

Pallbearers

Benjamin Carter
David Franklin, Jr.
Jaron Redmond

Sherman Carter
Darius Franklin
Tiger Menser, Jr.

James Carter, II

Honorary Pallbearers

Tabernacle Baptist Church Deacons

Bernard Griffin
Gerald A. Lewis

John Townsend, Jr.
Carlisle Townsend

Flower Bearers

Beta Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Tabernacle Baptist Church WMU

Interment

Arlington Memory Gardens
3400 North Midwest Blvd.

Midwest City, Oklahoma 73141

Please drive with your lights on for safety and fasten your seat belts.

Acknowledgement

The Menser-Townsend family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to all who offered prayers, condolences, and all other acts of loving kindness as we celebrate the memory, life and legacy of Sylvia Ruth Menser.

Services under the direction of
TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.

2801 North Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone: 405-427-8321

"We Care"

Diamond Printing & Publishing, Inc.



Illuminator, Teacher, Extraodinaire

Sylvia Ruth Townsend Menser

Sunrise

January 11, 1935

Sunset

February 13, 2020

Services

Monday, February 24, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH
1829 Northeast 36th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Reverend Michael McDaniels - Officiating

SYLVIA RUTH TOWNSEND MENSER
ILLUMINATOR, TEACHER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Sylvia Ruth Townsend Menser came into this world on January 11, 1935, from the union of John Amos and Ruth Cantrell Townsend. She was the second to be born in a family of six children in Oklahoma City.

She attended Dunbar Elementary school in her younger years and graduated from Douglass High School class of 1952, in Oklahoma City. While at Douglass, she participated in many organizations serving as President and holding other offices. Sylvia was an honor student and took her studies seriously. After graduation she was blessed to be in a position to get accepted and attend Talladega College in Tuskegee, Alabama. During her two years at Talladega, in the mid- fifties there arose a climate of racial unrest in the south. Fearing for her safety and knowing her personality, her parents thought it would be best to have her transfer back home to enroll in Oklahoma City University. She completed her work with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Oklahoma City University. Sylvia found employment with the Department of Human Services as a case worker working with welfare clients. Her heart went out to the people she served until it created a burden on her heart to a point when she decided to change careers to help to improve conditions through education. Mrs. Menser took courses and graduate coursework at Central State University in order to become a school teacher. She felt she could do more for the people in the community she served by being a teacher. Her first teaching position was at “good ole Dunbar Elementary school”. It was like coming full circle back to her community to teach and make a difference in the young peoples’ lives.

During the beginning of integration in Oklahoma City, the school system incorporated a Master Plan, “The Finger Plan”, to integrate students throughout different parts of the city. Mrs. Menser was reassigned from Dunbar on the northeast section of the city, to Lee Elementary and then to Wheeler Elementary on the southeast side of the city. Sylvia Menser kept the same love for her students that she had at Dunbar and taught, inspired and motivated all races and backgrounds with great enthusiasm in giving everyone a ray of hope through education. She took on other assignments south of the city, and then finished a 30 year teaching career at Eisenhower and Hoover Middle schools in Oklahoma City. Her sincere caring and nurturing of all the students she served left a lifelong impression and impact on all the students she encountered.

After retirement she spent many hours serving and working on committees in the church and community. She was a fifty year member of the Historical

Calvary Baptist Church where she was baptized as a youth. While growing up there, she participated in all of the youth programs and BTU. She held on to her membership after being married in 1958 to Sherman Menser who she met while they were students at Oklahoma City University. As an adult member she served in many capacities and was President of the Women’s Missionary Union. At this point in time during the Oklahoma City bombing, she headed the fundraising project to re-construct Calvary Baptist Church to its original stature and have it listed on the National Registry of Historic Places along with Dr. Melvin Todd and Mr. Robert Allen as committee members. Furthering her interest in the community, she went on to establish the Walnut Bridge to be named the Finley Bridge and placed in the national registry as a Historic place.

Sylvia loved the Lord all her life and in 1958, Sylvia united with her husband, Sherman, to join Tabernacle Baptist Church where she has faithfully served working with the youth she so dearly loved while being active in the WMU and Circle #18.

She has never stopped working in the community in which she grew up. She started a book club in the community and served on the MLK Prayer Breakfast Committee. Through her sorority which she loved, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., which she joined while attending Talladega College, Mrs. Menser was honored by her sorority as a 50 year golden Soror in 2006. She was also inducted into Phi Delta Kappa while attending Talladega. Sylvia has been a past recipient of the Channel 5 Teacher of the year Award and in 2018, Mrs. Menser was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Oklahoma City Woman of Color Expo.

