

CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND HOMEGOING FOR  
**CM Sgt (Ret.) Elmo Gladden**



October 12, 1945 - October 25, 2016

Thursday, November 3, 2016

**Ebenezer African American Methodist Episcopal Church**  
7707 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr. Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Joann Browning, Co-Pastor

# *Missing My Husband, My Best Friend*

*By: Gloria Gladden*

Gladden,

The day I let you go in eternal sleep; I tried to be strong but I began to weep,  
I rubbed your brow and kissed your cheek; A final farewell so bittersweet;  
Oh how I wanted to keep you here, to love, to laugh, to call you my dear  
So unexpectedly I had to let you go; God called you home to be with him and it was so.

I find it so very hard to believe, that you have gone and I must grieve;  
I call out your name – you answer not, and I listen for your footsteps,  
but hear you not.  
Everything seems so strange and surreal,  
I am in a daze not having you near and say  
to myself please don't let this be real.

Where are the glances of love and affection?  
Where is the laughter and talk of your childhood reflections?  
Where is talk and laughter of how we met in Italy?  
Where is the talk of our many travels and adventures?  
Where is the care when I was going through trials?  
Where are the hands that would bring me flowers?  
Where is the sound of you calling my name "Gloria,"  
when you enter the house?  
Where is the talk of our beautiful grandsons?  
Where is the talk of the young people we mentored?  
I miss all the little ways you showed you cared;  
for there were so many good moments we shared;  
Looking back in my life's assorted scenes,  
I realized you taught me what love truly mean;  
You were my husband, my lover and my best friend,  
on whose loving support I could always depend.

I look at your beautiful smile in our photos;  
memories flood my mind as I touch the mementos  
From the happy times you and I have had,  
but now these bring tears and make me sad;  
For the time together went by in a wink, life was not as long as we'd like to think,  
Sometimes memories bring comfort and make me smile,  
But there are times when grief takes over for a while;

Friends offer gentle words and prayers to console, and tell me what has happened to your loving soul;  
Can it be true the pain will ease in time and I will think of you without a tear?  
But that is impossible I need you here.

Can we believe what others say of a better place, where our beloved ones rest in God's warm embrace?  
I should be happy you're free of so much pain, and rejoice that you'll always have tomorrow.  
How can I then be heartbroken and selfishly cry, "return to me from that peaceful place where you lie!"

Now I look down at your name on a cold hard stone, that says little of the light you have shone;  
It tells nothing of the wonderful person you were, and only serves to remind me of the painful loss I endure;  
But I know your kind soul wants no tears or pain, instead you'd want warm memories and love to remain.

Although I cry and stand grief-stricken by your grave, I promise not to forget the loving memories you gave;  
But still I miss you so very much my dear, Husband, and your caring words I once again  
Long to hear; my heart's only solace is one day, I will see you as before, beckoning me to come join you on that distant shore.  
May You Rest In Peace My Sweet Husband,  
Until We Meet Again.

Love Always and Forever, Gloria

Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is near the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."





# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Rev Dr. Barbara A. Ridley, Presiding**  
**Minister of Comfort, Ebenezer A. M. E. Church – Fort Washington, MD**

~ ORGAN PRELUDE ~

~ PROCESSIONAL ~

Selection ..... Sonja Joy Oackrum (Family Friend)  
"Jesus Promised Me A Home Over There"

Prayer of Comfort ..... Minister Betty Harris  
*New Beginnings Cathedral of Worship, Aurora, Colorado*

~ SCRIPTURE READINGS ~

Old Testament: Psalm 23 ..... Pastor James O. Montford, Jr.  
*Musterseed Faith Ministries, Atlanta, Georgia*

New Testament: 2 Timothy 4:6-8 ..... Pastor James O. Montford, Jr.

Selection ..... Evangelist & Psalmist Sharian Montford, (Sister-In Love)  
"Safe in His Arms"

~ TRIBUTES ~

Colonel Antony Lanuzo, Chief, Services Operations Division, Joint Base Andrews, MD  
Mr. H. L. Larry, Deputy Director of Services, Pentagon, Washington, D. C.  
Carl Gladden, Nephew  
John Clinkscales, Family Friend

~ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ~

Selection ..... Organist

~ THE OBITUARY ~

*(Read by: Sarah Gladden Thaniel)*

Selection ..... Evangelist & Psalmist Sharian E. Montford  
"Don't Cry For Me"

Message of Comfort ..... Rev. Floyd Harrelson  
*Grace Church Dumfries, VA*

~ RECESSIONAL ~

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# The Word of the Lord

## OLD TESTAMENT – PSALMS 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## NEW TESTAMENT – 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.



