

Mr Arthur L. Nelson Sr.

November 9, 1927 - March 7, 2017

Arthur Lee Nelson, Sr. was born on November 9, 1927 in Alexandria, Virginia. He was one of 16 children born to the union of the late Linwood and Carrie Nelson. Arthur was educated in the public schools of Alexandria and as he matured, he began his career.

Starting in the early 1950s he worked for the Federal Government as a civil laborer and later spent decades as a postman. He was one of the first African American letter carriers and enjoyed a long and storied career. Everyone around town knew him as their mailman. He remained working for the U.S Postal Service until he retired in 1983 with 38 years of service.

Before his career with the government, Arthur also worked at a local movie theater, where he met the woman who would become his wife, Adell Morgan. They were married and became parents to Gloria Adell Jackson, Arthur Lee Nelson Jr. and Rose Lynn Kary.

He was most proud of his faith in God and his membership at Beulah Baptist Church of Alexandria Va. This historic church was deeply rooted in his soul. His mother was a member and was given the title of Church Mother until the time of her death. Many members of the Nelson family attended Beulah and church records show that he joined the church on February 11, 1950 and was baptized shortly after on Feb. 14 of the same year. He was a member of the following church ministries, Church Anniversary, Sunday school, Men's Fellowship, Annual Church Picnic, and the Building Fund. Arthur was the Church Historian, Chairmen of the Joint Renovation Board and the Mortgage

Burning Service (1952), and Mentor and Assistant Chairmen of the Trustee Board. In later years, Arthur continued to serve by retrieving bank documents weekly for the church as well as being happily on call to open the church when needed. He was loved by his church and showered with thanks over the years receiving awards for his participation.

He enjoyed being a part of a number of civic activities, and spent much of his time in service to others through various organizations. One of his most cherished volunteer roles was his membership in the Alexandria Lodge #48, I.B.P.O.E. of W. Notable leadership roles include, Exalted Ruler of his local lodge, 1st Vice President Emeritus of the Virginia State Association and Chief of Staff. In 2010, he was honored at the organization's 107th Anniversary as a Hero of the Past.

His passion extended to his greater community through his time as an active member of the Braddock Station Civic Association and his service as a commissioner and vice-chairman to the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority.

For more than 40 years, he served as a member of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Planning Committee that was formed by the Alexandria City Council in 1973. Arthur spent 36 years as the committee's treasurer and in 2015, received a commendation for his years of work.

He has been recognized by the Departmental Progressive Club as a Champion of Equality and Justice in 2007 and an award from the Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP for his contribution of improving and enhancing the lives of African Americans in the community.

He enjoyed many years of retired life spent with his wife, Adell. They helped to raise grandchildren by babysitting, picking up at school, attending field trips and supporting them in their education. He enjoyed cooking and entertaining and even helped with fundraisers by selling his famous crab cake dinners. Granddad's house was the place to be for his Grandchildren.

Arthur was loved by his family and friends for his larger than life personality, who could always make anyone laugh, or feel comfortable in his presence. He

was a social butterfly and could often be seen in the middle of a crowd of people, hanging on to his every word. A noted storyteller in the oral tradition, one could always expect a funny story or historical fact when he had the opportunity to serve as host of an event or even saying family grace. As a father, he was the greatest example of what a father should be, showing compassion, love and support to his children. Greatly loved by all especially his many nieces and nephews and was affectionately called " Uncle Knop." During the summer of 2016, he relocated to Marietta, Georgia to live closer to his daughter, Rose and son-in-law, Darrell. After a brief illness he passed away on March 7, 2017. During his short time in Georgia, he touched the lives of people he encountered. He extended his friendship group with our friends and neighbors in Georgia. He was beloved by his nurses and caregivers. Arthur was preceded in death by his wife, Adell, daughter Gloria Jackson and son, Arthur Nelson Jr. He is survived by his daughter Rose and devoted son-in-law, Darrell Kary, brothers Charles (Ethel) and William sister-in-law Louise Nelson and daughter-in-law, Demetra Nelson. He was considered the 'Greatest Grandfather Ever' to: Niki Jennings (Dutch), Lori Jackson (Alex), Morgan Nelson, Arthur Langley Nelson, Amanda Pratter (Padreus) and Bethany Kary. He also leaves behind great grandchildren, Bryce, DeMonte, Christopher, Alexis and Jackson, loving nieces and nephews, a special caregiver, Wendy Henderson, and great friends including the Taylor Family of Alexandria.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Beulah Baptist
320 South Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Viewing

