



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Bertram Edward Sears, Jr. '86

Sunrise: July 16, 1964

Sunset: March 18, 2023

Sunday, April 2, 2023

1:00 P.M.

MARTIN LUTHER KING INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL, MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

830 Westview Drive Southwest

Atlanta, Georgia 30314

The Reverend Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., Officiating
Dean, Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel

His Story

Bertram Edward Sears, Jr., known by many as “Buddy,” passed away on March 18, 2023, after a lifetime of professional achievements and personal joy. Bertram spent his life telling silly jokes, laughing loudly, and rousing joy in everyone he met.



Bertram E. Sears was born on July 16, 1964, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was the youngest child born to Dr. Bertram Sears, Sr. and Frances Wilson Sears. Upon graduating from Bishop McGuinness High School, he followed in his father's footsteps by studying at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Bertram was a dedicated student and an active member of campus organizations. As a Charles Merrill Scholar, Bertram delighted in spending his junior year studying abroad in Germany. He became a 1984 initiate of the Grand Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., developing close friendships that he'd carry through the rest of his life. On one fortuitous day in March of 1984, Bertram met his future wife, Jackie Daniels, while studying at the Atlanta University Center's Woodruff Library.

Bertram graduated from Morehouse with a Bachelor's Degree in political science in 1986. Shortly thereafter, he moved to New York to work for Paine Webber as a Financial Analyst. After his three-year stint in finance, Bertram decided to pursue a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) at Harvard University which he earned in 1991.

Bertram spent many years as a corporate executive. He served as a Senior Vice President at Southern Company and Senior Director of Corporate Development at Cox Automotive. However, his true passion and lifelong calling was being a business owner. He founded Omni Power Clean in 2001 and became a franchise owner of Superior Wash in 2017. Bertram was deeply committed to developing his businesses. As a principled businessman, he took pride in making sure that his employees were treated fairly and were well taken care of.

Bertram loved adventure and was an avid traveler. He and his family created colorful memories by traveling to every corner of the world. Visiting New Zealand to explore caves; Sweden to see the aurora borealis; Italy and Greece to indulge in classical landmarks and delicious dining; and finally Exuma, Grand Bahamas to connect with his paternal roots are just some of many such memories. Bertram traveled to most of the states in the United States, five continents, and too many countries to count.



Bertram loved his hobbies: cooking, mixing drinks, photography, hiking, and bike riding. He relished in entertaining, creating drinks and dishes for guests to enjoy. He delighted in sharing his passions with others. There was never a dull moment when Bertram was around.

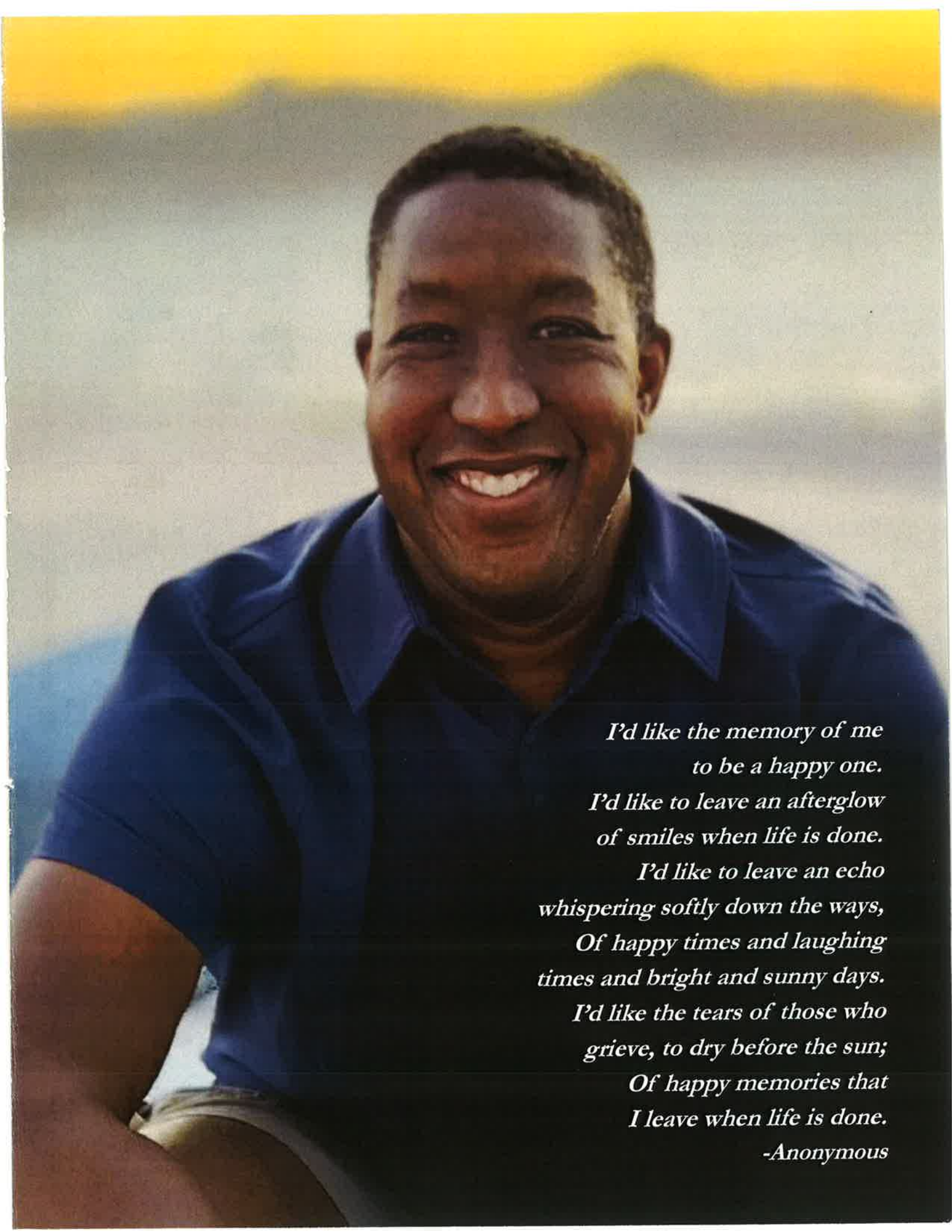
Bertram was also passionate about his community. He was a leader in Boy Scouts of America, where his son was a Scout. He participated in many camping trips and other activities serving as a role model for the Scouts. He was also a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, where he organized the chess outreach program.

