



# Joseph Tiffany Powell

November 11, 1923

August 21, 2009

Service:  
Sabbath, August 29, 2009  
3:00 PM

Kansas Ave Seventh-day Adventist Church  
4491 Kansas Ave  
Riverside, CA 92507

Officiating Chaplains:

Rear Admiral Barry C. Black, United States Navy, Retired Chaplain, United States Senate

Major Andrew R. Harewood, United States Army Deputy Pentagon Chaplain

## *Obituary*

Chaplain (Col.) Joseph T. Powell, Ret.

The youngest of five children and a third generation Seventh-day Adventist, Chaplain (Col.) Joseph T. Powell, Ret. was born on November 11, 1923, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Clarence and Alethia Weaver Powell. Even though his parents had few worldly possessions, they instilled in their children the teachings of God, love for each other and mankind.

Joseph's mother was his first teacher. He attended the Baltimore Seventh-day Adventist Academy and graduated salutatorian of his class. Because of his grade point average, he was awarded a scholarship to Oakwood College now Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. He completed his studies at Oakwood in three and a half years. After graduating from Oakwood, Joseph attended the Washington Theological Seminary, now Andrews University Theological Seminary. His entire education was obtained in the Seventh-day Adventist school system from elementary through graduate school.

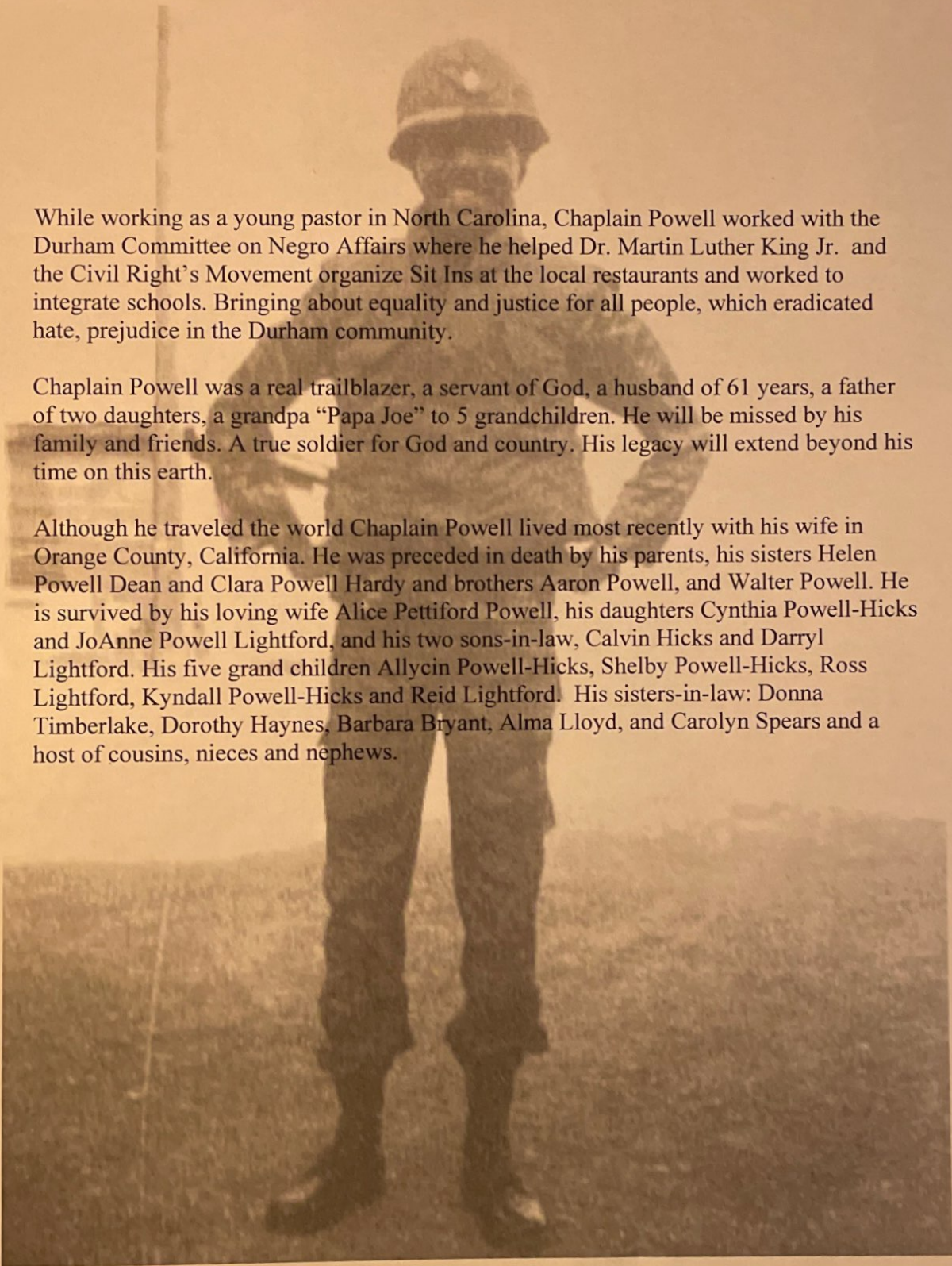
He started his career after college working as the dean of boys at Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania for one year. After a year working as a dean he worked as a bible instructor and campus pastor, spending from 1947 to 1952 serving the Lord at Pine Forge.

