



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR
Mr. Anthony Bernard Gardner
"Butch"

SUNRISE: AUGUST 10, 1949

SUNSET: JUNE 20, 2017

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18

- The Obituary -

Anthony Bernard Gardner was born August 10, 1949 to Ms. W. Marie Gardener and the late Mr. Willie L. Stevens.

Anthony was a proud graduate of J.S. Abrams High School, Class of 1967. After graduation he attended Tuskegee Institute, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education in 1971. He later obtained his Master's of Education at Alabama State University. Anthony had a successful career as an Educator, Coach of Football, Basketball and Baseball; as well as an officiator at Mt. Olive High School, Seale, Alabama, and West End High School, Birmingham, Alabama, where he later retired.

Anthony accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at an early age and united with Morning Star United Methodist Church under the leadership of E.D. Ridgeway. He later joined Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend George C. McCulloh in Opelika, Alabama. In recent years, Anthony has enjoyed his local membership at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Emanuel Foster in Bessemer, Alabama. Anthony also enjoyed fellowshiping with his wife, daughters and granddaughters at the Kingdom Church of Auburn, Alabama where Mario C. Brown is the Pastor.

Anthony met and married Ella M. Jones, December 22, 1973. To this union two beautiful daughters were born, Terra Lajoie and LaShonva Marie.

He was preceded in death by: brothers, David and Michael Stevens; sister, Cynthia Southall.

Loving memories of Anthony will be forever cherished by: a loving and devoted wife, Ella Gardner, Opelika, AL; three daughters, Dedra Gulley, Bessemer, AL, Terra Lajoie and LaShonva Gardner, Opelika, AL; grandchildren, Phajah Chantel Gardner and Keirra D'Andria Farrow; loving and wonderful mother, W. Marie Gardner; sisters, Shirley Wilson, St. Louis, MO, Ora Faye Carter, Birmingham, AL, Jacqueline (Rev. Jessie) Burton, Tuscaloosa, AL and Barbara (Sid) Bryant, Birmingham, AL; brothers, Reginald (JoAnn) Stevens, Tuscaloosa, AL and Marcus A. Stevens, Birmingham, AL; sisters-in-law, Annie Tarver, Baltimore, MD and Elease (Melvin) Askew, Charlotte, NC; brothers-in-law, Eddie Turk, Auburn, AL and Clarence (Belinda) Jones, Baltimore, MD; uncle, Silas Stevens, Buffalo, NY and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

- The Order of Service -

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2017 • 12:00 NOON

HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

4817 Jefferson Avenue, SW Birmingham, Alabama 35221

REVEREND EMANUEL FOSTER, OFFICIATING PASTOR

Prelude

Processional

Scripture Reading:

Old Testament..... Reverend Velman Gurly

New Testament Reverend Ronald Wrench

Prayer

Selection Lechelle Kelly

Occasion and Encouraging Words Pastor Mario C. Brown
The Kingdom Church, Auburn, AL

Reflections Two Minutes (Please)

Friend..... Samuel Shade

Friend..... Armstead Herndon

Tuskegee Institute Alum Class of 1971

Former Students and Classmates

Proclamation..... Alvin Washington and Arthur Brown
Tuskegee Institute Golden Tigers
National Athletic Association

Selection

Eulogy..... Pastor Emanuel Foster
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Recessional

