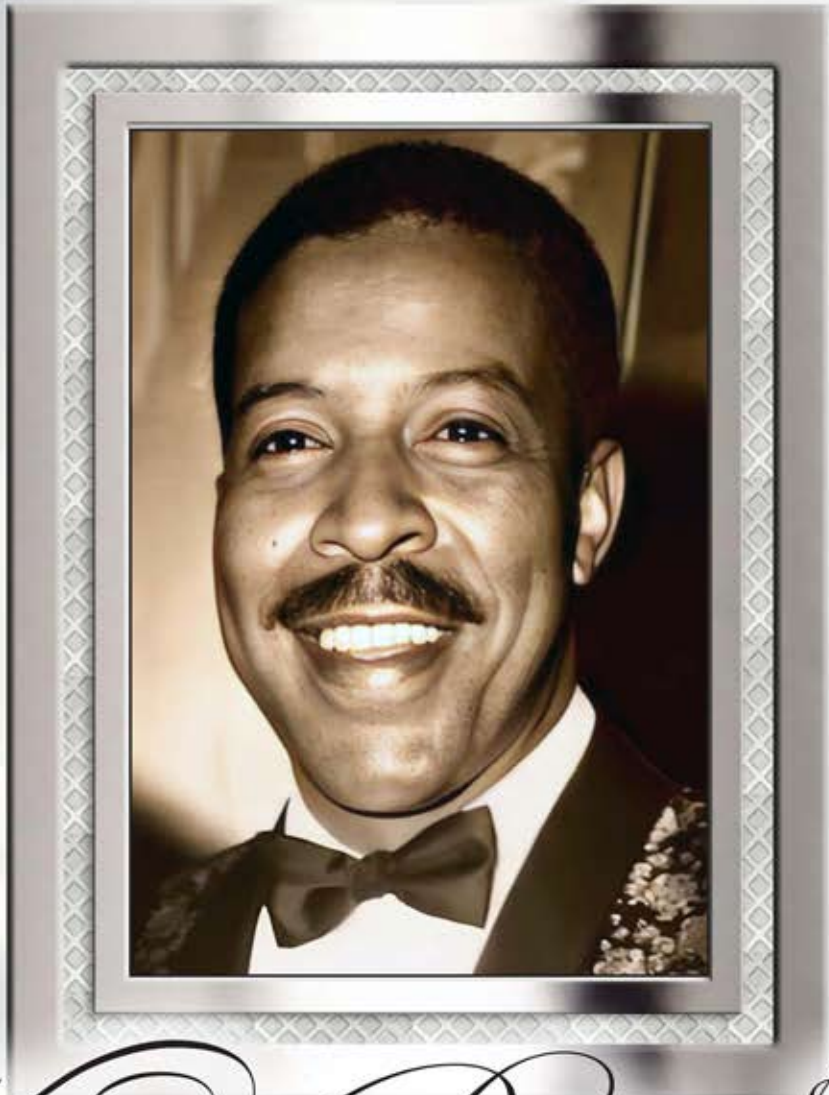


**It Is Our Moment In Time To Celebrate
and Honor The Life and Legacy of**

- Our Gift -
July 31, 1931



- God's Gift -
September 5, 2022

*William S. "Nobby"
Middleton Jr.*

Saturday, the 17th day of September 2022
Eleven o'clock in the Morning

St. James Episcopal Church
3129 Southmore Boulevard • Houston, Texas 77004
The Reverend Victor J. Thomas, Rector

A Life Well Lived

William Preston Middleton Jr. was affectionately known to his family, close friends and business associates, as “Nobby”. He was born on July 31, 1931 in Hackensack New Jersey to Louise and William P. Middleton Sr. He was the 4th child born of 5 children. Nobby was a proud graduate of Hackensack High School and a versatile athlete where he played tight end. He was awarded 1st team All-State Honors twice as a member of the New Jersey state championship football team. Nobby also played basketball where he played forward position and was again recognized as “All-State” on the state basketball championship team.

After his graduation from high school in 1950, Nobby attended North Carolina A&T for one year before transferring to Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where he was a member of both the football and basketball teams. While at Hampton, Nobby joined the Reserve Officers Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) Training School and later after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. He served among the very first African American nuclear operations officers overseeing our nation’s nuclear protective force, this during a very tumultuous time in our nation’s history.

While at Hampton, Nobby met and later married, Delores M. Wesley. To their union, one son was born, William “Preston” Middleton III.

In 1963, Nobby married the love of his life, Anna Ruth Kanaway. They were blessed with one beautiful daughter, Nicole Anna.

Nobby always had a big heart and his family, friends and community reaped the benefits of his hard work and commitment. Whatever he envisioned to achieve, he always gave it a 100% effort. After moving to Houston, he decided to teach school at Kashmere High School where he did an exemplary job of training young students in the R.O.T.C. for future service in branches of the U.S. military.

Later in 1966, Nobby joined the Lone Star Liquor Corporation, which at the time, was the largest liquor distributor in the southwest. Lone Star sought to maximize their reach into the African

American community, while creating socially responsible campaigns focusing on Black History and highlighting renown African American achievers and role models. Nobby helped to revolutionize the way distribution of alcohol, wine and spirits were sold and marketed to the community.