Bertram was a devoted, doting, proud father and a loving and dedicated husband. He is survived by the love of his life and wife of 34 years, Jackie Sears, his children Bertram E. Sears, III (Trent) and Jasmine Sears, and his sisters Sheryl Sears and Kay Frances Hairston. Other surviving family includes nephews Christopher Hairston, Stephen Hairston, Jhalil Daniels, Taris Felo, Jr., Josiah Gresham, and Elijah Gresham; nieces Zana Gavin and Moriah Gresham and a host of cousins, in-laws, and many more extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents Dr. Bertram E. Sears, Sr. and Frances Wilson Sears.



*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.*

Invictus by William Ernest Henley



*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.*

*I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing
times and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those who
grieve, to dry before the sun;*

*Of happy memories that
I leave when life is done.*

-Anonymous





Order of Service

The Reverend Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., Officiating

Prelude

Processional

Omega Ritual

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Call to Worship

The Reverend Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., Ph.D
Dean, Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel

Selection

“The Lord’s Prayer”
arr Albert Malotte

Leslie Hamilton Thomas, MM

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Psalm 22: 1-5 (NRSV)
New Testament: Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NRSV)

Gary Spencer, JD

Prayer

The Reverend Clarence J. Parks '86, JDiv, MDiv
Senior Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Washington, DC

Tributes

Ronald Moore, '86 *Line Brother Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.*
Lee Cheese '85, *Friend and Morehouse Brother*
Terrell Jackson, *Superior Wash*
Frank Wilson IV, '84 *Family Member and Morehouse Brother*

Musical Meditation (Obituary Read Silently)

David Francis Oliver

Eulogy

The Reverend Clarence J. Parks

Selection

“Goin’ Up Yonder”
arr. Walter Hawkins

Leslie Hamilton Thomas, MM

Acknowledgements

Bertram Edward Sears, III, '18
Son, Kappa Alpha Inc., Morehouse Brother

Morehouse College Remarks

Henry M. Goodgame, Jr '84
Vice President, External Relationship & Alumni Engagement

Morehouse Hymn

Dear Old Morehouse, J.O.B. Moseley '29

Recessional

Musicians

David Francis Oliver, DMA & Bonita Seaborn-Moore

FINAL RESTING PLACE

12:00 Noon on Saturday, April 8, 2023

Trice Hill Cemetery | 5101 North Coltrane Road | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73136

Flower Ladies

Members of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated
Atlanta Chapter

Pallbearers

Sebastian Coronel
Jhalil Daniels
Taris Felo, Jr.
Frank Wilson V
Zachary Wilson
Jonathan Wilson

Honorary Pallbearers

24 Slices of Krimson Pi, Spring 1984
Christopher Johnson
Nathan Wilson

Acknowledgements

The family of Bertram E. Sears, Jr. wishes to extend our sincere gratitude and warmest thanks to all our friends who have been so kind during our recent loss. We will be forever grateful for your visits, messages, phone calls and many other kind expressions of sympathy. A special thanks to those who sent floral offerings, donations, and generous provisions of food. Thank you, individually and collectively, for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made online to Morehouse College in memory of
Alumnus Bertram E. Sears, Jr. '86
at giving.morehouse.edu or mailed to:
Morehouse College Office Institutional Advancement
Attn: Sandra Yates
830 Westview Drive | Atlanta, GA 30314
Memo: Bertram "Buddy" Sears '86 Endowed Scholarship Fund

MURRAY BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, INC.
1199 Utoy Springs Road
Atlanta, Georgia
404.349.3000

Programs by Darryl Allen 404.755.0965 | www.allenspringingco.com