

A TIME TO BE BORN: The magnificent life of Deacon Johnnie D. Mercer, Sr. began when his parents, the late Deacon D. C. Mercer and Deaconess Sis. Lillie Mae Hamilton Mercer, welcomed him into this world as their first and oldest of 10 children on Tuesday, July 14, 1936, in Leslie, Georgia.

A TIME TO BE EDUCATED: He received his formative years of education in the Friendship Baptist and other church schools in the Sumter County, Georgia area.

A TIME TO WORK: Deacon Mercer worked tirelessly to provide for his family. He was an accomplished and hardworking man. For several years, he labored at the Davis Casket company in Sumter County, Georgia. Thereafter, for over ten years, he worked at Walmart in Americus, Georgia where he retired on April 26, 2019.

A TIME TO MARRY AND BIRTH A FAMILY: On December 25, 1955, he was joined in Holy Matrimony to the love of his life, the late Sis. Margaret Ann (Cox) Mercer, whom he cherished for forty-five years. Together, they welcomed and trained five amazing children: Brenda, Johnny, Jr., Alice, Darrell, and Michael, all who adore him.

A TIME TO FLOURISH AND SERVE THE LORD: Johnnie lived a life that was full of love to give and receive. He was kind and dedicated to making a difference in the world. His infectious laughter and stories left a lasting impression on everyone he met. He never met a stranger and always had “good” conversation with anyone he spoke to.

He joined the Friendship Baptist Church in Desoto, Georgia at an early age under the watchful eye of his father. He emerged to be ordained by then pastor, Reverend C. W. White, sometime prior to 1961. He was an avid singer and was known for his signature song, “You must be Born Again”, which he sang often to the enjoyment of the congregation. Johnnie loved the Lord and everyone, especially his church members, where he is celebrated as the oldest male member—both age and chronological time as a member. He required the same of his children to seek the Lord in all they do and to give service to others. When he could no longer drive, his girls, their husbands and grands made sure that he was in his “dedicated” seat at Friendship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

A TIME TO DIE: In the early morning hours of Wednesday, July 19, 2023, Johnnie D. answered the whisper of the Lord to come back to him and rest. He departed this life at the Phoebe Sumter County Medical Center in Americus, Georgia. In addition to his wife, he is now joined with his parents; his brothers: Lonnie C., Freddie, Eddie, Charles, and Jessie; and his sisters, Ann Mercer James and Alberta Mercer Jacobs.

A TIME FOR LEGACY AND REMEMBRANCE BY THOSE LEFT BEHIND: Johnnie D.’s memory will always be in the hearts of those who survive— his children: Brenda (Allison) Harris and Alice (Eddie Sr) Mercer, all of Americus, Georgia; Johnny, Jr. (Ruby) Mercer of Acworth, Georgia; Darrell (Angela) Mercer of Cordele, Georgia and Michael (Shirley) Mercer of Conyers, Georgia; his sisters: Ernestine Cooper of Atlanta, Georgia and Sara Mercer of Boca Raton, Florida; sisters-in-law: Dorothy Mercer of Stone Mountain, Georgia; Emma Mercer of Hartford, Connecticut and Carolyn Mercer of New Jersey; his grandchildren: Christopher (Daisy) Raven of Warner Robins, Georgia; Arthur, Jr. (Ciera) Raven, Marquita (Christopher) Waters, Althea (Janelle) Williams, Allyson (Jarrell) Seay and Eddie Mercer, all of Americus, Georgia; Clifton and Jalen Mercer of Cordele, Georgia; Erica (Johnny) Danielly and Johnny Mercer III, all of Acworth, Georgia and Michala (Phillipian) Stamps of Jackson, Mississippi; devoted nieces: Octavia Wilson, Americus, Georgia and Debra Smith, Warner Robins, Georgia; two devoted cousins: Joe Clark, Desoto, Georgia and Martha Snead, Americus, Georgia. Deacon Mercer also leaves a host of great and great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and Friendship Baptist Church members to keep him in their hearts.