

Active Pallbearers
Men in the Adkins Family

Flower Bearers
Family and Friends

ARRANGEMENTS AND SERVICES ENTRUSTED:

Service by Collins—Wed. July 12, 2023 –High Noon
415 N. Farish St.—Jackson, MS 39202—601.948.7223

Repast following the service at the Coleman McGee resident
1052 Maria Court, Jackson, MS 39204—601.372.0229

INTERMENT

Thur., July 13, 2023, 1:15 pm
Alabama National Cemetery
3313 Hwy. 119—Montevallo, Alabama 35115—205.665.9039
Adams-Buggs Funeral Service
401 N. 9th St. Gadsden, AL 35901—256.546.0432

Acknowledgements

The family of the late Robert Joseph Coleman, extend our sincere appreciation to the nursing aides & staff at B1 Nursing, the VA Home Based program, Heart of Heart Hospice in Jackson, MS; and everyone who supported us during our hours of bereavement. We appreciate the prayers, cards, monetary gifts, phone calls, visits, and other acts of kindness.

Program design & poem by *Meredith Coleman McGee*

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Celebration of Life

Robert Joseph Coleman



Sunrise: April 10, 1939

Sunset: June 30, 2023

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

High Noon

Service by Collins—415 N. Farish St.—Jackson, MS 39202

Officiating, Rev. Dr. Patricia Williams,
Kingsley Chapel United Methodist Church

Obituary

Robert Joseph Coleman was born Monday, April 10, 1939, in Gadsden, Alabama to the union of Joseph James Coleman, a native of D'Lo, Simpson County, Mississippi and Beulah Mae Adkins, a native of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.

Robert J. Coleman departed this life at 10:16 am, June 30, 2023, at home in Jackson, Mississippi with his eldest living child Meredith, his caregiver of 10 years, at his bedside.

He was his father's first born, and his mother's only biological child. He was his maternal grandparents' first grandchild. He was Cousin Bob, Bobby Joe, Big Bob, Bob, daddy, and father. He attended St. John Christian Methodist Church every Sunday; his grandparents were founding members. His mother served as a director of the youth choir. He played trumpet in a local jazz band. He was a star athlete at Carver High School. His mother, aunts, uncles, and cousin all attended Carver High School. The city converted the facility into a museum after integration.

He was versatile; he attended the school marching band practice in his football uniform. He served his country as a Marine. He obtained an athletic scholarship to Jackson State College (now Jackson State University); he was a vital part of his football team's defense as a linebacker known in high school as BIG M and in college as BIG BOB. Today, his high school accolades and class pictures are preserved in Central-Carver Legacy Museum on Walnut Street in Gadsden, Alabama.

He obtained a B.S. Degree from Jackson State College in Biology in 1960. Shortly afterwards, he married Hazel Janell Meredith, the sister of James Howard Meredith, an historical icon; four children were born to their union: Robert Joseph, Meredith Sealey, Evalyn Roxianna, and Willa Janelle. He married his present wife Catherine McKay of 41 years in 1981. One child Jozzlyn Janika Coleman was born to their union.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather Thomas Edward Adkins (1884-1963), a former butcher; his grandmother Eve Adkins (1897-1953), known effectively as Christmas Eve for having been born Christmas Eve; his father Joseph James Coleman (1916-1976); his mother Beulah Mae Adkins Coleman Sealey Thomas (1921-2017); his stepfather John W. Sealey (1914-1976); his stepfather Pleasant Thomas



FOUR BITES

Father enjoyed four bites of a chocolate ice cream sandwich for breakfast that morning.

Yes he did.

For four weeks he ate pleasure foods: ice cream, pop cycles, flavored shaved ice, and fruit bars.

Yes he did.

His taste for oatmeal, grits, scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, beef sausage, hash browns, pancakes, and waffles faded—his dementia intensified.

“Who are you?”

Simply meant reintroduce yourself.

“Let me rest.”

Simply meant I’m too tired to eat—too weak to entertain you.

“Thank you.”

Simply meant, I know you care. I know you are trying to give me sustenance.

His clock kept ticking. God was in charge!

Now he is sitting on the brightest light in the hemisphere.

We’ll see you every time we see a full moon.

Rest easy daddy.

You’ve done your due diligence.

By Meredith Coleman McGee 07.05.2023



(1918-2008); his step-brother John W. Sealey Jr. (1937-2018); his stepmother Elizabeth Smith Coleman (1929-2083); his sons Robert Joseph Coleman II, (1961-1989); Ronald Barry (1962-2019); his stepson Kanyama Dunn (1972-2020), and his son-in-law William E. McGee Jr. (1965-1921).

