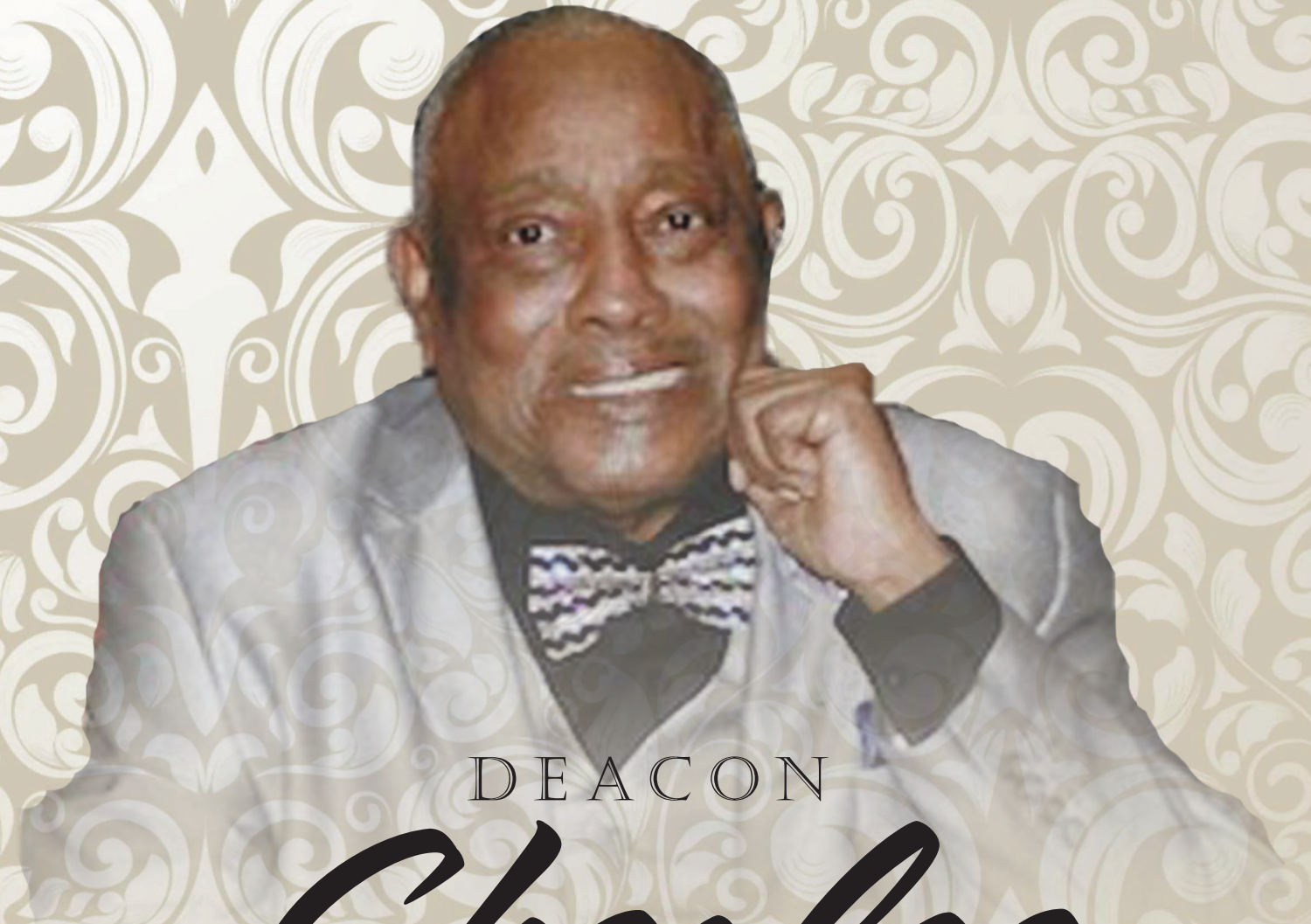
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CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



DEACON

Charles
HARDAWAY

MAY 12, 1945 – NOVEMBER 12, 2022

Saturday, November 19, 2022 | 1:00 PM

ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2950 Primrose Road
Greenville, Georgia 30222

Reverend Dr. E.L. Jimerson, Pastor and Eulogist
Reverend Yolana Jones Colton, Officiant

Obituary

Deacon Charles Hardaway was born on Saturday, May 12, 1945, to the Late Mr. and Mrs. Buford Hardaway in the Zion Hill Community. He was their youngest child, whom his sister Mary Nell called “Baby Charles” or “Charlie Boy.” He departed this life on Saturday, November 12, 2022, peacefully in his home in the Zion Hill Community. For Charles, life between these two Saturdays was filled with love, joy, hard work, and a lot of great gospel singing. He learned early in life that if you only believe, all things are possible.

