

I'M WORKING ON THE

# BUILDING

MAGAZINE

BROTHER  
*Vernon*  
CRAYTON

*"We have a building of God,  
an house not made with hands,  
eternal in the heavens."  
2 Corinthians 5:1b-d*

**"I'M GOING  
UP TO HEAVEN,  
TO GET MY  
REWARD!"**

Celebration  
Of Life

FRIDAY  
March 25, 2022

Viewing  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Service of Love  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



*"It's A True  
Foundation!"*



*"Make me that building  
not made by hand!"*



GREATER LOVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1534 PECK STREET  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78210

REV. DR. LESTER J. GILLESPIE, SR., PASTOR/EULOGIST

## *Celebrating the Life of Brother Vernon Crayton*

*"REMEMBER TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME TO BE BORN, A TIME TO DIE,  
A TIME TO PLANT AND A TIME TO PLUCK UP THAT WHICH IS PLANTED."  
ECCLESIASTES 3:1-12*

MR. VERNON CRAYTON WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 26, 1942, IN TAYLOR, TEXAS, TO THE LATE GLOVER CRAYTON AND KATHLEEN HOOD CRAYTON. VERNON WAS THE YOUNGEST OF SIX CHILDREN AND GRADUATED FROM ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL IN AUSTIN, TEXAS, IN 1961. HE SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED AFTER SERVING FOUR YEARS. HE UNITED IN MARRIAGE TO HIS SOUL MATE AND THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE, PALMA J. SHEPPARD, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. THEY SHARED NINE HAPPY AND ADVENTUROUS YEARS TOGETHER.

VERNON WORKED FOR NASA FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THEN RETIRED FROM AUSTIN CAB COMPANY AFTER 43 YEARS. HE WAS ALSO A BUS DRIVER FOR PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES AND A VERY SAVVY BUSINESS MANAGER FOR THE SAME COMPANY WHERE HE WORKED.

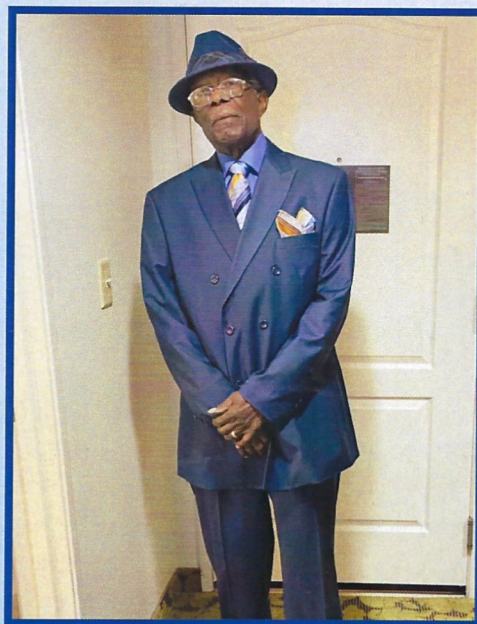
VERNON NEVER MET A STRANGER; HE LOVED PEOPLE. DURING HIS LIFETIME, HE ALWAYS HAD A KIND WORD TO SAY TO EVERYONE. HE GAVE HIS TIME, TALENTS, EXPERTISE AND MONETARY GIFTS GENEROUSLY AND FREELY TO HIS CHURCH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. VERNON WAS A VERY TALENTED CARPENTER AND OFTEN SHARED HIS GOD GIVEN CRAFTSMANSHIP, RENOVATING AND BUILDING A CHILDCARE CENTER, FLOWER BOXES, SHOE RACKS, STORAGE SHEDS, PATIO DECKS, ROOM ADDITIONS, AND MANY OTHER STRUCTURES.