Professionally Robert Coleman was a fundraiser for statewide Head Start programs. He was a political strategist and a trailblazer. He worked in the co-op movement in the 1970s during the War on Poverty campaign for STAR with activists such as Fannie Lou Hamer and Jesse Morris. He threw his hat in the ring for Congress in 1976 against US Congressman Thad Cochran. In the 1970s, he and his brother-in-law James H. Meredith formed a political group and mentored Jackson State University students including Louis Armstrong who was the first member to be elected to City government in Jackson, Mississippi (1985). He was a chess champion and a chess teacher.

Robert J. Coleman was formerly a chef, a pawn shop owner on the West End in Atlanta, Georgia, a NASA Plant Operator, a Fulton County, Georgia Lab Analyst... He is a published author of *Time And After Time Ahead* (TAATA). He was a bible scholar, a Christian Hebrew, and a Methodist evangelist.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his wife Catherine McKay Coleman (1946); his daughters Meredith Sealey Coleman McGee (1963-), Jackson, Mississippi; Evalyn Coleman (1965-), Lithonia, Georgia; Willa Janelle Coleman Ridgeway (1972-), Jackson, Mississippi; and Jozzlyn Janika Coleman (1985-), Alpharetta, Georgia; his siblings: Douglas (Jeanette) Coleman, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Brenda Coleman (Isaac) Talton; Percilla Coleman, both of Newport News, Virginia; and Persheil Coleman of Buffalo, New York; his grandchildren: Janelle James Williams Hill (Fayetteville, North Carolina, Jossrael Coleman Hall, Khadiya Spaei-Aziz, Calla Ridgeway, of Jackson, Mississippi; Arthur Darren (Jamelia) Dozier, Lithonia, Georgia; Terrell Barry and Bianca Barry, Chicago, IL; his Aunt Margaret Adkins Herring Lightsey, Gadsden, Alabama, and his Aunt Lee Walker Adkins, Peoria, Arizona; his 10 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, grandnieces & nephews, and other relatives.

Robert J. Coleman joined the ancestors, who are watching over us - still standing. Earlier this year, he said to Meredith, “*Will* (his son-in-law) *lives on the moon. He is my best friend.*” The moon is the brightest star in the hemisphere. One is particularly special to rest on it. Two weeks ago, he added, “*Meredith this is the end of my life. Thank you.*”

Program

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 12 Noon

Service By Collins, 461 W. Northside Dr. Jackson, MS 39206

Processional.....

The Lord's PrayerRev. Dr. Patricia Williams

SongPastor Elizabeth McGee, *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*

Old TestamentPastor Elizabeth McGee

New TestamentPastor Elizabeth McGee

PrayerPastor Phil Reed

SongBarbara Woodard

Words of Comfort.....Alice Smoot, Prophetess

Words of ExpressionArthur Johnson, Friend
.....Frank Vickers, Cousin

Family & Friends (4 minutes)

Tributes

Reading of the ObituaryBrenda Coleman Talton

EulogyRev. Dr. Patricia Williams

Viewing

Funeral Directors in charge.....Recessional

Peace be with you while we are absent one from another.....



