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6-18-2011

### Charles L. (C.L.) Bailey

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## **I'm Free**

Don't grieve for me, for now I am 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 found that place at the close of the day

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared a laugh, a kiss;  
Ah yes, these things, I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much;  
Good friend, good times,  
A loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seems all to brief;  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your head and share with me,  
God wanted me now, he set me free.

### **Honorary Pallbearers**

The Gladiator's Club, Inc.  
Tattnall Missionary Baptist Assoc., Inc.  
Laymen Department

### **Active Pallbearers**

Kelvin Bailey	Edward Davis
Edwin Bailey	Lennix Hines
Tony Bailey	Calvin McNeal

### **Floral Attendants**

Sweet Evening Breeze O.E.S. #269  
The Gladiettes, Inc.

### **Repast**

The Bailey Family will receive relatives and friends at the Gladiator's Building following the committal service.

# **CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHARLES L. BAILEY (C.L.)**

**Saturday, June 18, 2011  
11:00 a.m.**

## **St. John Missionary Baptist Church**

**Dr. L. Perry McNeal  
Officiating**

**Rev. Clarence Williams  
Eulogist**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude.....Mr. David Sharpe

Processional/Viewing..... Clergy, Family and Masonic Order

Kadash Service.....Statesboro Consistory #348

Presiding.....Dr. L. Perry McNeal  
Historic Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
Jerusalem Baptist Church  
Moderator, Tattnall Missionary Baptist Association

Opening Hymn.....Congregation  
“Blessed Assurance” (C.L’s Favorite Hymn)

Invocation.....Rev. Charlie Fogel, Jr.  
Thomas Grove A.M.E. Church

Solo..... “How Great Thou Are”.....Mr. Wilson Johnson

The Holy Scripture:

Old Testament.....Dr. C.L. Anderson  
St. Luke Baptist Church

New Testament.....Rev. Michael P. Dickerson  
Hagan Chapel Baptist Church

Tributes:

Ms. Ophelia K. Gaines, Director  
Concerted Services

Mr. Sam Murphy, President  
Gladiators Club

Mr. Gregory Mason, Chief Operating Officer  
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

# ORDER OF SERVICE, continued

Solo... “It Is Well With My Soul”.....Ms. Carolyn Blackshear

Resolutions:

St. John Baptist Church: Ms. Charlene McKinnon

Tattnall Missionary Baptist Association: Ms. Christine Bailey

Savannah State University: President Cheryl Davenport Dozier  
(Presented by Dr. Irvin Clark, Vice President for Student Affairs)

State of Georgia: Rep. Al Williams

Acknowledgements.....Ms. Diane Holland

Obituary Read (Silently)

Solo..... “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”.....Mr. David Sharpe

The Eulogy.....Dr. Clarence Williams  
First Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church  
Savannah, Georgia

Benediction.....Dr. Clarence Williams

Recessional.....Mr. David Sharpe  
“May the Work I’ve Done Speak for Me”

## In Appreciation

The family of the late Charles L. Bailey extends their deepest and heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, calls, visits, food, flowers, cards, and all other expressions of sympathy during our time of bereavement. We are blessed and fortunate to have caring and dependable relatives and friends. You have given us strength and each of you will always be remembered and deeply appreciated. May God continue to bless and keep you.

We also want to thank the staff at Harper’s Funeral Home for sensitive and efficient service.

## AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS (Partial List)

### Awards and Recognitions

Certificate of Appreciation—SE Region, Equal Opportunity Officers Assn.  
1977—Certificate of Recognition, NAACP  
1977—Recognition, Georgia Equal Opportunity Officer's Association  
1990—Wilbur P. Jones Humanitarian Award, GA Community Action Assn.  
1995—Outstanding Leadership Service – Tattnall Missionary Baptist Assn.  
1998—Most Valuable Member Award, St. Joseph Lodge #76 Claxton, GA  
1999—Patriots Award, Coastal GA Area Community Action Authority, Inc.  
2002—Community All-Star Award, Claxton-Evans Chamber of Commerce  
2005—Commendation, Governor Sonny Perdue  
Award, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Image Awards  
Proclamation, the Mayor and Council of the City of Claxton  
*"Proclaiming August 20, 2005 as Charles Linelle Bailey Day"*  
2009—Certificate of Appreciation – Evans County High School Alumni

