

# OBITUARY

Lawrence Homer Alexander Jr., was born to Lawrence H. Alexander, Sr. and Minnie Bolling Alexander on October 14, 1925, in Detroit, Michigan. He was the eldest son of four siblings.

Lawrence graduated from Pershing High School. As a young man he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served the nation four years in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Defense Battalion in the South Pacific.

On July 10, 1948 Lawrence Alexander, Jr. married Geneva Carter in Detroit, Michigan and ventured into what would become one of the most cherished roles of his life as husband and father.

Lawrence became an ordained minister attending Detroit Bible College where he studied Theology and Hebrew. He continued his education at Wayne State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, and the University of Michigan where he received a Master of Science Degree in Social Work.

Reverend Lawrence H. Alexander, Jr. served as Auxiliary Pastor of Second Baptist Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan, travelling there weekly from Detroit to carry out the associated pastoral responsibilities. He became a Social Worker at Gleiss Memorial Center and a Detroit Half-Way House and began teaching, while he continued his studies.

Over the years, Lawrence evolved to become a respected scholar, a fine orator and a formidable educator to many. He was committed to his faith, family and community, and proved himself to be a dedicated public servant.

The path of Lawrence's professional life required that he travel across the globe as a seeker of knowledge and truth, and across the United States to heed the call of service and gainful work. Over the years his educational journeys lead him to the continent of Africa on multiple occasions – East to Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and West to Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, and Dakar, as well as to other parts of the world. These journeys were shared with fellow colleagues, his family and brothers of the Craft.

In 1968, Lawrence moved with his family to Buffalo, New York, where he served as Executive Director of The Neighborhood House Association and taught at The State University of Buffalo.

In 1976, he relocated to Houston, Texas where he was invited to serve as Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Houston.

Lawrence was later asked to be a Minister with the United Church of Christ (UCC) and returned to Buffalo, New York. Subsequently, he was invited to become the Minister of Metropolitan Missions for UCC Churches in the New York Metropolitan area. In 1978, he changed residence to Mt. Vernon, New York, where he lived for the duration of his life.

In 1983 Lawrence became a member of the Hunefur Grand Lodge of the Western Orient. He helped to shape the charter and constitution, and subsequently was appointed High Priest.

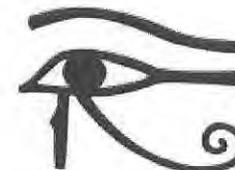
Lawrence was recognized for several achievements throughout his life. Most recently, in 2012, he travelled to the nation's Capitol. There he received a Congressional Medal of Honor from the President for his military service in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Defense Battalion as a member of The Montford Point Marines, the first graduating class of African American Marines prior to the integration of the Marine Corps.



Lawrence was a calm, insightful man with a keen, discerning intellect. He provided a stabilizing presence among those he befriended. He was known to sport a melodic whistle, and although he missed the gifts of song and dance, he was consistent in his vibration of kindness and good will.

Lawrence departed this earth on October 9, 2014, at the age of 88. The memories of his grace and loving nature will be forever cherished by his wife: Geneva Carter Alexander; sisters: Martha Boone and Adelaide Alexander; the strength of his character will be carried on through his children: Melvin, Leah, LaDonna and Myron Alexander and his wife Carol Bash-Alexander; his guidance treasured by grandchildren: Kameron Alexander, Lisa Alexander, Shantel Jones, Steve Jones, Cheronne Alexander-Harris, great grandchildren: Dhymonique, Jazmine, Kenedie, Makela; great great grandchild: Cassidy Alexander; a host of beautiful nieces and nephews, as well as other family members and numerous friends.

We all are so very grateful for the pleasure of his being with us for so many years. The bright light of his spirit will always remain in the hearts of his family and everyone whose lives were touched by his presence.



## *Frequently Quoted Scripture:*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

**“In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”**