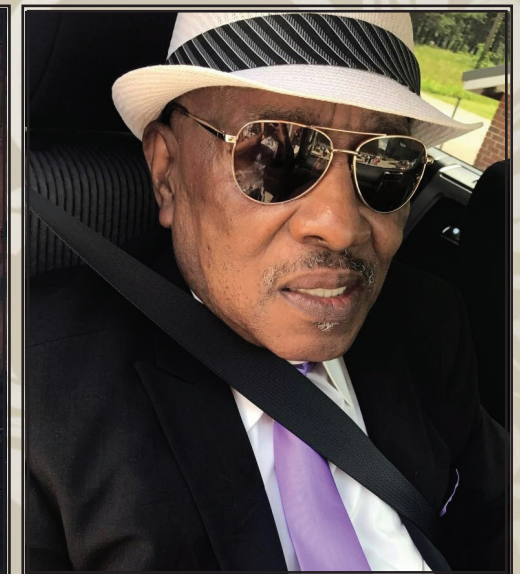
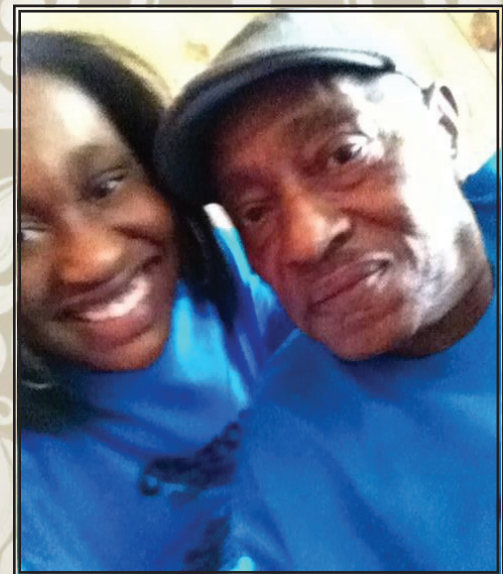
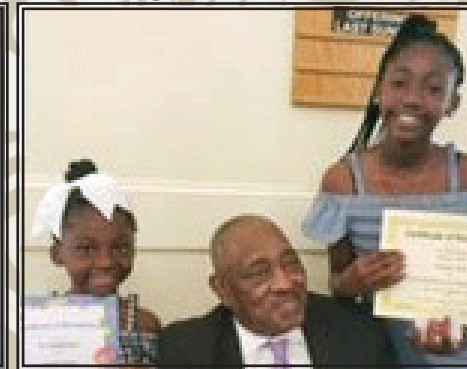
Charles was educated in Meriwether County schools where he gained many skills and friends. After high school, he went into the workforce. Having a wonderful provider in his father, Buford, Charles saw the benefit of hard work and valued the opportunity to train young men and women to do the same. He enjoyed being a part of various enterprises, including Barge and Wagner Construction and Batson Cook Construction. He was most proud of his work with friends from the Zion Hill Community, the Late Mr. Rufus Jackson and Mr. Edward Rosser. Charles also had the enterprising spirit, having the experience of going into business with his brother, Glen for a short time, and then in a lawn service business of his own until health challenges forced him to retire.

Charles, like the rest of his siblings, was taught by their parents the importance of worship, which he enjoyed greatly. Being brought up in the church led him to find Christ at an early age. Charles joined the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church as a youth and remained an active member until his passing. Having been ordained as a deacon in 1970, he later became the Assistant Chairman of the Board of Deacons and was named Assistant Chairman Emeritus in 2016. Charles also sang in the senior choir at ZHMBC.

Charles and his family enjoyed a strong bond, so much so that when his brother Joe found himself a bride, Charles declared, “I’m getting me a wife too!” He married Jennye Lou (JenLou) Rhodes from Corinth, Georgia, in 1964. Charles and JenLou enjoyed married life for over fifty years before they departed due to her passing on November 20, 2018. Together, they beat many of the odds stacked against young Black people, especially for those times, including employment, and later, health issues. They supported each other through several major illnesses between themselves, and together they set an example for their family and community of what marriage could mean when two people learn to love and respect each other, work together, extend forgiveness, and walk together in unity.

