

Deacon Pharoah McGee

DENISON - Pharoah McGee formerly of Denison, passed away, September 23, 2013 after a brief illness at Kaiser-Permanente Hospital in Modesto, Calif. He was 75 years old.

Celebration of Life was held October 3, 2013 in Oakland, Calif. Interment at the Memory Gardens Odd Fellows Memorial Park, Livermore, Calif.

Pharoah McGee, affectionately known as "McGee" and "Uncle Poe" to friends and family, was the patriarch of the Noble McGee family and their family Historian resided in Tracey, Calif.

Faithful. God's Servant. Admirable. These three words describe Pharaoh's character perfectly.

Pharoah was born on April 3, 1938 in Naples, Texas. He was the youngest brother of five children born to Noble and Florida Lewis McGee. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two sisters, Mildred Winters Graves of Denison, Iva Nell McGee Graves of Phoenix, Ariz.; brother, Norman McGee of Denison; and grandparents, Andrew McGee of Denison, and Lillie (Hughes- McGee) Warren of Swan.

Pharoah graduated from Union High School in Phoenix, Ariz., and attended Gethsemane Elementary school in Naples, Texas and Terrell High School in Denison where he played guard on the 1955 Terrell Dragons football team.

Pharoah started working in the cotton fields at age 5 to help support the family. He had been working hard ever since. A knack for always being resourceful, this was evident when he worked at the Chinese restaurant and the wrecking yard while completing high school in Phoenix, Ariz. In the early 1960s, Pharaoh moved to Oakland, Calif., shortly after graduating from High School in hopes of being paid more money for picking cotton. He was owner of The Family Donut Shop in Oakland for 10 years. Later, he was employed as a cab driver in San Francisco, Calif., with Associated Cab Services and in 1987; he received the Cab Driver of the Year Award. Pharaoh owned and operated his own cab through his retirement.

He was also active in the church community of the Metropolitan Church of God in Christ and Queen Memorial Church of God In Christ. In 2008, he was ordained as a Deacon, He served the Lord and the ministry in various capacities; Senior Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, Pastor's Aide President and Church Gardener. Pharaoh was always willing to lend a helping hand in everything, from Deacon duties to whatever was needed, and sometimes services unseen. He became one of the most faithful members of the church and was devoted until God called him home.

On February 14, 2009, he married Delores Pittman in Union City, Calif. To this union were added Delores' eight adult children: Eileen, Anita, Danielle, Darryl, Denise, Brenda, Kevin and Jason.

He said he liked to eat everything and liked all sports, but favored baseball and football. We honor his choice to let his faith in God see him through his struggles in health and not take the conventional way out.

He was a respected and beloved member of the family and received special Patriarchic recognition at all annual Family Reunions. Pharoah was greatly loved and we all shall greatly miss his jokes, gentle mannerisms, smiles, and his famous pound cakes!

Pharoah leaves to cherish his memories: His devoted wife, Delores (Pittman) and her eight children of a previous marriage; sister, Lillie (McGee -Winters) Railback of Houston; stepmothers, Artie McGee of Phoenix, Ariz., and Brooksie McGee Tanner of West Helena, Ark.; four daughters, Toni McGee Simmons, Mary Patterson, Helen Commack and Dona McGee with his first wife (Helen Jefferson) all of Phoenix, Ariz.; and five stepchildren, with his second wife (Marguerite Brand), Vanessa Ford of Stockton, Calif., Cheryl Brand, Garth Brand, Greg Brand and Keith Brand all of Oakland, Calif.; one sister-in-law, Vernell McGee of Denison.

He is further survived by 23 grandchildren, 34 great-greatgrandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, many wonderful friends and the Queen Memorial Church family.

Deacon Pharoah, McGee and Uncle Poe is irreplaceable and will never be forgotten!

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