VERNON ENJOYED HIS LIFE. HE LIVED WELL, LAUGHED OFTEN AND LOVED MUCH. GOOD FOOD, TRAVELING AND ENTERTAINING MADE HIM HAPPY. HE WAS AN AVID GOLF PLAYER, COMPETED IN DOMINOES AND CARD GAMES, AND LOVED TO DANCE. ON MOST OCCASIONS, YOU COULD FIND HIM IMMACULATELY DRESSED IN A DESIGNER SUIT OR OUTFIT, ACCESSORIZED WITH MATCHING SHOES AND HAT. HIS STYLE, WIT, CHARM AND GENEROSITY WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED BY ALL WHO KNEW AND LOVED HIM.

VERNON WAS A MAN OF FAITH AND HOPE. HE WAS BAPTIZED AT AN EARLY AGE. ON THE DAY VERNON MARRIED PALMA, HE UNITED IN MEMBERSHIP WITH THE MT. SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REV. DR. A. W. A. MAYS. UPON HIS MOVE TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, VERNON MADE GREATER LOVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, WHERE REV. DR. LESTER J. GILLESPIE, SR., SERVES AS PASTOR, HIS HOME. VERNON WAS FAITHFUL TO GREATER LOVE UNTIL THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.

MR. VERNON CRAYTON WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY BOTH PARENTS; ONE BROTHER, WAYMON CRAYTON; TWO SISTERS, MABLE D. MAYS, AND VERNICE CRAYTON MELONTREE; FATHER-IN-LAW, RALEIGH SHEPPARD, SR.; TWO SISTERS-IN-LAW, LOUISE CRAYTON AND JUANITA SHEPPARD-GREEN; THREE BROTHERS-IN-LAW, LINZELL MAYS, ANDREW R. MELONTREE, SR. AND ISAAC WALLACE; ONE NIECE, PEARL CRAYTON, AND THREE NEPHEWS, VICTOR CRAYTON, KEVIN CRAYTON, AND MICHAEL R. JOHNSON.

HE LEAVES TO CHERISH HIS LOVING MEMORY A DEVOTED AND LOVING WIFE, PALMA J. SHEPPARD CRAYTON; ONE BROTHER, GRAYSON (GLORIA) CRAYTON OF AUSTIN, TEXAS; ONE SISTER, ERMA B. CRAYTON WALLACE OF WARRICK, RHODE ISLAND; HIS MOTHER-IN-LOVE, ELLA L. SHEPPARD OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS; HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS "IN LOVE", CONNIE BOWENS (JOHNNY), GUY SHEPPARD (BRENDA), TIMOTHY SHEPPARD (CATRINA), DONNA SHEPPARD (ANTHONY), WYDNNI VAN (SHERTA), TYRA SHEPPARD (ROSYLN), RALEIGH SHEPPARD, JR., GERVASIE SHEPPARD-WILSON, MICHEAL SHEPPARD, MARK SHEPPARD, JACQUELINE SHEPPARD, KENNETH SHEPPARD, HIS GOD-SISTER-IN-LOVE, GAIL CROWDER (GIL), HIS GOD-BROTHER-IN-LOVE, JEFFERY WHITE, JR. (TEEKEETA); A GOD-DAUGHTER, TRACI HOUSTON OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND A HOST OF NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.



*Vernon Crayton*

*Faithful. Dedicated. Lover of God and Family.  
From Labor (September 26, 1942), to Reward (March 4, 2022)*

*"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 ON THAT DAY; AND NOT TO ME ONLY, BUT UNTO ALL OF THEM THAT LOVE HIS APPEARING."*

*II TIMOTHY 4:6-8*

# *The Homegoing Celebration Of Brother Vernon Crayton*

PROCESSIONAL	CLERGY, PALLBEARERS & FAMILY
THE HOLY SCRIPTURES	
OLD TESTAMENT	REVEREND MARREECE DEAN GREATER LOVE MBC SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
NEW TESTAMENT	REVEREND ROBERT WHITE GREATER LOVE MBC SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PRAYER OF COMFORT	REVEREND DR. KYLE F. ARNELL, III GREATER LOVE MBC SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
MUSICAL SELECTION	REV. W. G. GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHOIR
RESOLUTION(S)	GREATER LOVE MBC
MUSICAL SELECTION	REV. W. G. GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHOIR
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	SISTER GERVASIE WILSON
FAMILY TRIBUTE	SISTER ANDREA MELONTREE-MOORE GREAT-NIECE