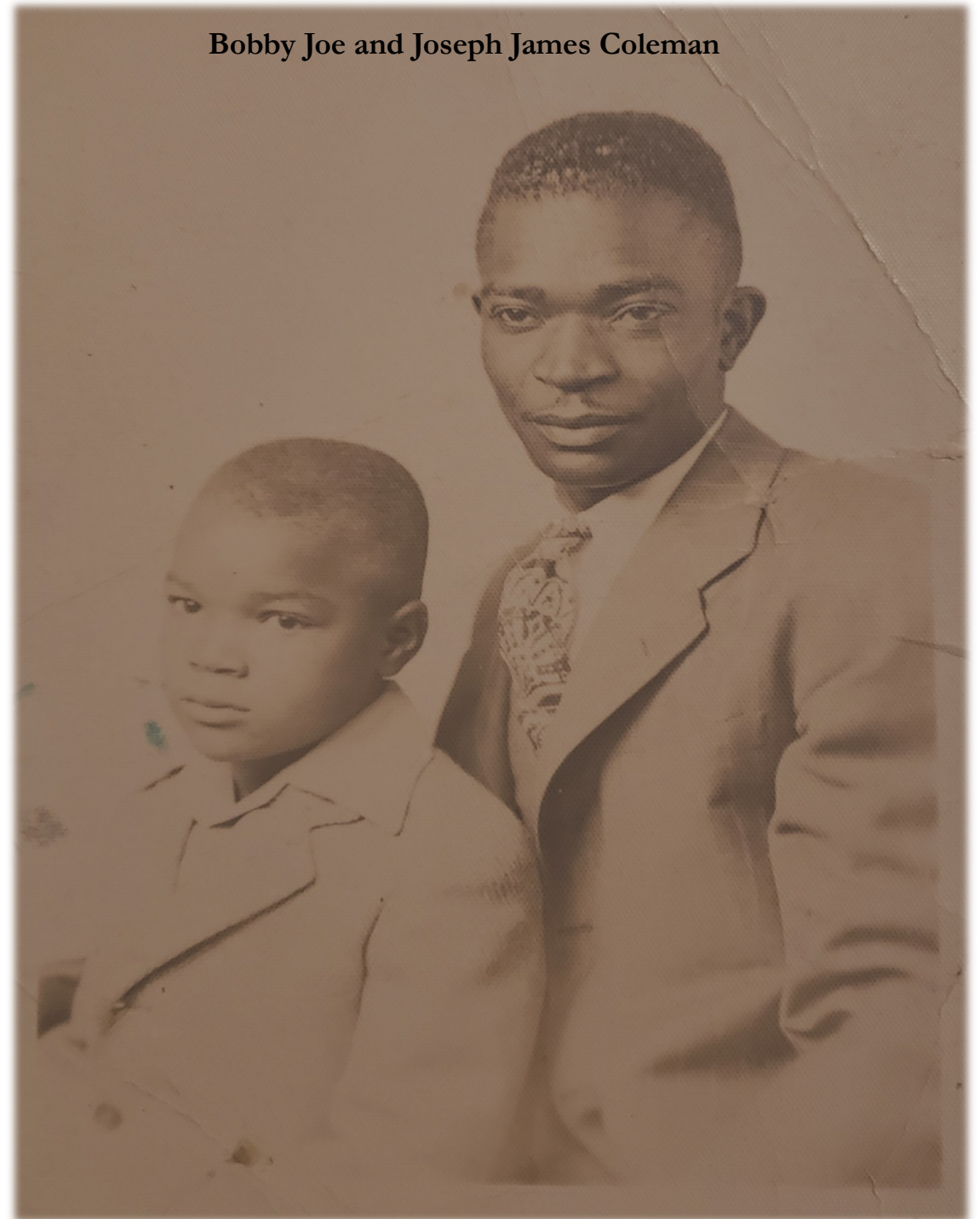
JaNiya and Richard, oldest great grandchildren of Robert J. Coleman and Hazel Meredith Hall 4th generation



**Beulah Adkins Coleman Sealey and John W. Sealey
Daddy John**



Bobby Joe and Joseph James Coleman





Holding his 1st grandchild who was 1 year younger than his baby. Father's 3rd generation. Meme's 4th generation.

Father, Catherine, and Jozzlyn



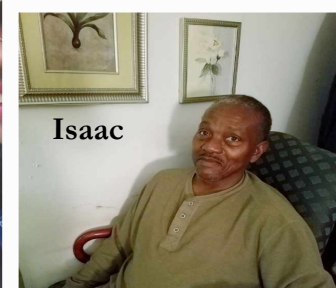
Persheil visited her big bro and niece in March & April of 2023 for 3.5 weeks.



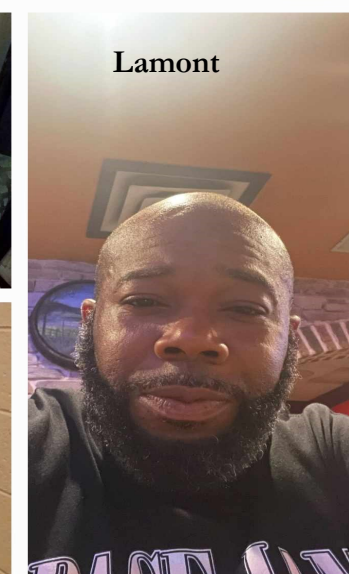
Shanayam & Kiara



Floyd



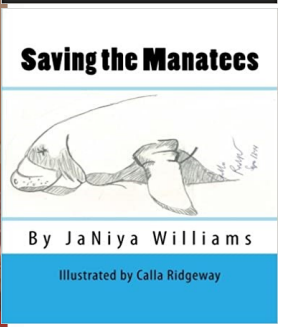
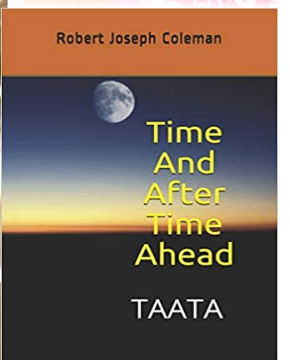
Isaac



Lamont



Brenda Coleman Talton (tt)



3 Generations of Authors
Robert Joseph Coleman
Meredith Coleman McGee
JaNiya Williams



—THE GADSDEN TIMES



ENDS RECRUIT—Robert J. Coleman, son of Mrs. Beulah Sealey, 1321 Fourth Avenue, Gadsden, completed recruit training this month at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C. The training prepared Coleman for further specialized infantry training at Camp Lejeune, N. C.