MAR 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church
1401 Jamieson Ave
Alexandria, VA 22314

funeral service

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church
1401 Jamieson Ave
Alexandria, VA 22314

Interment

MAR 18 (ET)

Bethel Cemetery
Wilkes Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Tribute Wall

AB

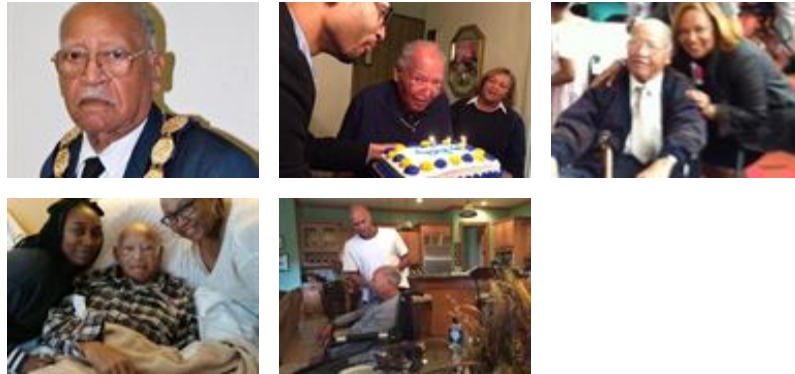
“ *Antoinette Burke lit a candle in memory of Mr Arthur L. Nelson Sr.*



Antoinette Burke - March 29, 2017 at 06:36 PM



“ *45 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - March 18, 2017 at 05:21 AM

SM

“ *To the Nelson and Kary families, Thanks for sharing Mr. Nelson with me while he was in Marietta.
Praying for each of you.
Shirley W. Murphy*

Shirley W Murphy - March 17, 2017 at 06:33 PM

DE

“ *In loving memory.
The Elliott family*



Deborah Elliott - March 17, 2017 at 05:00 PM

LC

“ *Love, The Dickens and Cyndi purchased the Full
Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr Arthur L.
Nelson Sr..*



Love, The Dickens and Cyndi - March 17, 2017 at 02:21 PM

EB

“ *It was always a pleasure to see Mr. Nelson when Rose brought him
to worship with us at Zion Baptist Church in Marietta. We'll always
remember his warm smile and how his smile got bigger as we
commented on how sharp he was dressed. We extend condolences
to the family. (Charles & Emma Byrd)*

Emma and Charles Byrd - March 17, 2017 at 01:16 PM

DC

“ *Dgt Emma L Chisman lit a candle in memory
of Mr Arthur L. Nelson Sr.*



Dgt Emma L Chisman - March 16, 2017 at 09:16 PM

JF

“ John Vann & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mr Arthur L. Nelson Sr..



John Vann & Family - March 15, 2017 at 08:43 PM

JN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John Vann Noel - March 15, 2017 at 07:30 PM

JN

My 1st Cousins. I love them all!

John Vann Noel - March 15, 2017 at 07:31 PM

RK

Thank you for coming to show your love and support of our great family. My father was a proud member of the Noel Nelson Family! Rose

Rose L Kary - March 27, 2017 at 08:42 PM



“ *Cousin Rose, I send my deepest condolences on behalf of your Dad's 1st Cousins, William, Rosetta & John Vann Noel (Uncle Phillips's children). May you find peace in knowing that your Dad lead a full Christian life.*

John Noel - March 15, 2017 at 07:02 PM