



# **Albert Bryant Sr.**



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## **Albert Bryant Sr.**

**T**ulsa — Albert Ray Bryant, Sr, 80, went back to the Lord on Sunday, October 6, 2019. He exhaled his last breath with his family, encircling him – praying, saluting him for the husband, father, grandfather, and provider he was to us. Born in 1939 in Gladewater, Texas, to Samuel and Emma Lee Guice Bryant, Al earned a bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Texas College in 1962. When he walked across the stage at the now historically black college, Al stood six-one and scaled 185. He was a basketball and football star at Mineola’s McFarland high, but at Texas college, he focused on his studies. Immediately after college Al, with his sister Arwilda, made headlines as the first brother and sister team to serve in the Peace Corps. After completing Peace Corps training at Georgetown University, Al began his three-year volunteer teaching assignment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was in Addis Ababa that Al met Hoyt Smith from Tulsa, and the two would become life-long friends. Following their first two years of volunteering in Ethiopia, Al and Hoyt trekked through East Africa before returning for their third year of teaching in Ethiopia. They crossed the Dawa River, stood on the equator in Kenya, triumphed beaches in Mombasa, eyed Mount Kilimanjaro, slept in Serengeti National Park, toured Zanzibar, and Uganda. They’d later journey through Europe and parts of West Africa together. Returning to the United States after three years in the Peace Corps, and settling in Tulsa, Al met his wife, Ira Chappelle and they were married in 1968. Capturing his childhood dream of flying a plane, Al earned a Private Pilot license. In 1967, he purchased an Aeronca Chief aircraft, and he frequently took his new wife for flights around his hometown of Mineola. Al spent the next 38 years teaching mathematics at Carver Junior High, Bell Junior High, and Wilson Middle School while holding down a second job at Wonder Bread. A founding member of the Chamberlain Neighborhood Association, Al worked to improve the North Tulsa community. Complementarily, he was active in politics, chairing precinct meetings, and working as a delegate to the Democratic Convention. For more than 40 years, Al



## Obituary

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was an active member of the Living Hope Church of the Nazarene. Al is survived by wife, Ira, three children: Myra Bryant Golden (Leon), Broken Arrow, OK, Albert Bryant, Jr. (Jada), Oklahoma City, OK, Terasita Lynn Bryant, Tulsa, OK. He leaves behind four grandchildren: Alexondria Bryant, Lauren Golden, Anthony Bryant, and Warren Golden. He also leaves behind five siblings: Arwilda Haynes, Shirley Roberson (Uris), Samuel Bryant, Dr. Sullivan Bryant (Joanette), and Sylvia Bryant. He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Emma Lee Guice Bryant, an infant brother, Roland R. Bryant, and aunt, Johnnie Mae Riley. Visitation will be held Thursday 2 -7PM with family to greet 5-7PM. Funeral Services will be held 3PM Friday in the Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel.



## Tribute Wall

**Albert Bryant Sr.**



**Urisonya Flunder** posted:

Albert Ray Bryant "Uncle Ray" was a good uncle and a caring and loving person. He was full of great stories and laughter! He was an interesting man who gave us so many wonderful memories. Every time I saw him, he always reminded me so much of his mother and my grandmother, Emma Lee Bryant. His face always seemed like it was etched with character, strength and wisdom. My tears are rolling just thinking of the times we all shared as a family laughing and crying. Uncle Ray is the oldest brother of five wonderful siblings, life without them All will be very different. Our family was blessed to have had wonderful men like Uncle Ray. He was quiet at times, but he had bigger than life adventures and always told them with such enthusiasm. Uncle Ray is a piece of our Bryant family that will never be filled. Family gatherings and reunions will never be the same without him. We love you and we will miss you dearly Uncle Ray!

October 9 at 8:18 AM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Albert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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