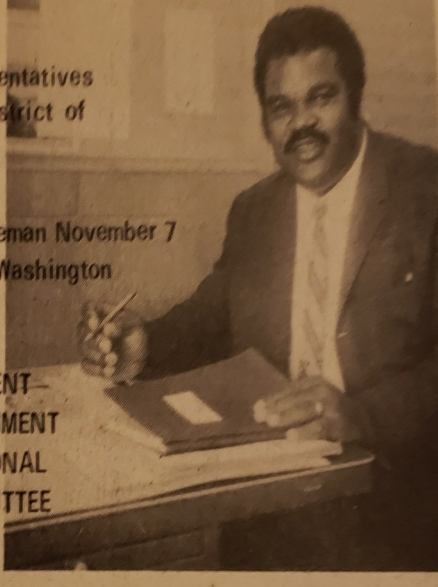
1956 CARVER CAPTAINS—Carver High coach Lawrence Presley has announced that halfback Clinton Ransaw and tackles Robert Coleman and Willie Joe Chancellor, will captain the Wildcats football team during the 1956 season. Carver finished the 1955 season with a 7-2 regular season record and a Goodfellows' Bowl victory. (Staff Photo by Harold Lockridge)

COLEMAN For CONGRESS

Candidate for
U. S. House of Representatives
2nd Congressional District of
Mississippi

A Vote for Robert Coleman November 7
insures you a man in Washington
working for:

- HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
- LAND REAPPORTIONMENT
- STATE CONGRESSIONAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- PRISON REFORM



Bobby Joe and Beulah Adkins Coleman — historical photos/images provided by Catherine McKay Coleman

Aunt Margaret and Boonie



Ronnie



Jannelle & great-grands

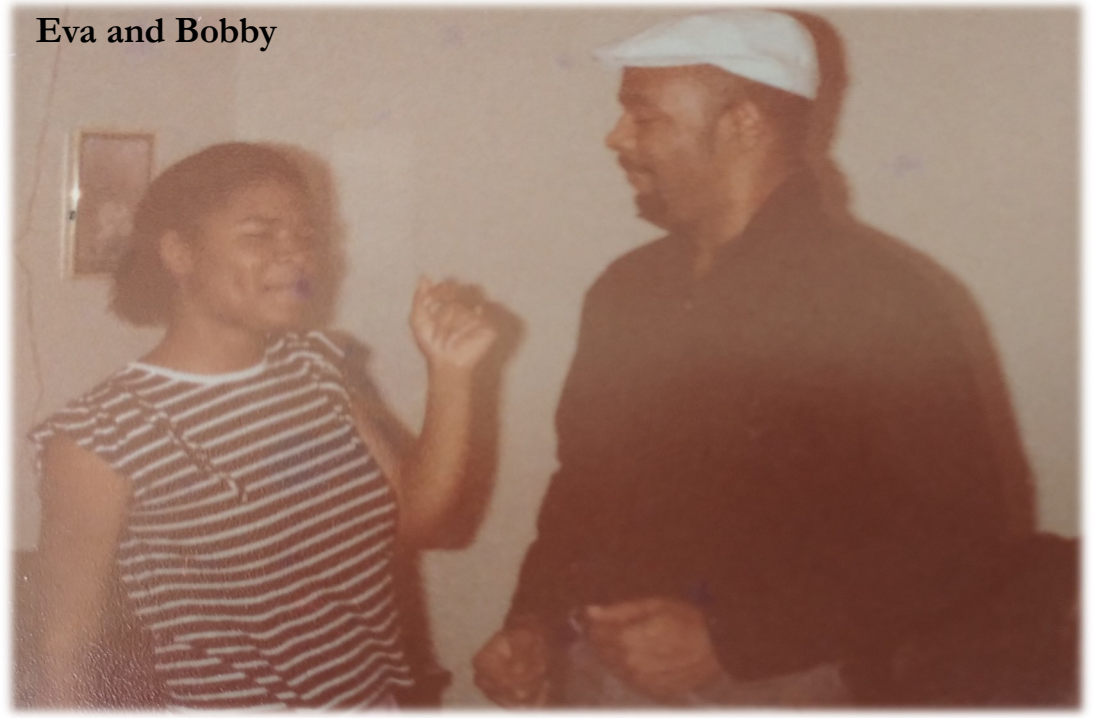
Aunt Bonnie & Meredith



Bianca



Eva and Bobby



Terrell





Rest in Power father Robert Joseph Coleman



St. John Christian Methodist Church, Gadsden, AL

May Day

Ball Play



11 YEARS AGO Sept 2010

Miss Big Bro

Meredith, Eva, Ronnie, and dad after he moved home



Persheil & Willa



Cousin Maxine