



*Theodore R.*  
**LONDON**  
1929-2024

*...if you can fill the unforgiving  
minute with sixty seconds  
worth of distance run,  
yours is the earth and  
everything that's in it*



*If* you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

*until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*  
**Mr. Theodore Roosevelt London**  
February 9, 1929 ~ March 20, 2024

**EARTHLY PLACE OF REST**  
**Evergreen-Walden Cemetery**  
Highway 93, Bechton Incorporated, GA

**Pallbearers**

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Adrian London  | Mr. Lester Lewis Ward, Jr. |
| Mr. Nathan London  | Mr. Brian Hollis           |
| Mr. Tony London    | Mr. David Lurry, Jr.       |
| Mr. Derrick Lurry  | Mr. Jerry Jones            |
| Mr. James W. Jones | Deacon Dwight Harris       |

**Flower Attendants**

Nieces, Grandnieces, Friends of the Family and Ushers

**Honorary Flower Attendants**

Deaconesses of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

*Acknowledgments*

We are extremely grateful to you  
for all expressions of love,  
words of encouragement, services rendered  
beyond the call of duty and the joy you've  
shared to enlighten us during the time of illness  
of our loved one and our bereavement.

*~ The Family*

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:  
**Barnum Funeral Home, Inc.**  
217 Ashby Street, Americus, Georgia 31709  
Telephone: (229) 924-2958 | Fax: (229) 924-2957  
Information Line: (229) 928-2955  
[www.barnumfuneralhome.com](http://www.barnumfuneralhome.com)  
E-mail: [barnumfuneralhome@gmail.com](mailto:barnumfuneralhome@gmail.com)

Escort Courtesy  
Americus Police Department & Sumter County Sheriff's Office

CELEBRATION *of Life* HONORING

*Theodore Roosevelt London*

Sunrise: February 9, 1929      Sunset: March 20, 2024

*A Legacy Remembered...*

Family Man ~ Educator ~ Deacon ~ Veteran



*Tuesday*

MARCH 26, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church  
225 Forrest Street | Americus, Georgia 31709  
Pastor, Rev. Dr. Thaddeus L. Laidler

EULOGIST | Bishop George F. Edge  
Restoration Church of Americus



*Remembering*  
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT LONDON**

THE OBITUARY

**Mr. Theodore Roosevelt London** was born February 9, 1929, in Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia to the parentage of the late Mr. Jesse London and the late Mrs. Annie Watkins London. It was on March 20, 2024, that Mr. London entered the gates of heaven and joined his Lord and Savior. He wore many hats, including, but not limited to, that of veteran, educator, deacon, community leader, and family man.

Mr. London was educated in the public schools of Thomas County, where he received a football scholarship to attend Albany State College. While there, he was drafted in the United States Army and served his country from 1950-1952. Upon returning to college, in 1954, he completed a degree in mathematics and was initiated as a member of the Gamma Zeta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. He would later attend Atlanta University, where he completed a Master of Education degree.

Much happened at Albany State College, for it was there that he met the woman of his dreams, Ms. Annie Lee Lurry who would become his wife of over 60 years and mother of his children. The London family took residence in the city of Americus, Georgia, where he was offered his first teaching assignment.

Upon graduating from Albany State College in 1954, Mr. London began his long and passionate educational career in the Sumter County School System. He was offered a teaching position at the Welcome School, where he worked in that capacity from 1954 to 1957. In 1958, Mr. London moved from the Welcome School to Northeast Elementary School, where he taught sixth grade math for the first few years and then served as principal in 1985. The Americus City Schools merged with Sumter County Schools in 1995 to become one district. It was then that Mr. London was asked to move to the Sumter County Middle School to serve as Assistant Principal and lead administrator for the fifth grade. He served at the Sumter County Middle School from 1995 to 1997. In the 43 years that he served as an educator in Sumter County, Mr. London was a model of professionalism. As far as records show, he was absent only 14 days in his entire career!

Mr. London was a life member of the American Legion, a leader in the community, a role model, and a devout Christian. He was a God-fearing man who was a member of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the Deacon Board and for many years, he served as treasure of the church.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his wife, he is preceded in death by a son, Barnett London.

He leaves to cherish his memories: two sons, Mr. Calvin (Linda) London, Warner Robins, GA and Mr. Adrian London, Americus, GA; two daughters, Ms. Sylvia London-Ward, Warner Robins, GA and Ms. Alva London, Americus, GA; a daughter-in-law, Ms. Geraldine London, Powder Springs, GA; eight grandchildren: Antonio London, Naikeshea Moore, Monique (Eric) Goldbach, Ceola London, Victoria London, Lester (Veronica) Ward, Nathan (Tina) Ward and Bryan (Eriel) Hollis; nine great grandchildren: Jasmine (Johnathan) Young, Ryan Moore, Joshua Ward, Jordan Ward, Jonah Ward, Journey Ward, Christopher Freeman, Niomi Ward and Andre Ward; a host of nieces, including a devoted niece, Ms. Doris Hancock; nephews, including a devoted nephew, Mr. Gerald Jones; cousins, including a devoted cousin, Ms. Lillie Ruth Burns; a goddaughter, Ms. Kim Petty; other relatives and friends also survive.



*Remembering*  
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT LONDON**

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

**Rev. Dr. Thaddaus L. Laidler | Presiding**

**Processional**.....led by Rev. Dr. Thaddaus L. Laidler  
 and Pulpit Guests

*Last Glance and Final Sealing*

**Solo**.....Ms. Monica Brooks  
 “He’s an On Time God”

**Prayer**.....Rev. Dr. Thaddaus L. Laidler  
 Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

**Scripture**.....Minister Terrance Bryant

*Reflections ~ limit 2 minutes*

Mr. Gerald Jones | Mr. Michael Reliford  
 Mrs. Eloise Paschal | Deacon Mark Latimore  
 Deacon Alonzo Bryant | Mrs. Kathleen Monts

**Selection**.....Ms. Monica Brooks  
 “God is Good”

**Eulogy**.....Bishop George F. Edge  
 Restoration Church of Americus

**Acknowledgements  
 and Presentation  
 of the Family Bible**.....Barnum Staff

**RECESSIONAL**

*Please turn all cell phones and electronic devices off  
 or to silent mode during the services. Thank you.*