Joseph felt a calling to do more for the Lord and his work so he joined the Army and served as a chaplain. He became the first African American Seventh-day Adventist chaplain in the Army. In 1952 he served in Korea where he was the chaplain at the 121<sup>st</sup> Evacuation Hospital.

As chaplain he would give monthly character guidance lectures, conduct weekly worship services in the camp stockade, the hospital chapel, as well as the Korean Union Mission Compound. Joseph also spent many hours giving spiritual counseling and encouragement during his hospital visitations. Working with the children and staff at the Blind Children's Orphanage was also a part of Chaplain Powell's ministry that he enjoyed. Many of the children would recognize the chaplain by his deep voice as he entered the front door of the main building and would scamper down the hall yelling "moxa-nim oshisao" (the chaplain is here).

Life in the Army has taken Chaplain Powell and his family across the country and around the world. His tour of duty has taken him to serve in several wars and conflicts that include tours of duty in Korea, Dominican Republic and Vietnam. His efforts have been honored with several awards and citations.

Chaplain Powell retired from the Army as a Colonel in 1975. Following his retirement he served as Chaplain and assistant professor of religion at Oakwood College. Chaplain Powell's other civilian responsibilities included pastoring in Raleigh and Durham, North Carolina and Los Angeles, California. In total he gave the Seventh-day Adventist ministry 39 years of service, 23 of those years serving his country in the United States Army.



While working as a young pastor in North Carolina, Chaplain Powell worked with the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs where he helped Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Right's Movement organize Sit Ins at the local restaurants and worked to integrate schools. Bringing about equality and justice for all people, which eradicated hate, prejudice in the Durham community.

Chaplain Powell was a real trailblazer, a servant of God, a husband of 61 years, a father of two daughters, a grandpa "Papa Joe" to 5 grandchildren. He will be missed by his family and friends. A true soldier for God and country. His legacy will extend beyond his time on this earth.

Although he traveled the world Chaplain Powell lived most recently with his wife in Orange County, California. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Helen Powell Dean and Clara Powell Hardy and brothers Aaron Powell, and Walter Powell. He is survived by his loving wife Alice Pettiford Powell, his daughters Cynthia Powell-Hicks and JoAnne Powell Lightford, and his two sons-in-law, Calvin Hicks and Darryl Lightford. His five grand children Allycin Powell-Hicks, Shelby Powell-Hicks, Ross Lightford, Kyndall Powell-Hicks and Reid Lightford. His sisters-in-law: Donna Timberlake, Dorothy Haynes, Barbara Bryant, Alma Lloyd, and Carolyn Spears and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.



*A Life Remembered*  
*August 29, 2009*

String Arrangement		Mr. Keith Tutt and Mrs. Kibra Minessee
Musical Selection		Pastor Adrian Pressley
Processional of the Clergy		
Processional of Family		
Presenting the Colors		Military Detail
Invocation		CH. Herman Kibble
Musical Selection		Mrs. Peggy Conner
	<i>America the Beautiful</i>	
Scriptural Reading		CH. Tiffany Hardy
	<i>Romans 8:28</i>	
Musical Selection		Mr. George Sampson and Ms. Sonya Sampson
	<i>The Prayer</i>	
Remarks		CH. Andrew Harewood President Gerald Penick
Obituary/Acknowledgements		Dr. Tina Robinson Mrs. Victoria Watts
Remarks		Dr. Calvin Rock Dr. Delbert Baker CH. Washington Johnson
Musical Selection		Polished Pipes
	<i>Naval Hymn</i>	
Eulogy		CH. Barry Black
Musical Selection		Mr. Steve Mackey
	<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>	
Recessional/Strings		Mr. Keith Tutt and Mrs. Kibra Minessee
	<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>	

A million times we will miss you. A million times we will cry. If our love could have saved you, you would have never died. In life we all love you dearly. In death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place no other one can ever fill.

### ***Military Pallbearers***

Lt. Col. William Howe USAF (Ret.)  
CPO Mike Thomas USN (Ret.)  
Sgt William Farmer USMC

CWO4 Franklin Benjamin USMC (Ret.)  
Sgt Chico Webster USA  
PO1st Class Kenneth Early USN

### ***Active Pallbearers***

CH. Tiffany Hardy  
Mr. Kevin Hardy  
Mr. Tony Hardy

Mr. Brian Hardy  
Dr. Keith Doram  
Mr. Ross Lightford

### ***Honorary Pallbearers***

Mr. Lamont Spears  
Mr. Reid Lightford  
Mr. Darryl Lightford  
Dr. Calvin Hicks  
Mr. Mark Holland

Mr. Westly Haynes  
Mr. Steve Pettiford  
Mr. Jonathan Doram  
Dr. Calvin Lloyd

### ***Acknowledgements***

Our Family wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks for the love and many acts of kindness you have shown to us. Keep looking up, our God is just the same today. Keep looking up, He will not fail you come what may. Keep looking up, the darkest clouds will roll away. So do not doubt, but keep looking up.

You are more than a special gift, your tenacity, your determination, your concern, your patience, and your tender touch will always be remembered by the Powell family. Caretaker, Denise Rosano, Kansas Ave pastoral staff and church family, the Sampson's Residential Care Facility, the Kansas Ave Armed forces, and the Living Legends, we thank you.

### ***Internment***

Monday, 8.31.2009, 11:30 AM  
Service Location: Riverside National Cemetery, 951-653-8417  
22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA 92518

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To  
Forest Lawn  
6300 Forest Lawn Dr.  
Los Angeles, CA 90068

Program Design by: Allycin, Shelby, and Kyndall Powell-Hicks