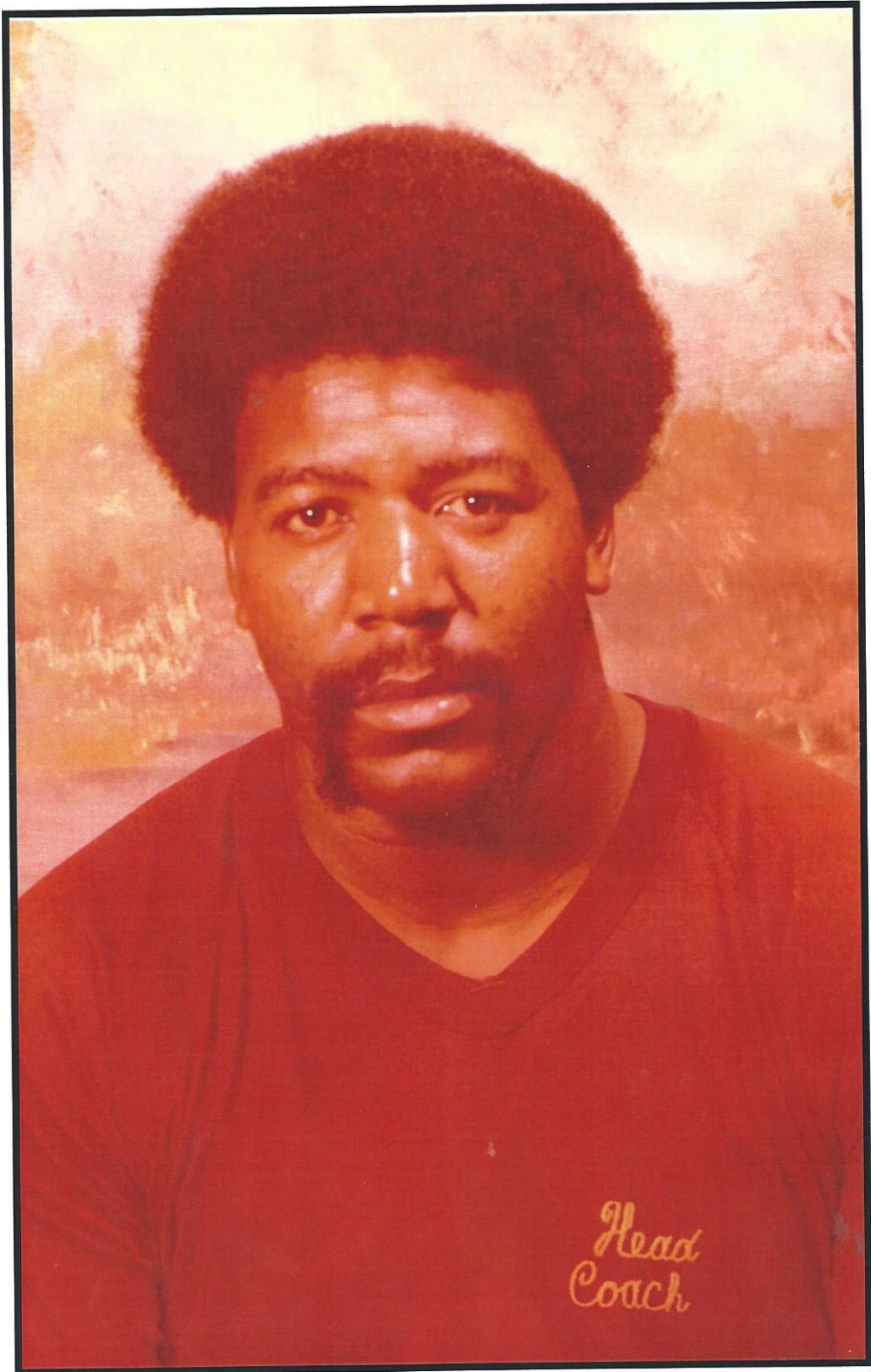


- Leave The Rest To God -

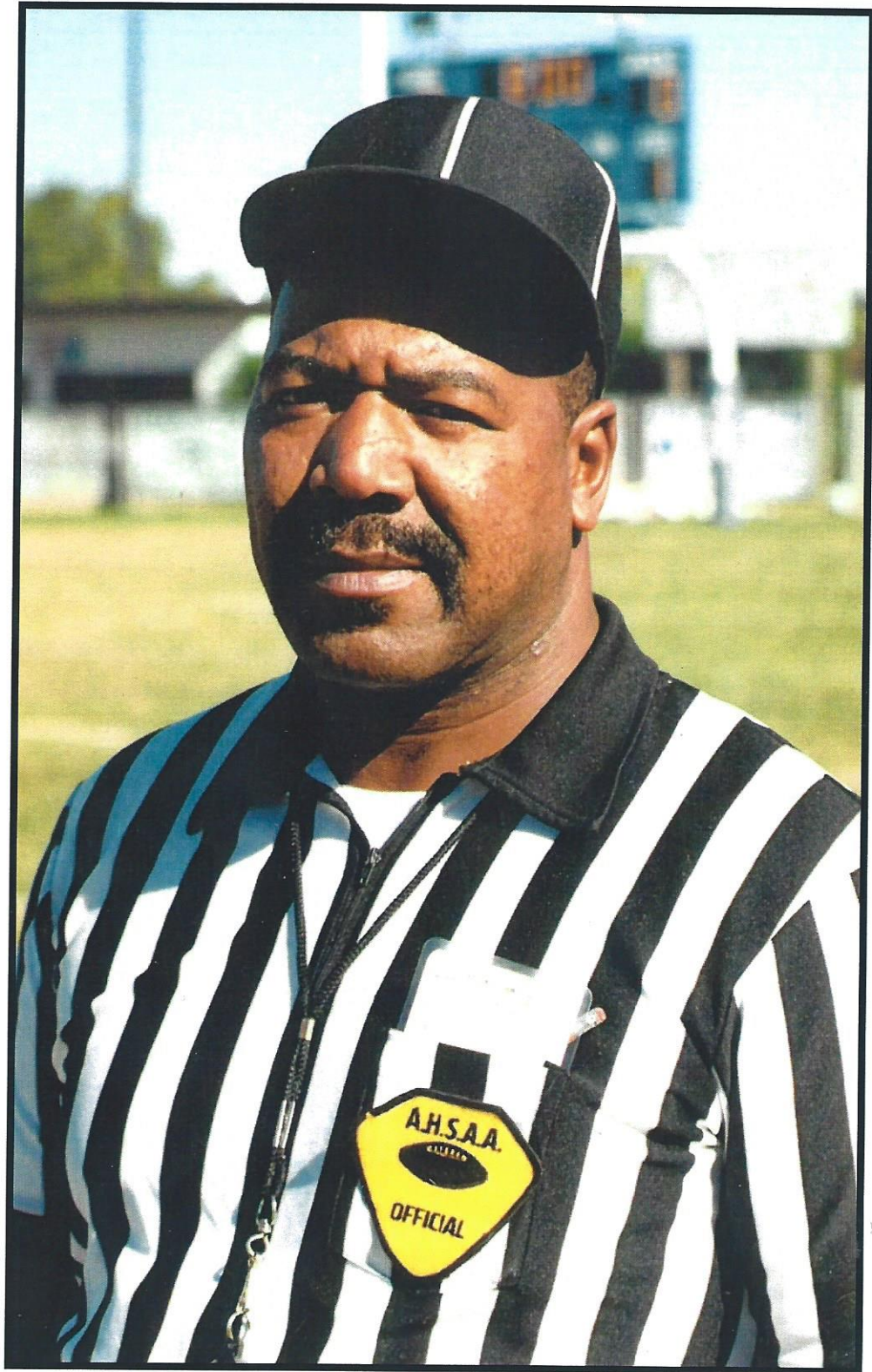
Your smile has gone forever,
Your hand I cannot touch,
But thank God for your tender memories,
Of one I love so much.
It broke my heart to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For part of me went with you,
The day God called you home.
In memory I go back,
Along each road that we have trod,
And bless the years I had with you,
And leave the rest to God.

- What Makes A Dad? -

God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity, the depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
when there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete
And so, He called it ... DAD!



*Head
Coach*



- *Pallbearers* -

Nephews, Family and Friends

- *Flower Bearers* -

Nieces, Family and Friends

- *Interment* -

Highland Memorial Gardens

- *Acknowledgment* -

The family of Anthony Butch Gardner would like to express their sincere gratitude for your prayers, expressions of love, thoughtful concerns, cards, calls, support and visits. We greatly appreciate you. Special thanks to Princeton's Oncology and Radiology Departments, Hospice Nurses, East Alabama Medical Center Staff and Nurses and to Chambers Funeral Home Staff.

The Family

- *Repast* -

Zion Hill Fellowship Hall

Serviced by Professionals:

Chambers Funeral Home Inc.

FIVE GENERATIONS OF SERVICE SINCE 1935

2527 Ninth Avenue North • Bessemer, Alabama 35020 • 205.425.5235

www.chambersfuneralhome.net