



May I Go Now?

*May I go now? Do you think the time is right?
May I say goodbye to pain filled days and endless lonely nights?
I've lived my life and done my best, an example tried to be.
So can I take that step beyond and set my spirit free?
I didn't want to go at first. I fought with all my might.
But something seems to draw me now to a warm and loving light.
I want to go, I really do. It's difficult to stay.
But I will try as best I can to live just one more day.
To give you time to care for me and share your love and fears.
I know you're sad and afraid, because I see your tears.
I'll not be far, I promise that, and hope you'll always know
that my spirit will be close to you, wherever you may go.
Thank you for loving me. You know I love you too,
That's why it's hard to say goodbye and end this life with you.
So hold me now, just one more time and let me hear you say,
because you care so much for me, you'll let me go today.*

- Susan A. Jackson

In Lieu of Flowers

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider donating to:

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI FOUNDATION

400 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
In memory of Butler B. Dowery

OR

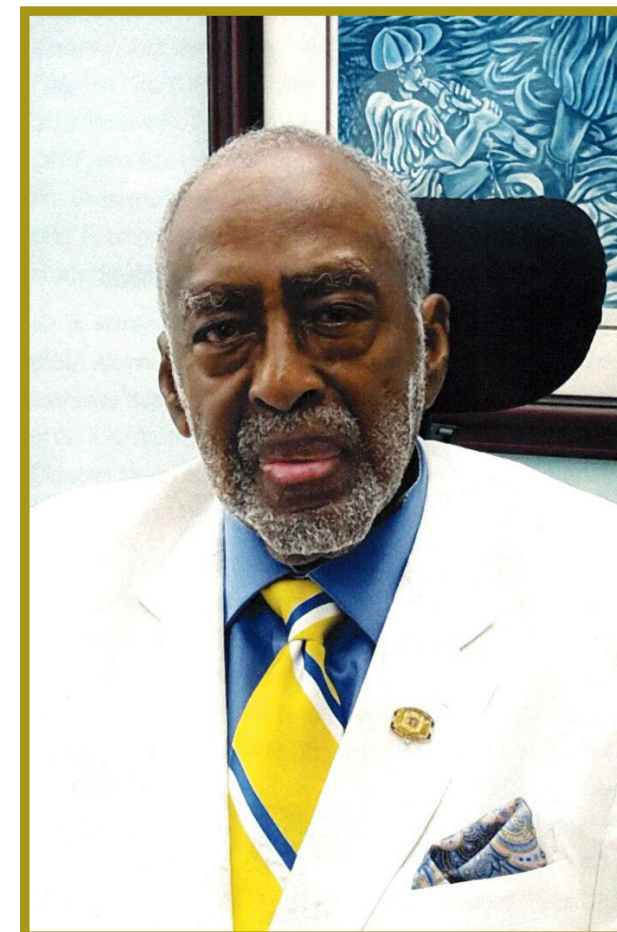
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

P.O. Box 6704
Hagerstown, MD 21741
In Memory of Butler B. Dowery

Arrangements Entrusted to:


BENTA'S
Funeral Home, Inc.
630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 234-3600

Celebrating The Life of



Butler Banks Dowery

SUNRISE: JUNE 25, 1933 - SUNSET: SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Memorial Service

Thursday, October 17, 2024 • 4:00 P.M.

FIRST BETHEL AME CHURCH

60 West 132nd Street
New York, NY

Order of Service

OPENING PRAYER BRO. REV. DR. PHILLIP PAYTON

REFLECTIONS FAMILY & FRIENDS

OMEGA CEREMONY PSI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER AND BROTHERS

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: TODAY WE HAVE GATHERED TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF BUTLER BANKS DOWERY.

ALL: WHAT A GIFT TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF SO MUCH LOVE AND GRACE.

ONE: WE CALL ON THE SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US AS WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD.

ALL: AND WE WILL SERVE AS A LIVING WITNESS TO THE EMBRACE OF HIS SOUL ON THIS DAY AND ALWAYS.

HYMN “PASS ME NOT O GENTLE SAVIOR”

SCRIPTURE ISAIAH 25.6A-9
JOHN 14.1-6

MUSICAL SELECTION “PRECIOUS LORD”

OBITUARY DORIE B. CLAY

SPEAKERS BISHOP HENRY A. BELIN, III, PASTOR FIRST BETHEL, *A.M.E Church*
PAN HELLENIC COUNCIL, *Representative*
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, *Representative*

EULOGY REV. DERRICK MCQUEEN, PH. D.,
Pastor St. James Presbyterian Church

RECEPTION ANNOUNCEMENT ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO
211 WEST 141ST STREET

CLOSING PRAYER BISHOP HENRY A. BELIN, III,
Pastor First Bethel A.M.E. Church

RECESSIONAL “I’LL FLY AWAY”

Obituary

BUTLER BANKS DOWERY, a dedicated educator, mentor, and community leader, passed away on September 24, 2024. Born in Shelbyville, Kentucky, on June 25, 1933, he was the second-born son and youngest of three children of the late Robert L. Dowery, Sr., and Malinda Butler Dowery. Butler followed the academic and civic legacy of his parents—his mother, a teacher, and his father, a school principal noted in Who’s Who in Colored America, 1933-37 and Notable Kentucky African Americans.

