

Acknowledgements

The family would like to take this opportunity to offer their sincere appreciation for the appreciation for the many kind expressions of love and sympathy extended to them during this difficult time.

Pallbearers

Cameron Gunnels • Quran Hisle • Brandon Porter
Jason Porter • Jeremy Porter • Victor Gunnels, Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Phillip O'Neal • Matthew Moore • Arthur Franklin
Roland Gunnels • Sigmund Butler • Jeremy Sheffield



The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Interment

Spring Grove Cemetery

Repast

HOUSE OF JOY • 3220 Central Parkway • Cincinnati, OH 45225

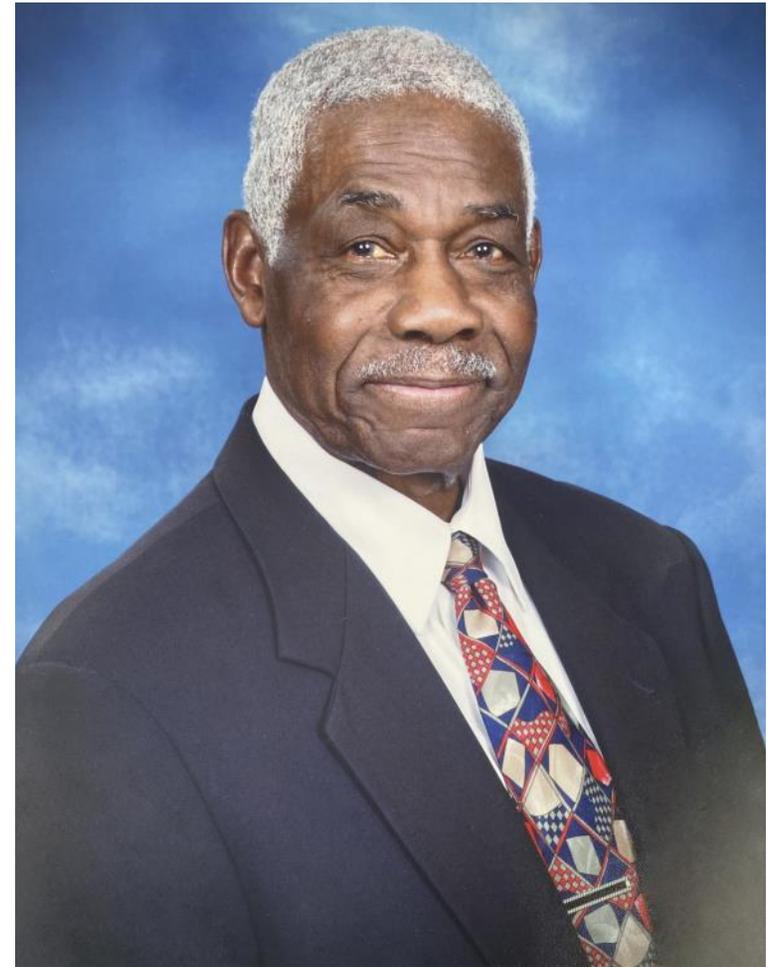
Family Chapel In The Dale

J.C. BATTLE & SONS FUNERAL HOME
543 Rockdale Avenue • Cincinnati, OH 45229
(513) 281-4330 • www.jcbattleandsons.com

Printed especially for you by J.E. • 513-207-8142

Home Going Celebration for **Lawrence C. Gunnels, Sr.**

February 24, 1929 — July 27, 2022



Saturday, August 6, 2022

Visitation – 10:00 a.m. • Service – 11:00 a.m.

CORINTHIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
1920 Tennessee Avenue • Cincinnati, OH 45237

Pastor Kazava Smith, Officiating

Obituary

Lawrence Christopher Gunnels, Sr. was born February 24, 1929 in Morrilton, Arkansas. He was the second of 12 children born to Fred and Florence Gunnels.

At the age of 12, he accepted Christ at Hickory Hill Baptist Church, where he served in Sunday school and worked in other capacities within the church. He attended the Conway County High School and attended the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff where he studied Agriculture. Lawrence served in the Army during the Korean War, after which, he settled in Cincinnati, Ohio with his older brother Isaiah (Ike) and his Uncle Howard. Shortly after moving to Cincinnati, in the 1950's, he joined Corinthian Baptist Church, where he became the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, served as a Deacon for many years, sang in the United Choir and was honored as the Senior of the Month. He was a youth baseball coach for several years in the late 1960's and his real estate company sponsored several baseball teams years later. In 1977, he married Jean Gunnels with whom he celebrated 45 years of marriage.

Lawrence held various factory jobs and sales jobs prior to joining the US Post Office where he retired in 1985. During his time at the post office, he developed an interest in real estate and obtained his sales license in 1966. After several successful years as a real estate agent, in 1971, he decided to open his own real estate brokerage, appropriately named Lawrence C. Gunnels Realty. After a few years, he developed one of the largest minority-owned real estate brokerages in the region. As his company grew, it rebranded as Gunnels Realty with a new company logo. Today, his son and a few of his grandkids are continuing his legacy in real estate by expanding the footprint of Gunnels Realty.

Lawrence was a member of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), the oldest minority trade association in the US, and a past president of the local chapter. Local NAREB members and other minority real estate professionals affectionately referred to him as the last of the "original minority old timers" in the business. He was the second black Real Estate Broker in Cincinnati to join the Local, State and National Association of Realtors, where he served on many committees and received numerous awards. After decades of membership and service, he was honored with Realtor Emeritus status, a designation recognizing those with over 40 years of valuable and lasting contribution to the real estate profession in the community.

Lawrence prided himself on putting God first in all things and has instilled a similar appreciation for faith in his children and grandchildren. His favorite scripture was Psalms 23 and his favorite gospel songs were "Hold On To God's Unchanging Hand" and "I'll Fly Away". He encouraged getting an education and having an entrepreneurial spirit. His legacy lives on through his children and grandchildren, who have successfully pursued multiple degrees, corporate careers, and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Preceding him in death are his brothers, Isaiah (Ike), Frank, Richard, Raymond and sister, Benella.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Jean Gunnels; six sisters, Alberta Kilgore, Thelma English, Joyce Marks, Althene (Gene) Harrison, Theresia (John) Wesley and Florene (Larry) Boone; five children, Portia (Stanley) Porter, Victor (Kim) Gunnels, Lawrence C. Gunnels, Jr., Fred (Karen) Gunnels and Christopher (Paulette) Hisle, Sr.; two stepdaughters, Rita Linder and Bettye Watson; 12 grandchildren, Brandon (Stephanie) Porter, Jason (Yuko) Porter, Jeremy Porter, Blair Gunnels, Victor Gunnels, Jr., Lindzie Gunnels, Cameron Gunnels, Eunika Hisle, Christopher Hisle, Jr., Quran Hisle, Kimberly (Don) Mack and Ericka (Sean) Callahan; and a host of great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Lawrence peacefully passed away Wednesday, July 27, 2022, in hospice care. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude	
Parting View	The Family
Prayer	Minister Earl Bray
Reading of Scripture	Minister Willie Taylor
Selection	<i>"Hold On To God's Unchanging Hand"</i>
Acknowledgements and Resolution	Church Clerk Minister Todd O'Neal Theresia Wesley
Selection	<i>"I'll Fly Away"</i>
Obituary	Silent Reading/Reflection
Eulogy	Pastor Kazava Smith
Benediction	