Nobby also had an entrepreneurial spirit. In the summer of 1970, he opened a New York style nightclub in the heart of Third Ward. Nobby’s Corner became more than a place to socialize on the weekend, it became a cultural experience where many hosted relevant discussions about political and economic empowerment. Many Later the venue hosted thousands of patrons for wedding receptions, private parties, fundraising events as well as fraternity and sorority events until 2016.

Another landmark entrepreneurial achievement for Nobby was when he became a partner and founding board member of the RMP Development Corporation in 1970 along with Houston City Councilmember and real estate developer Judson Robinson, Attorney John Davis and entrepreneur Hans Peterson. Together they opened the very first African American owned and operated Burger King franchises in the United States. The RMP Development Corporation went on to build three Burger King restaurants, two of which still operate today.

Nobby was very involved in the community and was a proud Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Incorporated, NAACP, and served on numerous boards including: the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, National Association of Market Developers, H. P. Carter Career Center, Houston Real Estate Association and others. He and his wife Anna were devoted members of St. James Episcopal Church.

On September 5th, Nobby transitioned peacefully to his heavenly home and is now resting with his parents, Louise and William P. Middleton, Sr.; his four siblings, Granville Paris, Margaret Oliver, Edith Ross, and Muriel Johnson; and his loving wife of 56 years, Anna Ruth Middleton.

Together Again



He leaves to celebrate his life while cherishing special memories his son, William "Preston" Middleton III, his daughter Dr. Nicole Middleton Olney (Darrell); his grandchildren, William P. Middleton IV and Darielle Nicole Oliney; nieces, Donna E. Johnson and Monique Paris; nephew Dr. Matthew V. Johnson and a host of other extended family and friends.

Order of Service

THE PRELUDE

“Andante in F Major”
“Basse de Trompette”
“Norfolk Park”
“Voluntary VII”

Julian Andre
Louis-Antoine Dornel
arr. Calvin Fuller
George Frederich Handel

James Page, Deante Deese, trumpets; Calvin Fuller, organ

The Procession In (*all stand*)

Anthems BCP 491

The Opening Hymn
Praise To The Lord

LOBE DEN HERREN

Hymnal 390

The Opening Collect

BCP 493

The Liturgy of the Word (*the people sit*)

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-9

After the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 27

Sharla Rogers, cantor

The New Testament Lesson

Revelations 21:2-7

After the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Fight The Good Fight

RUSHFORD

Hymnal 553

Expressions

Preston Middleton

The Gospel

*John 14:1-6 The priest says,
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint John*

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

After the reading,

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Reverend Victor J. Thomas, Rector

Order of Service

The Apostles' Creed		BCP 496
The Prayers		BCP 497
The Peace		
Officiant "The peace of the Lord be always with You"		
People "And also with you"		
The Welcome and Announcements		
The Anthem "To God With Gladness Sing"		Richard Proulx
St. James Choral Ensemble		
THE HOLY EUCHARIST		
The Great Thanksgiving Prayer A		BCP 361
The Sanctus et Benedictus	Powell	Hymnal S-129
The Memorial Acclamation		
The Lord's Prayer	Malotte	LEVAS 264
The Breaking of the Bread		BCP 364
The Agnus Dei	Powell	Hymnal S-163
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE		
The Anthems		
"Be Thou My Vision"	Carlton Young	
"Forever Blessed"	George Frederick Handel	
	<i>Choral Ensemble, Ruth Cross, soloist</i>	
The Hymn - Father We Thank Thee	RENDEZ A DIEU	Hymnal 302
The Post Communion Prayer		BCP 498
The Closing Hymn		
Jesus Is All The World	THOMPSON	LEVAS 77
The Commendation		BCP 499
The Blessing		
The Dismissal		
The Procession Out		Anthems BCP 500
The Closing Voluntary		Calvin Fuller, organist





Active Pallbearers

William P. Middleton, IV
Darrell W. Oliney
Zeb F. Poindexter, IV

Samuel R. Pink
Blake Poindexter
Jayson Williams

Honorary Pallbearers

William P. Middleton, III
Matthew V. Johnson
Zeb F. Poindexter, III

Jerry R. Bonney
Craig A. Washington, Sr.
Amos Terry

Our Sincerest Appreciation

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair;
perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest word, as any friend could say;
perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
we thank you so much, whatever the part.*

With grateful hearts, we extend sincere gratitude to Father Victor Thomas for his pastoral care and continuous support. The Middleton family acknowledges, with sincere appreciation the many comforting messages, prayers, floral arrangements and all expressions of kindness shown at this time of bereavement. A special thank you to Ms. Sandra Braham and the Clar-Mar Manor staff for their warmhearted and attentive care of "Mr. Nobby". We also thank the Medcore Preferred Hospice team for their compassionate care.

- The Family

And He Shall Rest at

Houston National Cemetery

10410 Veterans Memorial Drive • Houston, Texas 77038

Services Lovingly Entrusted to:

McCoy and Harrison Funeral Home
"A Family Serving Families Since 1926"
4918 Martin Luther King Blvd. • Houston, Texas 77021
Phone: (713) 659-7618 Fax: (713) 748-7122
Web: www.mccoyandharrison.com

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