Butler’s educational journey began in Kentucky. After graduating from Lincoln Institute in Franklin, Kentucky, he earned a B.S. degree from Kentucky State University (KSU) and a master’s degree in counseling from Indiana University. He also pursued additional courses in special education at Long Island University.

His distinguished career as a guidance counselor for the New York City Department of Education spanned decades, and he also served as an adjunct professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY), providing guidance and mentorship to countless students.

Bro. Dowery crossed into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Psi Psi chapter (KSU) in 1952. His Life Member number is 81. He was instrumental in the reactivation of Epsilon and Xi Phi Chapters in New York and in 2004, became the charter Basileus of Psi Lambda Lambda Chapter in New York City. During his tenure as Basileus of Psi Lambda Lambda, the chapter had contributed to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and John Edward Bruce Development and Educational Center in Brooklyn, New York. He served as Basileus of Xi Phi Chapter for five years and received the honor of Basileus Emeritus for both Epsilon and Xi Phi Chapters. He served as Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Reclamation and Retention Committee of Xi Phi Chapter, which won several awards on the District level. In 1992, he was crowned King Que at Xi Phi Chapter’s Mardi Gras for raising more than \$2,800. 2002 marked the fiftieth anniversary of Butler B. Dowery’s initiation as a member of the fraternity. In celebrating fifty years of service, Bro. Dowery raised more than \$8,000 in support Xi Phi Chapter’s annual benefit dance.

The funds from this venture were used for scholarships and to underwrite the annual Black College Tour, Xi Phi Chapter’s flagship program. Another highlight of his fifty years of service was the recognition by Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, New York Alumni Chapter at their Reginald F. Lewis Scholarship event for “Outstanding Community Service.” November 9, 2002, he was “Omega Man of the Year” for Xi Phi Chapter making it the third time this award was bestowed on him. On May 3, 2003, he was awarded the Second District’s “Omega Man of the Year” at the Second District Conference. Bro. Dowery was one of the Tri-Chairpersons of the Metropolitan Omega Chapters Carter G. Woodson Celebration and Omegas’ Founders Day—finally, Bro. Dowery attended every Conclave from 1959 to 2018.

Bro. Dowery chaired the Urban League Football Classic Committee, which obtained group sales since the 1970s for this annual football event. In 2006, the Committee raised over \$21,000 for the New York Urban League. These funds go towards their scholarship program. In July 2009, he successfully raised more than \$2,000 and was the top individual winner for the “Harlem-East Harlem Relay for Life” sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Psi Lambda Lambda was also the second-place winner in the team fundraising category. In August 2009, members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. presented Bro. Dowery the Centennial Lapel Pin in recognition of his continuous and outstanding service to the fraternity.

Bro. Dowery served as the Kentucky State University Alumni Association, New York Chapter president. He was a member of the Executive Board of the KSU Alumni Association; a member of the KSU Alumni Hall of Fame; a member of the Whitney M. Young National Project; Alumni Chapter representative for college fairs and a member of the Board of Directors for the National Organization of Black College Alumni, Inc., New York Chapter. Upon his nomination by Kentucky State University, he received the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Award at their National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education in Washington, D.C. He previously chaired the National Nominating Committee of KSU.

Bro. Dowery was the past director of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Inc., Eastern Region. During his tenure as director, Bro. Dowery was responsible for the implementation of programs that included the development of a scholarship fund for collegiate members of NPHC and participation in the National Penny Campaign, where \$2,000 was raised. He served as Tri-Council Coordinator of the Eastern Regional Conference in New York City; served two terms as Assistant Regional Director, Eastern Region, and served two terms as Treasurer of NPHC, Inc. Bro. Dowery was also past president (1988-1992) of The Pan Hellenic Council of Greater New York, Inc., and served as a member of the Board of Directors and chaired the Founders Day Committee and Penny Campaign Initiative in the Council. Also, on two occasions, he was awarded Frater of the Year by this Council. He was instrumental in forging the joint venture between the Council, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and Metropolitan Opera Singer Morris Robinson, to raise funds for both organizations’ scholarship programs. In addition, on May 18, 2003, The Pan Hellenic Council of Greater New York, Inc. awarded him the Presidential Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Active with St. James Presbyterian Church, Bro. Dowery was an Elder and was Moderator of the Church’s Nominating Committee. He also served on the Nominating Committee for the Presbytery of New York City.

Butler was preceded in death by his brother, Robert L. Dowery, his sister, Mary A. Dowery, and his niece, Judge Brenda L. Dowery. He is survived by his niece, Malinda K. Steele of Maryland, his grandniece, Autumn Dowery Steele of New York, and a host of relatives and devoted friends.

