



**REVEREND DOCTOR
TERREL JOHNSON
"T.J." SHEPHERD SR.**

Reverend Doctor Terrel Johnson "T. J." Shepherd Sr., age 89 of Crockett, Texas passed away Saturday, December 5, 2009 in Houston, Texas. Reverend T. J. Shepherd was born September 28, 1920 in Grapeland, Texas to the union of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Shepherd and Mary Ann Warfield Shepherd. He was the 14th of their 15 children.

Reverend Shepherd accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and joined the Greater New Hope Baptist Church. He later joined Jones Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Crockett, Texas and served as an AME Church Pastor for 41 years.

He attended Daily Community School in Grapeland, Texas through elementary school and graduated from Crockett Colored High in 1937. He furthered his education at Mary Allen College in Crockett, Texas where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. In 1958 he earned a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Mid-Management at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.

In 1939, he united in holy matrimony with Betty Byrd Shepherd. Five children were born to this union. He leaves to cherish his memory one son, Terrell Johnson (Arvie Nell) Shepherd Jr. of Spring, Texas; four daughters, Mary Ethel Shepherd Lester of Dallas, Texas; Evelyn Terry Shepherd Henry of Houston, Texas, Betty "Candy" (Roy) Shepherd Harrison of Houston, Texas and Brenda Shepherd Colter of Crockett Texas.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Shepherd and Mary Ann Warfield Shepherd; Siblings, Joe Houston, Henry Cartelyou Shepherd, Haynes Lee Shepherd, Albert Govan Shepherd, Benjamin Wesley Shepherd, Joseph Roosevelt Shepherd, Rosetta Dell Shepherd Dixon, Jennie Deborah Shepherd Wagner, Eva Jettie Shepherd Daly, Mary Alice Shepherd, Samuel Paschal Shepherd, Jesse Burnett Shepherd, Alice Geraldine Shepherd and grand daughters, Sean Anita Henry, Sherry Lynn Shepherd and Terry Lynn Shepherd.

He is survived by one sister, Jessie Mae Wise, of Ocala, Fla.; 17 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; and a host of nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Reverend Shepherd, a World War II Veteran, enlisted in the United States Army on January 23, 1945. He was trained as a medic and received several commendations prior to his honorable discharge from service at the end of the war. Following in his father's footsteps, he joined the Prince Hall Masons in the late 1940's and adhered to their principles throughout his life.

Reverend Shepherd attended colleges of divinity in Atlanta, Georgia and in Texas. He was awarded an earned Doctor of Divinity Degree from Texas College in 1982. He began his ministerial career in 1955 in Crockett, Texas. He served as senior pastor of twelve AME churches throughout Texas from 1955 until his retirement in 1996. These churches are: Jones Chapel and Saint Andrews in Crockett; Warren Chapel in Dallas, Quinn Chapel in Dennison; St. Luke in Gar-

land; Anderson Chapel in Killeen; Anderson Chapel in Palestine; Mount Vernon in Palestine; Allen Chapel in Ratcliff, Trinity Chapel in Trinity, Ebenezer in Tyler and Anderson, Chapel in Wichita Falls. Reverend Shepherd's lifelong passion was to be a good and faithful servant of the Lord. He was known as a "building" minister. He established drives to build new churches, fellowship halls, and/or otherwise improve the structures at each of his AME church appointments. He was elected as a delegate to the National General Conference of the AME Church four times.

He loved to visit and serve communion to the "sick and shut in." His favorite Bible verses were from the Gospel of Saint John. Reverend Shepherd is best remembered for his devotion to God, his love of family and friends, his humility and his kindness.

Reverend Shepherd was heralded as a brilliant mathematician and public school educator. He served as an assistant principal of Ralph J. Bunche High School, Crockett, Texas; He taught mathematics at Ralph J. Bunche and Crockett High School, Crockett, Texas; and three Dallas Independent School District Middle Schools (J. N. Ervin, L.V. Stockard and Seagoville). He also taught mathematics at Mary Allen College in Crockett, Texas. He wholeheartedly loved his students and they loved him. Throughout the years, he was a champion for students. He served many students; not only as an expert mathematics teacher and administrator but more importantly he was a mentor, a confidant, a role model, an advocate, and/or friend to thousands of students.

Funeral Services will be held at Eleven a.m., Saturday, December 12, 2009 at Bethel Baptist Church, 906 North 6th St., Crockett, Texas, Pastor, Reverend Earl Harris. Reverend Ray Charles Emmanuel will present words of comfort. Presiding Elder James W. Ford will give special reflections on behalf of the 10th District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Emanuel Funeral Home