### Affiliations

Member, NAACP and first President, Evans County Branch  
American Legion Post #60 VFW Post #7357  
Member, St. Joseph Lodge #76 and Past Senior Warden  
Past Senior Warden, Statesboro Masonic District  
Past First Lieutenant Commander, Statesboro Consistory #348  
Charter Member and Past President, The Gladiators, Inc.  
Past President, State Equal Opportunity Officers, GA Comm. Action Assn  
Past Liaison Officer, Altamaha Area Community Action Authority, Inc.  
Past Chairman, Trustee Board & Sunday Sch. Supt, St. John MB Church  
Past Vice President, Layman Department, 1st District General Missionary  
Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.  
Past President, Layman Department Tattnall Missionary Baptist Convention  
Past Dean, Tattnall Missionary Bapt. Assn Sunday School & BTU Congress  
Past Chairman of Pineland Mental Health and Retardation Advisory Council  
Past Chair, Governor's Adv Council on Mental Health & Mental Retardation  
Member, Georgia DHR, Div. of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Area  
31 Advisory Council 1970 – 1978  
Vice Chairman, Evans County Recreation Commission  
Founding Member and Past President, Evans County Afro-American Society  
Past Cub Scout Master  
Past President, Evans County High School PTA  
Past Chairman, Evans County High School PTA Study Group  
Maggie F. Bailey Scholarship Endowment  
Evans County Historical Society Evans County Red Cross Chapter  
Past President, Savannah State University Tri-County Alumni Chapter

## CHARLES L. BAILEY (1916-2011) OBITUARY



Charles Linelle Bailey, known as C.L., departed this life on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at his residence in Claxton. The son of the late Charlie and Maggie Foreman Bailey, he was born on November 19, 1916 in Claxton, Evans County, Georgia. He passed on Sunday, June 12, 2011. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and a sister: Ronnie, Mae Frances, and Johnny.

Bailey received his elementary school education in the Evans County Public School System and his high school education at Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youth in 1932-1933 (now Savannah State), graduating from Central City College in Macon, Georgia. He returned to college in 1934, and after military service, received the Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Savannah State College n/k/a Savannah State University in 1953.



In 1944, he joined the U.S. Army with the rank of Corporal. He was a member of a Special Training Regiment that was given the responsibility of teaching literacy skills to African American soldiers at Fort Benning, GA. He was honorably discharged on March 8, 1946.

On June 29, 1947, C.L. was united in Holy Matrimony to Earlean Elizabeth Gulley of Greenville, Alabama. They met by chance in Montgomery, AL as Earlean prepared to return to her studies at Tuskegee Institute. To this union of almost 64 years, three children were born: Ronald, Cynthia and Linell.

Following his service in the Army, C.L. returned to Claxton and opened the Wagon Wheel Restaurant. The Wagon Wheel became a hub for entertainment and a sanctuary for many African American citizens and travelers. Many important cultural artists performed



there, including James Brown, Little Richard, Otis Redding, and others. He retired from the restaurant in 1965.

In 1965, he joined the organizing staff for the Altamaha Area Community Action Agency, now known as Concerted Services, and worked there until 1985. His responsibilities included working as the Equal Opportunity Officer, and coordinator of weatherization and commodities distribution, among other duties.

C.L. was an active participant in many social, political, and cultural organizations. He was one of nine African-American men who organized The Gladiators' Club in Claxton in 1954. Its purpose was "to promote economics, non-partisan politics, and social advancement for the people in Claxton-Evans County . . . through the corporate strength and combined efforts of the membership . . . in the thrust for Human Rights." He remained active in this organization until his death. Other organizational affiliations included the St. John Baptist Church, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, the NAACP, the Georgia Association of and the African American Society. He was blessed with many opportunities for service and leadership, and acknowledged by many.

Many family and friends will cherish loving and lasting memories of C.L. Bailey. Among them are his dedicated wife Earlean Gulley Bailey; his children, Ronald W. Bailey (Saundra) of Statesboro, GA, Cynthia E. Bailey of Claxton, and Linell A. Bailey (Marcyline) of Brunswick, GA. Grandchildren include Malika Graham-Bailey of Chicago, IL; Jonathan D. McBride of Manassas, VA; Robeson Graham-Bailey of San Bernadino, CA; Marona Graham-Bailey of Ann Arbor, MI; Rance Graham-Bailey of San Francisco, CA; and Adiah L. Bailey and Anja N. Bailey of Brunswick, GA.



Bailey was a lifetime member of the SSU Alumni Association, and active SSU supporter. He was also a passionate supporter of educational opportunities for young people. To carry on his legacy, the family will use a part of his estate to establish a fund to support education projects. Instead of flowers, contributions can be sent to the SSU Office of Development for the Charles L. Bailey Scholarship, or to the Charles L. Bailey Educational Fund, c/o The Claxton Bank, Claxton, GA, 30417. All such contributions will be tax deductible.

Bailey's long life was touched by many people and institutions, and his life touched many people. To preserve the memory of his upbringing, education, family life, many friendships, and his life of dedicated service, the family is developing a publication project which will record stories and share pictures. An invitation for family and friends to contribute their reflections to this legacy project will be extended at a future date.

#### **INVICTUS (one of CL's favorite poems)**

*Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.*

W.E. Henley, 1875