“Mimi”, whom her children and grand children affectionately call her, was preceded in death by her parents, her older brother, Dr. John L. Townsend, a sister, Dr. Joyce Townsend Dinke, and two younger brothers, Harry Townsend and James Cornell Townsend. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband Sherman of 61 years, a younger brother, Dr. Henry Lee Townsend (Susan), four loving daughters; Sylvia Alexis Franklin (David), Suzanne (Kathy) Carter (James), Shermaine (baby Sister) Menser, Shirley (Wendy) Redmond (Jerome), and one son, Dr. Sherman (Tiger) Menser, Jr. (Nakita), all of Oklahoma City; her grandchildren: Darius Franklin (Angelica), David Franklin, Jr., James Carter, Jr., Benjamin Carter, Sherman Carter, Jaron Redmond, Jasmine Redmond, Jaden Redmond, Jalissa Redmond, Jayce and Jaycee Redmond (twins), Gabrielle Newton, Dominique Menser, Piper Menser, Tiger Menser, Jr., two great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and many friends. She will be missed, but not forgotten.

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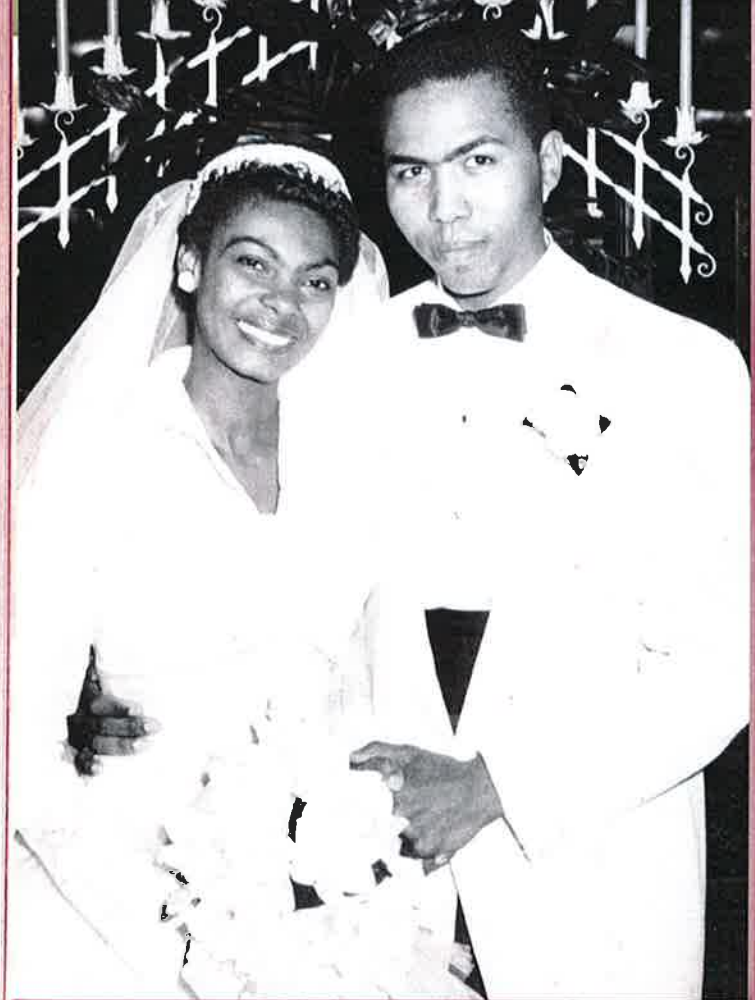
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Order of Service

- Processional I've Just Seen Jesus"
- Presiding Reverend Larry T. Crudup
- Prayer of Comfort Reverend Jerone Free
- Old Testament Reverend Rodney Foust
- New Testament Reverend Edward Jefferson
- Musical Selection Marguerite Stumbaugh
- Resolutions/Acknowledgments Carolyn Payton
- Expressions (please limit to 2 minutes) Family
Classes of Dunbar 1963, 1964, 1965
- Musical Selection Loretta Greene
- Eulogy Reverend Michael McDaniels
- Musical Selection Minnie Flowers
- Video Story The Life of Sylvia Menser
- Benediction
- Recessional

*"And two shall become one."
Mark 10:8 NKJV*



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*"He who finds a wife finds a good thing, obtains favor from the Lord."
- Proverbs 18:22 NKJV*



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