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# Obituary

CMSgt (Ret) Elmo Gladden went to be with his Savior Jesus Christ on October 25, 2016 at the age of 71. Known to his family by his nickname "Teenie," Elmo was born on October 12, 1945 to the late Thelmon Gladden and Aldena Gladden. He was raised and educated in the Baltimore school system, having graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 1963 where he was an outstanding athlete in both basketball and football. Elmo's basketball skills were excellent that he became a coach and, subsequently led the Lackland AFB basketball team to several championships. Upon graduation from high school, Elmo joined the Army and was stationed at Taiwan and then Germany. After his tour in the Army, he decided to try civilian life and returned home to Baltimore, working in the Steel Mill for a short time. When Elmo got laid off from the Steel Mill, a military's recruiter convinced him to join the Air Force. Ever since then, he often stated: "it was one of the best decisions of my life."

Elmo's assignments in the Air Force included: Patrick AFB, FL, Webb AFB, TX, twice to Lackland AFB, TX, Incirlik AFB, Turkey, San Vito AS, Italy, Bolling AFB, DC and Bitburg AFB, Germany. While stationed at San Vito AS, Italy, he met the love of his life, Gloria and they were married on Jan 1, 1987. The family was later assigned to Bitburg AFB, Germany where Elmo was Chief of Accounting and Finance, Comptroller for "Desert Storm" Operation, Incirlik AB, Turkey. Elmo assisted in the closure and return of Bitburg AFB to Germany. He retired in 1993 and moved to Alexandria, VA with his loving family. After retirement, Elmo focused his attention to education and attended the University of Maryland, University College. In December 1996, he graduated with honors and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management.

After retiring from the military, Elmo worked for the Federal Government, holding a number of positions which included Financial Management Specialist, Program Director, Chief of the Defense Travel System, and the Defense Travel Reengineering Program Officer. Upon his death, Elmo was Deputy, Financial Management Officer, Armed Forces Entertainment, a position he treasured and talked about to anyone. "At the end of the day, we have provided a valuable service to our troops overseas." He would say.

Elmo's career in the military was by far the highlight of his life, he enjoyed talking and mentoring young people, one of his favorite things was to teach young airman how to study and prepare to take the test for their next promotion. To many young men, Elmo was known as "Coach" on the basketball court. He believed in mentoring and offering life skills to all, especially if he could convince and help a young person enter the military. He had no fear in going to bat for his employees, family members or anyone he could help move to the next level. Elmo was affectionately known to many as Chief or Big Chief. But to his family and close friends, he was to us a Chief's Chief, personified by his strong leadership, dedication to duty and willingness to put his career on the line to fight for others.

Family was always important to Elmo, he loved talking about his sons, daughters, seven grandsons, and god-daughters, and his beloved nephew, Carl Gladden. He often provided wise council and guidance to those who sought his sage advice. Known as Pop Pop by his grandsons, the thrill of Elmo's life was watching his grandson, Dante, play basketball. He would often go to his games, even when he was not feeling well. He enjoyed traveling and credits the military for the opportunity to embark on adventures around the world. He loved sports and enjoyed listening to music, especially gospel, R&B and classical music. He had a collection of over 300 R&B albums and CD's. He was proud to be a member of Ebenezer AME church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning Jr., Senior Pastor and Rev Dr. Jo Ann Browning, Co-Pastor, where he attended the men's conference almost every year.

Elmo "Teenie" is survived by his loving and devoted wife Gloria J. Gladden, Three sons, Percellis Gladden (Koketa), Shawn Gladden (Ngh), Kenneth Roberts, two daughters, Dorothy Rogers and Chana Mitchell (Robert), two god-daughters Doris Rowley (Kellen) and Bernice Yunwe, 9 grandsons, Darius, Darien, Dante and Appolo Gladden, Corey Anthony Hicks, Robert Mitchell III, and Royce Mitchell and two god-grandsons Holden and Ezra, Siblings: Jo Anne Gladden Mondowney (Aaron), Glenn R. Chappell (Denise), Alfred P. Gladden, Shirley L. Gladden, Lena Gladden, Sarah Gladden Thaniel (Thomas), Lorretta Gladden Reddy, 14 nieces and nephews; 13 great nieces and nephews; 4 uncles and 5 aunts and a host of other special friends and associates.

"You are gone but not forgotten, Nor will you ever be. As long as life and memory lasts, We will always remember thee!"

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **PALL BEARERS**

Darius Gladden  
Darien Gladden  
Dante Gladden  
Corey A. Hicks  
Robert Mitchell, III  
Royce Mitchell

## **FLORAL BEARERS**

Family and Friends of Ebenezer AME Church

## **REPAST**

Immediately following the service  
Fellowship Hall –Third Floor

## **FINAL RESTING PLACE**

Arlington National Cemetery  
To Be Announced

The family of the late Elmo Gladden wishes to genuinely express our sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness, support and expressions of love extended to us during our time of bereavement. A heartfelt and special “thank you” to John, Phyllis and Jonathan Clinkscales for your generosity and the donations of your time and talents. May God bless and keep you all in His care.

## **FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS BY:**

Greene Funeral Home, Inc.

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