

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Thomas Louis

BRACKEN JR.

SUNRISE

SUNSET

MARCH 13, 1937 - DECEMBER 12, 2020

VIRTUAL SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020 – 3:00 P.M.

REVEREND GLENN L. JONES PASTOR/OFFICIANT

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude (This little light of mine, Precious Lord take My Hand and The in rowd)

Welcome

David Bracken

Call to Celebration

Reverend Glenn L. Jones

Old Testament (Proverbs 3:5)

Reverend Glenn L. Jones

New Testament (John 8:32 & 2 Timothy 2:15)

Reverend Glenn L. Jones

Song (If I can help somebody)

Gary Rowlands

Obituary Reading

Judith Robinson

Song (Liebestraum)

Renee Himes

Expressions

Various

Acknowledgements

Aria Bracken & Elijah Bracken

Poems

Leia Bracken & Judith Robinson

Eulogy

Reverend Glenn L. Jones

Closing Prayer

Reverend Glenn L. Jones

Fellowship Time

THE LIFE OF THOMAS LOUIS BRACKEN, JR.

Thomas Louis Bracken Jr., affectionately known as Tommy, was born on March 13, 1937 to Thomas Louis Bracken Sr. and Venoid Bracken in Paducah, Kentucky. While Thomas was young, the family moved to Saginaw, Michigan, and later to Indianapolis, Indiana.

Thomas attended Emeric Manual High School and was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. Upon graduation, Thomas worked at the Eli Lillie Pharmaceutical Company.

Thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Thomas spent most of his tour of duty on the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. There he operated and maintained the Distant Early Warning Line, known as the DEW Line. His task was to utilize the DEW Line to detect incoming Soviet bombers and prevent any sea and land invasions. Thomas was honorably discharged from the Air Force, as an Airman First Class. Subsequently, he used his military experience to obtain employment at the Bell Telephone Company in Los Angeles, California. He was a diligent employee and quickly rose to the leadership position of Supervisor.

Thomas met the love of his life, Michelle Andrea Ayers, at a New Year's Eve party, given by a mutual friend. On that special night, he proposed to Andrea before the bells rang in the New Year. She laughed and said, "No", but three months later, Andrea smiled big and said, "Yes!".

The young couple married at the Church of Religious Science. The newlyweds bought a house in Baldwin Hills and thereafter, Michael Anthony was born. When David Elijah came along their little family was complete.

A few years later, the Bracken family became a part of the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church community. The boys attended the preschool and Tommy took them to Sunday school every Sunday. Tommy and Andrea became faithful attendees of the church worship services and members of committees.

Tommy was a loving husband and father, who enjoyed taking the family on adventures, and exploring the country on fun-filled road trips. He was proud of his sons and relished that they grew to be strong, intelligent, God-centered men.

In 1984, Tommy, heeded the Lord's calling to teach the Bible. He taught and gave away the "One Year Bible" wherever he went: at work, at the poker parlor, and even at church.

His gift for gab, his mischievous sense of humor and his deep love for all of God's children made him ideal for this ministry. Tommy taught Sunday School and adult Bible study at the church and at his home. He was known for his generosity and his willingness to help anyone in need.

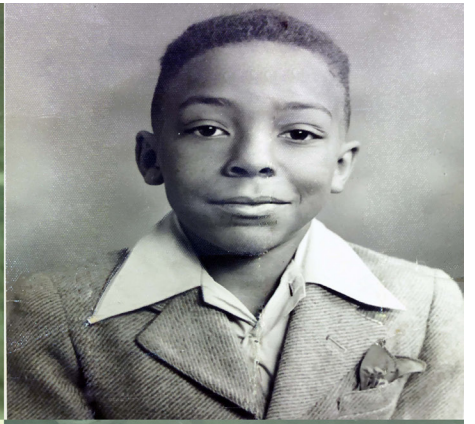
After taking an early retirement from Pacific Bell, Tommy kept busy. His pastimes were playing poker and spreading The Word. Tommy was instrumental in starting the weekly church prayer meetings and he organized the food giveaway program at St. Paul's. Furthermore, he expanded his Bible study program by developing the Bible study website, <http://biblereading.mysite.com>, which remains active.

Tommy and Andrea were blessed with three grandchildren, Leia Maelyn, Aria Michelle and Elijah Greyson. Tommy loved and enjoyed his grandchildren, but after his stroke he was no longer able to play with them and shop for them as he had done.

In his later years, Tommy developed vascular dementia, which was stroke induced; however, he never lost his love for the Lord and never forgot who his family and caregivers were.

Tommy was able to achieve his long-standing wish to live out his last days at home with his family, until God called him home. On December 12, 2020, at 9:05 am, Thomas Louis Bracken Jr, peacefully slept away.

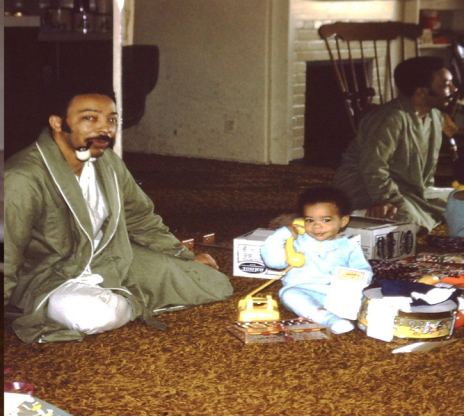
Tommy leaves to cherish his memory: his wife Andrea; sons, Michael and David (Kedra); grandchildren, Leia, Aria and Elijah; mother-in-law Doris Ayers; caregivers, Mambasa Jones, Brandon Webb and Jeremiah Mc Nair; and a host of relatives, church members, neighbors, and friends.



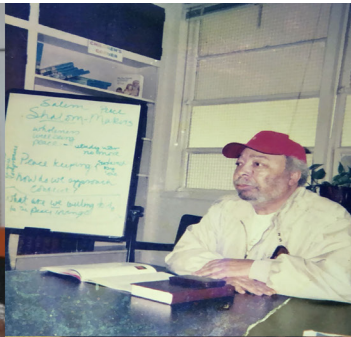




















ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bracken Family wishes to thank you for the kindness you have shown to us. We appreciate all the flowers, food, cards, letters, emails and phone calls. Most of all we are grateful for your continued prayers and encouragement!

Please visit:

www.flow.page/thomasbracken

For links to:

- Post notes, pictures and videos to our memorial board.
- View the record virtual memorial service.
- Download a copy of the obituary.
- View and use Tommy's bible reading and study website.
- More.

Transitions

“He has made his transition”
I heard his loved one say.
In the confident assurance
That they’d meet again, one day.

He has made his transition
To that happy home abroad.
Now he’s absent from the body
So he’s present with the Lord.

Jesus made his transition
Resurrected to ascend
Where he waits beside the Father
For our broken hearts to mend.

When we all make our transitions
Where our blessed Lord shall reign
We’ll be with our friends and loved ones.
No more sickness, no more pain.

We will praise his name forever
In that happy home abroad
When we all make our transitions
To be present with the Lord.

Michelle Andrea Bracken