

A C E L E B R A T I O N O F L I F E



LARRY J. BLAND

Our Joy

His Joy

5.2.1953 - 11.13.2020

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020 @ 11:00 A.M.

Dr. Kirkland R. Walton - Officiant & Eulogist

JOSEPH JENKINS JR. FUNERAL HOME

RICHMOND, VA



*Larry as a much admired drum major for the
Mighty Green Dragons*

My Life & Legacy



Larry Jerome Bland was educated in the Richmond Public School system and attended Maggie Walker High School where he became drum major of the Marching Maggie Walker Dragons. He joined Second Baptist Church at an early age where he was active with the Boy Scouts and was very involved in the music ministry.

Larry always had a love for music and was an accomplished musician prior to receiving any higher level music education. In 1971, while still a teenager and a devoted mentee of the late Rev. Odie D. Brown, Rev. Brown handed over to Larry the director's baton of the Volunteer Choir at the Second Baptist Church before Larry actually began his freshman year at Virginia State University. Additionally, as a Virginia State University student, Larry founded the Virginia State University acclaimed Gospel Chorale, which is still in operation today.

After graduating from Virginia State University with a degree in Vocal Music Education, Larry went on to work professionally in the legal and entertainment industries where he contributed greatly to the ongoing success of the Discovery Channel's partnership with the British Broadcasting Corporation. Larry was very involved with coordinating programming summits and providing administration in London, France and Singapore.

While other cities may have admired Larry's outstanding talents, the city of Richmond developed a deep and enduring love for the performances of Larry Bland and the Volunteer Choir. Larry's magnanimous showmanship secured him and the Volunteer Choir the opportunity for annual appearances at the Dogwood Dell's Amphitheater where they often performed for crowds of over 12,000 gospel music fans. Under Larry's leadership, the group has also participated in major events at the Wolf Trap Amphitheater and Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall and Mellon Auditorium.

Over the years, Larry Bland and the Volunteer Choir achieved many stellar accomplishments. Such endeavors included joining forces with the Richmond Symphony 1980 Pops Series, appearing before the late Reverend James Cleveland during the 1981 Gospel Music Convention in California, served as supporting cast in the Richmond Opera Company's presentation of the Scott Joplin's Opera "Tremonisha" and for the opening of the Richmond Center for Performing Arts production, of the musical "Purlie," assisted in special fundraising programs for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, collaborated with Steve Bassett in promoting several March of Dimes Superwalk Campaigns, performed for the inauguration of two of Virginia's Governors: the Honorable Chuck Robb and the Honorable Ralph Northam, as well as performing as a part of Virginia's 2007 Royal Welcome of Her Majesty The Queen of England.

(cont'd)

Larry was truly happy when sitting behind the piano and performing gospel music before a crowd. He was blessed to be able to passionately live his life filled with music and the world was blessed by the musical gifts that Larry shared with all.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew James Bland, Sr. and Sara Bland Parker; brother Andrew James Bland, Jr., and sister Marion Bland Davis. Larry leaves to cherish his precious memory, one aunt Barbara Jean Bracey (Thomas); nephews Prince L. Davis (Karen), Keith L. Davis and Pierre Jackson; godsons, Daemione M. Hooker (Tiffany), DeVan M. Hooker, Jayden T. Robinson; beloved and devoted friend and confidant Veola Thomas; The Volunteer Choir Family; and a host of other family members and friends.

**Additional information regarding the accomplishments of Larry Bland can be found at www.VolunteerChoir.weebly.com.*



The Order of Service

Invocation & Prayer of Comfort.....*Dr. Kirkland R. Walton*

Musical Selection.....*Mrs. Desiree Roots Centeio*

Scripture Readings.....*Rev. Samuel Barnes*

Old Testament
New Testament

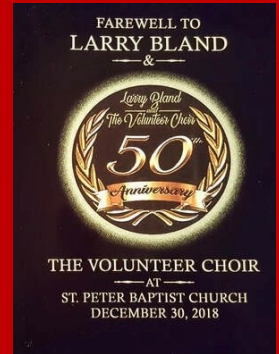
Musical Selection.....*Mrs. Desiree Roots Centeio*

Eulogy..... *Dr. Kirkland R. Walton*
Senior Pastor, St. Peter Baptist Church (Glen Allen)

Musical Selection.....*Mrs. Desiree Roots Centeio*

Committal & Benediction.....*Dr. Kirkland R. Walton*







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the family and friends of Larry, a heartfelt appreciation is extended for the many acts of love and kindness expressed during Larry's illness and sudden passing.

A Special thanks to:

The Hospice of Virginia
The Volunteer Choir
Promise
Dr. Johnny Branch
Fundraising Committee
Citizens of Richmond
& surrounding areas

Tony Winslow
Calcine Harris
Daemione Hooker
Gwendolyn Standberry
Dawn Barber
Jennifer McArthur
Vickie L. Epps

Desiree Roots Centeio
Dr. Kirkland R. Walton
St Peter Baptist Church
Drs. Earl & Ricardo Brown
Fifth Baptist Church
Friends, co-workers & the
many associates of Larry
Bland

A very special thank you to Gwendolyn Whiting & Marsha Vandervall



***In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Larry Bland**



Services Entrusted to: Joseph Jenkins Jr. Funeral Home
2011 Grayland Ave • Richmond, VA 23220 • (804) 358-1977

Programs Done By • Tony Winslow
(804) 912-7128



*"When I've gone the last mile of the way...
I will rest at the close of the day.
And I know there are joys that await me...
when I've gone the last mile of the way"*