## SPECIAL REMARKS & REFLECTIONS (LIMIT TO TWO MINUTES, PLEASE)

NEIGHBORHOOD—SISTER NATASHA GUY,  
BROTHER TYRONE AND SISTER ENGRID GLASCO  
FRIEND—BROTHER LARRY WILLIAMS  
FAMILY  
SISTER-IN-LOVE, SISTER CONNIE BOWENS  
NIECE, SISTER CYNTHIA MELONTREE-JOHNSON  
BROTHER, BROTHER GRAYSON CRAYTON  
NIECE, SISTER GRACE CRAYTON-SANDERS

OBITUARY (READ SILENTLY)	SOFT MUSIC
MUSICAL SELECTION	REV. W. G. GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHOIR

### WORDS OF COMFORT

REV. DR. LESTER JAMES GILLESPIE, SR., PASTOR  
GREATER LOVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78210

RECESSIONAL

*In Loving Memory of My Dear Husband (My "Honey")*



**YOU WERE A WONDERFUL HUSBAND,  
FROM BEGINNING TO END.**

**FOREVER WILL YOU LIVE ON,  
IN MY HEART AND MIND.**

**FOREVER WILL YOU LIVE  
IN MY THOUGHTS, AND NEVER DIE.**

**WITH LOVE ALWAYS, I REMEMBER YOU,  
WITH FOND MEMORIES, I THINK OF YOU...**

**I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE TIMES  
WE HAD TOGETHER...**

**I'LL CHERISH MY MEMORIES  
OF YOU...FOREVER.**

**YOUR LOVING WIFE,**

*Palm*

**IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, YOU'RE NO  
LONGER HERE.**

**WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE HOW  
THIS MAKES ME FEEL.**

**YOU'VE PASSED ON TO THE OTHER SIDE,  
THOUGH I WISH YOU COULD  
STILL BE HERE WITH ME.**

**YOU WERE A REMARKABLE MAN...  
DEPENDABLE, LOVING AND CARING,  
YOU WERE THE CENTER OF MY WORLD.  
YOU WERE ONE IN A MILLION TO ME...**

**YOU MADE ME LAUGH,  
YOU MADE ME SMILE...**

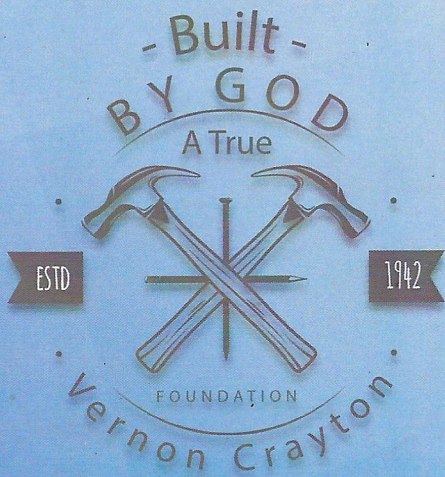
**YOU WERE MY CLOSEST COMPANION  
AND MY DEAREST FRIEND...**



