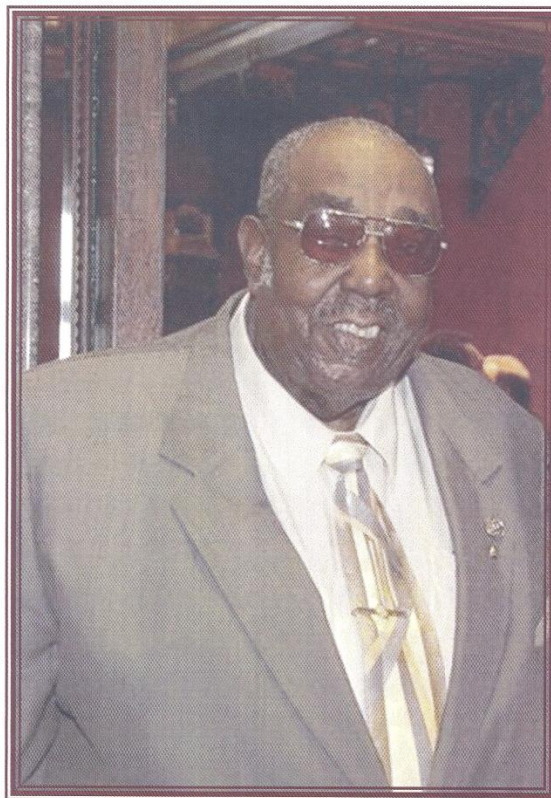


# *Celebration of Life*

for

**Mr. Henry Lawson**

Alpha  
August 31, 1929



Omega  
August 31, 2014

Saturday, September 6, 2014 ~ 11:00 A. M.

***Historic Liberty Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church***  
2155 Liberty Hill Road ~ Summerton, South Carolina 29148

**The Reverend Dr. Leslie J. Lovett**  
*Senior Pastor*



# *Life 's Reflections*

We pause today to pay a richly deserved tribute to the memory of a devoted, highly esteemed, fearless and fallen warrior of the Civil Rights Movement, **Mr. Henry Lawson**. The character of his life can be summed up with these words: sincere, earnest, loyal, industrious, and self-sacrificing. Throughout his life, he was involved in many organizations with the aim of bettering the lives of others. He will long be remembered as a staunch champion in the fight to bring about first class citizenship for all people. Mr. Lawson could be very stern, but self-assured when confronting individuals who stood in the path of those whom he deemed oppressed. He never shunned a responsibility and never refused a difficult challenge. He fought extremely hard for every cause he enlisted.

He was born on August 31, 1929, in Summerton, South Carolina, the youngest of seven children to the late Edisto and Eliza Walters Lawson.

He attended the public schools in Summerton and graduated from Scott's Branch High School in 1946. He then attended Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. Lawson was a life-long member, dedicated, and loyal supporter of Historic Liberty Hill AME Church. His church affiliations included, but was not limited to, the Board of Trustees, Sons of Allen, Lay Organization, and he was a member of the Gospel and Male choirs.

Mr. Henry was referred to as **'Big Luv'** by many and especially those who knew his humanitarian plight. He was an entrepreneur, and provided services for his community as well as employment opportunities. Mr. Lawson was a truck driver for over twenty years where he traveled to 40 states and Canada. Some of his business ventures included: Manager of Kayo Oil Company, Owner of Lawson's Coin Op Laundromat, Lawson's Gulf/BP Station, and Operator of the Shiloh Exxon.

His civic and political affiliations were numerous and significant. He was a member of the Clarendon Branch of the NAACP since 1947 and a faithful supporter of the activities of the Manning Branch NAACP. He was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, including an active participant in the landmark lawsuit, Briggs vs. Elliott, that led to Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas which abolished segregation in the public school system.

He was a voter precinct poll manager since 1950, a member of the Summerton Masonic Lodge #366 since 1956, Clarendon County Democratic Party, Voter Registration Precinct Chairman, Clarendon School District One Board of Trustees, Clarendon County Development Board, and the Summerton Town Council. Henry Lawson was a man of many talents.

Mr. Lawson was married to his dedicated wife, the former Miss Faye Smith for more than sixty (60) years. This marriage was blessed with four children; his son Arnold V. Lawson preceded him in death, August 27, 2013.

Mr. Lawson departed our midst on Sunday, August 31, 2014, on his 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday, at Tuomey Healthcare System in Sumter, South Carolina.

His fond memories will be cherished by his devoted wife, Mrs. Faye Smith Lawson; three daughters, Kathleen L. Gibson and Cassandra Lawson both of Summerton, SC and Debra L. (Keith) Peterson, Stockbridge, GA.; five grandchildren, Phillip Lawson of New York City, Daren (Shirley) Ragin, Derrell Ragin, of Summerton, Richard Ragin of Columbia, and Kameron Peterson of Stockbridge, Georgia; two sisters-in-law, Ernestine Belle of Baltimore, MD and Haulean Smith of Summerton; one brother-in-law, Robert (Minnie) Smith of Bronx, NY; three special nieces, Mary (Abraham) Livingston and Dorothy Martin of New York City, and Daisy (Eddie) Johnson of Baltimore, Maryland; two special nephews, Charlie Lawson of New York City and William (Ethel) Lawson of Yonkers, New York, eight great-grandchildren and one great great-grandchild; his caregiver, Rena Mae Holliday; and a host of other nieces/nephews, relatives and friends.

*We have lost an unquestionable noble giant,  
but we have gained tremendously from having him passed this way.*