A HOMEGOING CELEBRATION
COMMEMORATING
The Life, Love, and Legacy of
Sunrise Sunset
November 12, 1949 January 21, 2024

“The Triumphant Celebration”
Friday, January 26, 2024
Viewing: 10:00 AM | Celebration of Life: 11:00 AM

The Fountain of Praise
13950 Hillcroft Road | Houston, Texas 77085

Dr. Remus E. Wright, Pastor
Rev. Otis James Latin, Jr., Eulogist
Rev. Willie Adams, Jr., Officiating
Otis James Latin Sr. was born on November 12, 1949, in Shreveport, Louisiana to F.E. Williams and Jesse Latin. He accepted Christ as his savior at Mount Mariah Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana at only eight years old.

Otis was a man of integrity who worked hard and loved his family. He credited his character and view on life to the rearing of his grandmother, Cora Lee Pennington. She taught him that when you do the right thing God makes sure that, like cream, you always rise to the top. Otis rose to the top in every area of his life.

He graduated from Bethune High School in 1967, at only seventeen years old with honors. Immediately after high school, Otis married his high school sweetheart, Gloria Douglas, and they moved to Houston, Texas where they welcomed three sons, Otis Jr., Otha, and Olan. Determined to secure more money and better benefits for his family, Otis purchased his first home at eighteen and months later started a career in Fire Service with the Houston Fire Department.

Otis served the Houston Fire Department for 25 years. He started as a fire cadet, and by the age of 30, progressed to District Chief. However, his most notable achievement at HFD was becoming the first Black Assistant Fire Chief in HFD's history and the youngest person promoted to the position. During his time with HFD, he earned an associate's degree with honors from Houston Community College, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston.

While climbing the ranks at HFD, Otis also was an active father who served as a Boy Scout leader and little league football and baseball coach in the Hiram Clarke community. He was also heavily involved as a deacon at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

Once all of his sons made it into college, Otis took a new bold leap in his career. In 1993, Otis was selected as the Fire Chief of the District of Columbia. During those years, he also graduated from the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program and Harvard University’s Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. In 1997, Otis became the first Black Fire Chief of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Throughout his time in D.C. and Fort Lauderdale, Otis continued to serve as a deacon and active member in his local churches. Otis also hosted his grandkids (Morgan, Otis III, Logan, Oryan) for weeks at a time, took them on trips, and taught each of them how to swim.

In 2006, after a 37-year career in Fire Service, Otis accepted a position as the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the City of Austin, Texas. While in Austin, Otis welcomed his fifth grandchild, Alyssa, who later came to live with him and his wife. Otis rekindled his joy of coaching sports teams and attending school events through his active involvement in Alyssa’s life.

In 2016, Otis decided to, in his words, “retire with Obama.” As President Barack Obama ended his last term as President, Otis officially ended his professional career and retired his family to Houston, Texas. In retirement, Otis enjoyed traveling cross-country for his grandsons’ sporting events, binging movies and shows on Netflix, passionately watching his favorite sports teams and players (always Lebron), and serving as the lead deacon at Revive Bible Church where his son, Otis Jr., is the pastor. Otis also spent much of his last years taking care of “his girls” including his youngest granddaughter, Zoe, and the rest of the “Girl Gang” (Maya, Marlee, Jenesis, and Trinity).

Otis James Latin Sr. attained many accomplishments throughout his life, yet he always maintained the heart of a servant. Otis spent his life in service to others, and on January 21, 2024, while surrounded by his closest family, God allowed Otis to rise to the top of the top – a life of eternity with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Otis is preceded in death by his grandmother, mother, and father. He leaves behind his wife, three sons, six grandchildren, siblings Cora (Raymond) Foreman, Michael (Natalie) Latin, Linda Preston and Clementine Johnson, and a host of nieces, nephews, godchildren, family and friends.
Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Old Testament Scripture - Ecclesiastes 3:1-7 .......................................................... Elder Raymond Foreman
Abundance of Life COGIC, Shreveport, LA

New Testament Scripture - Revelation 21:1-4 ...............................................Rev. Herman Myles, Assistant Pastor,
Nehemiah Community Church, Houston, Texas

Evergreen Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA

Worship Through Song - “I Won’t Complain” ....................................................Robert Tra’Mayne Williams

Resolutions ....................................................................................................................... Theda Y. Williams

Video Tribute

Expressions .................................................................Olan Jamane Latin and Otha Joe Latin, Sons
Oryan Latin, Grandson

Worship Through Song - “Goodness of God” ...................................................... Morgan G. Latin

The Proclamation of the Gospel .................................................................Pastor Otis J. Latin, Jr.
Revive Bible Church, Pearland, TX

Recessional
Glorymay’s Tribute to Otis

Everyone that is reading this tribute KNOWS that my husband (Otis Latin, Sr.; aka Pops) was SUCH a wonderful man. From the day we met, until his death – he COURTED me, and the day he left, he was softly pressing my hand.

Our doors were always open, and everyone enjoyed visiting us. Because of the laughter, good food, deep discussions, or sports with heated fuss! We enjoyed babysitting, as a “team of two” – newborns, in diapers, or middle school. WELCOME to the Latin’s home – where LOVE is the golden rule. I loved him deeply and so did he LOVE me, but I feel that 56 years wasn’t enough. Losing my best friend, lover, and confidant is really going to be tough.

No one BUT Jesus can ease this aching pain – and actually I don’t want it to all go away. His memories, his LOUD voice, his caring spirit will be with me the rest of my days. NOTHING today that can be said or done – can help me wrap my head around this grief. ONLY my Heavenly Father and “TIME” will help bring the comfort I need and relief.