Charles was a very gifted singer. Some called his voice unique and smooth; others called it soulful and spiritual. He was always willing to share a song to encourage bereaved families and Sunday

Reflections of Charles



A Life Well Lived

Reflections of Charles,



afternoon gospel singing audiences. In his early 20s, he joined the Mighty Evangelists Gospel Singers from Newnan, Georgia, under the leadership and mentorship of Mr. Lemmie Teagle. He learned from the best, Mr. Frontz (Bro.) Young, Sr., Mr. Matthew Bailey, Sr., and Mr. Johnny Rosser, Sr. As much as Charles enjoyed the opportunity to learn from these gentlemen, he understood legacy. When the opportunity presented itself, he mentored Mr. Jimmy Dunham, Mr. Robert Parks, and Mr. Joseph Ector, who are still singing today. They fondly recall trips to local radio stations on Sunday mornings to sing live on the air.

Then, in 1976, Charles was fortunate to join a group of gentlemen from the Zion Hill Community to create the Zion Hill Male Chorus under the leadership of the Late Mr. Robert Lee Rosser. Brother Rosser knew there was something special in Zion Hill, so they gathered Charles, his brothers Joe and Glenn, and several others from the neighborhood to form a group that would represent the neighborhood at the Old Ship of Zion and other similar programs. The group became very popular. They recorded an album in the 1980s and travelled far and wide to sing God's praises. They travelled so much that they purchased a van for their weekly engagements. Charles became assistant manager after the passing of Robert Lee, and eventually manager. After many of the members passed away, Charles continued singing either with Louis and Kenneth Jackson and Harold Reeves or solo. His most recently popular song, "Only Believe," became his mantra in life and has encouraged many including himself and his family.

So it was that on Saturday, November 12, 2022, around the second hour of the afternoon, Charles was called from labor to reward. He was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-four years, JenLou; his third daughter, Dedridra; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Buford Hardaway; his sister, Lila Mae Hardaway Brittian; and brothers, Glenn and Joe Henry Hardaway and Willie Lee Colton. The older brothers always looked out for Charles, and we can only imagine that they are looking out for him still!

Charles will be greatly missed by and leaves to cherish so many wonderful memories: his children, Tammy Hodo, Putula and Bridget Hardway, Rhasida (Santez) Reid, and Demetrius Blalock; son-in-law, Leonard R. Sewell; grandchildren, Broderick Hardaway, Torie and Terrance Sewell, Kimberly (Roland) Hayes, Anthony Hodo II, Maiya and Taylor Sewell, and Trinity and McKenzie Reid; his sister, Mrs. Mary Nell Hardaway Black, the sole surviving sibling of their family; sisters-in-law, Mrs. Mary Colton and Mrs. Janie Hardaway; brother-in-law, Willie Fred Rhodes; and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and very dear friends.

A Life Well Lived

Order of Service

“...He saith unto the ruler of the synagogue,
Be not afraid, only believe.”

MARK 5:36, KJV

Prelude – Soft Music Musicians, Horace Combs, Wendy Johnson and Doug Blount

Processional..... Songs from the Zion Hill Male Chorus
featuring Deacon Charles Hardaway

Celebration in Song..... Song from the ZionHill Missionary Baptist Church Senior Chior

Comfort from the Word of God
Old Testament Reveverend Lonnie Thornton, Sr.,
Pastor, Rust Chapel United Methodist Church, Greenville, Georgia
New Testament Reverend James Woods, Pastor,
Leete Hill United Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia

Hymn and Prayer of Comfort..... Reverend Dwight Hardaway, Sr.

Reflections

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church..... Chairman H. Douglas Blount

Former ZHMBC Musician Reverend Tamarkus Cook, Pastor,
Saint Smyrna Baptist Church, Newnan, Georgia

Family Tributes Mother Mary Colton, Sister-in-Law
Mother Janie Hardaway, Sister-in-Law
Sister Glynnis Tanner, Neice
Reveremd Dr. Melvin D. Brittian, Jr., Nephew, Pastor,
Providence Baptist Church, Newnan, Georgia

Celebration in Song..... Zion Hill Male Chorus, Luthersville, Georgia
The Righteous Brothers and Brother Greg Johnson, Newnan, Georgia
Gospel Choraliers, Luthersville, Georgia
The Mighty Evangelist Gospel Singers, Meriwether County, Georgia

Eulogy A Good Word
Reverend Dr. E.L. Jimerson, Pastor
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Acknowledgements..... Sister Linda Hines

Recessional *Hard Fighting Solider on the Battlefield*
Mighty Evangelists Gospel Singers



Back Together Again