So, thank you for all of your calls, prayers and cards; I’ll read them in the days to come, and I will need your support, because losing my other half has made me feel rather numb. I’m eternally grateful for my huge family, church members and close friends. These relationships are important – and I will cherish them ‘til the end.

Everyone reading this tribute KNOWS my husband Otis was such a wonderful man, and even when my heart and mind don’t fully UNDERSTAND. I have to accept and acknowledge that God is sovereign, and HE has another plan.

~Loved, Honored, Cherished ~ Glorymay~

Tributes of Love

FOREVER GRATEFUL

Pop,

You truly were the greatest. We say this with confidence because we had the honor of watching you live. You led by example – at home, at work, at church, and on the sports field. You taught us the value of hard work, good judgment, courage, integrity and FAMILY. Your example shaped us to be the men we are today, and for that we are forever grateful.

Thank you for showing up for every milestone and every need no matter how many miles away we were. Thank you for listening, for understanding our problems, and for giving some of the best advice. We hope that you know just how appreciative we are for every sacrifice, every ounce of love, and your unwavering commitment to all three of us. You wanted nothing more than to see all three of us succeed and never gave up on us in the process.

Now that we are all fathers, we are even more grateful for your ability to pave the way for us to build our own families and leave our own legacies. We thank God that of all the fathers He could have picked for us he gave us to you. Your life was full of hard work. Now we hope you enjoy your rest. No need to worry. Together, we will make sure that mom is always good.

We love you Pop!
Your 3 sons Otis, Otha Joe & Olan Jamane
**MR. LATIN,**
You were more than just a father-in-law. Your love and support made us feel like we were your own daughters. You were a pillar of strength, a role model who led by example, and a Godly man whose faith shone brightly through your actions. Your support was always a constant source of comfort.

In weaving the tapestry of your legacy, we watched you progress continuously in your career. We watched you attend your grandchildren's school and sporting events with excitement. Your selfless nature set you apart. You always found the strength to serve others and extend a helping hand without complaint. The epitome of your character was your patience. Your strong voice echoed with words of encouragement and inspired excellence in all of us. We loved watching your gentleness with the newest babies of the family as you would calm them and they fell peacefully asleep in your arms. We have so many fond memories of hugs, laughter, inside jokes and so often, you coming to save the day!

As we reminisced together on what to say about you tears rolled down our face because we are so eternally grateful for the way you molded the great sons we are privileged to call our husbands. Though you may no longer walk beside us, your spirit and your legacy will forever live on.

We were watching you, Pop, and your presence absolutely made a statement.

*With Love,*  
*Roz and Nikki*

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**Grandfather,**
You were absolutely the best grandfather to all six of us. Your love was most perfectly displayed through your actions. Even though your career took you away from Houston for many years, you always made sure that your presence was felt. Every summer you gave us swimming lessons and made sure we all knew how to swim. You loved making it to our sports games and programs. You were the man we always knew we could rely on. You have made us incredibly proud to bear the Latin name. A Latin trusts and follows God. A Latin always works hard and puts their best foot forward. A Latin keeps their word and honors their commitments. Thank you for being our rock and our hero. Thank you for your sacrifices, your love and your commitment. Thank you for being the best grandfather we could have ever asked for. We will continue to walk like Latins and make you proud.

*Love,*  
*Morgan, OJ, Logan, Oryan, Alyssa, and Zoe*
A Legacy of Family Love
A Legacy of Service to the Community
To all the too numerous to name boys and men whose lives were touched and made better by Otis, we acknowledge you today as an Honorary Pallbearer. Whether he was Mr. Latin, Chief Latin, Pop, Uncle, Latin, or Otis to you, he would appreciate you honoring him with your presence today. Whether you were his classmate at Bethune, grew up on Brookston Street, lived in Brentwood, played for the South Main Mustangs Football or the Twins Baseball, he would be proud of you today. Thanks to all of you who took his inspiration and are making your corner of the world a better place.

To all of Otis’ lil’ nieces and goddaughters, we thank you for allowing him to lead, guide, and often father you as his daughters. We honor you today as flower bearers, expecting an outpouring of plants and flowers from family, friends, neighbors, and professional associates. Whether you grew up on Brookston Street, lived in Brentwood, were born into his family, married into his family, or acquired as a goddaughter, he would be smiling and beaming with joy today. Thanks to all of you who looked to him for advice, encouragement, and life lessons. He took great joy in adding to each of your lives.

The family of Otis James Latin, Sr., would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude for the many acts of love, kindness, sympathy, compassion, and concern that have been shown to us. We have been overwhelmed by phone calls, messages, texts, food, offers of assistance, and requests to be on program today. Please know that even if we were unable to answer or respond, we have seen and heard the messages, and felt the prayers. Otis was a quiet force for so many. The cornerstone of our family, Chief to many, friend, confidante, sounding board, and always the voice of reason. He would appreciate each of you wanting to tell your favorite story of how he inspired you, rescued you, chastised you, supported you, lent you money, advised you, or counseled you. We have made Otis’ Facebook page public in order that each of you may honor his memory in your own words by Facebook post, if you are already his Facebook friend, or message if you were not previously his Facebook friend but still want to leave a message for the family. We look forward to knowing all the ways he made a difference in your life and community. Otis was loved by many but respected by all.

~ The Family

Interment
Houston Memorial Gardens
2426 Cullen Blvd | Pearland, Texas 77581

Final Arrangements Entrusted to

Fort Bend Memorial Planning Center
15006 Highway 6 | Rosharon, TX 77583
www.FortBendMemorialPlanningCenter.com
Bobby Swearington, CEO