*Vernon & Palma - A Love Like No Other... Truly Sent By God!*



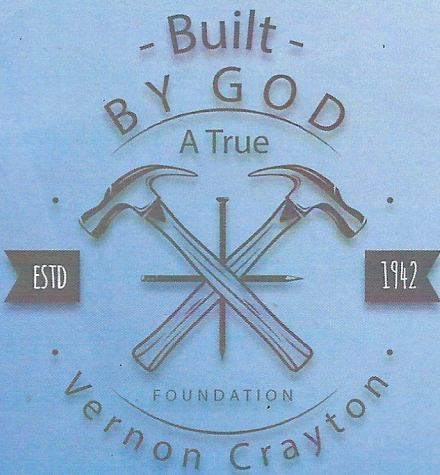
a true  
**LOVE** Story  
NEVER  
Ends



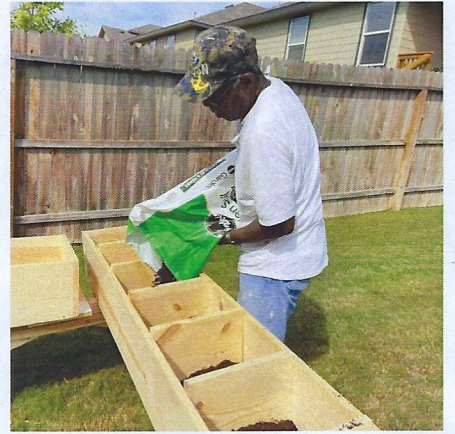
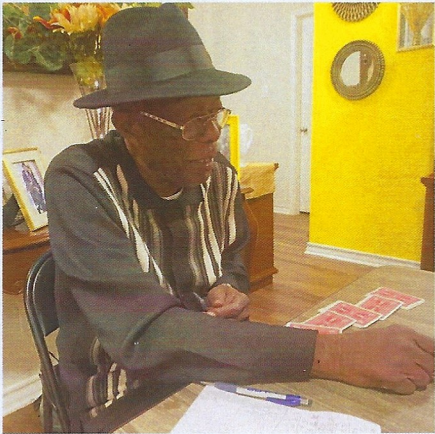
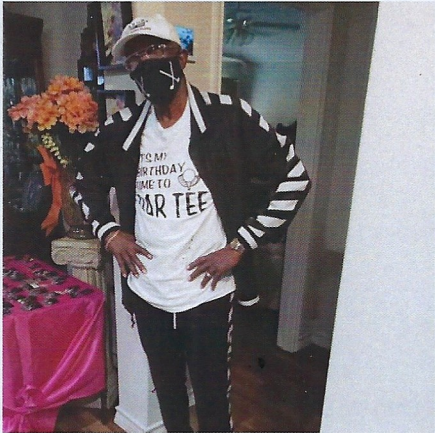
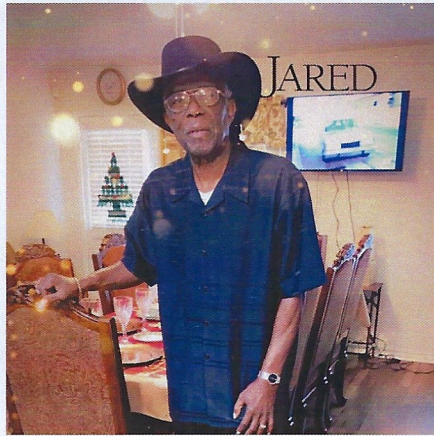
# Vernon & His Family - Time Well Spent



The love of a FAMILY is  
LIFE'S GREATEST  
Blessing♥

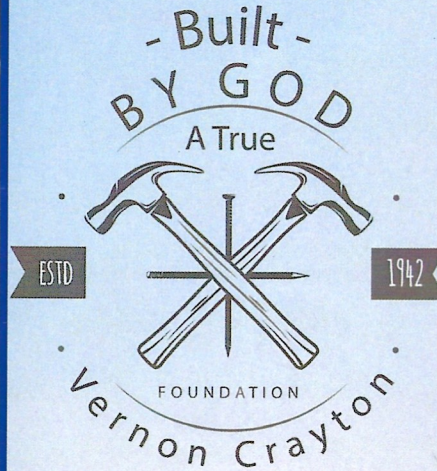


# Vernon & His Pastimes - A Life Well Lived...





*From Your God-Daughter, Traci, & Family...*



**DAD VERNON, THANK YOU FOR BEING CONSISTENT!**

**FROM DAY ONE YOU WERE CONSISTENT...ALWAYS CARING AND KIND,  
DEFINITELY HELPFUL, AND ALWAYS  
SHOWING MUCH LOVE FOR ME AND THE GIRLS.**

**YOU NEVER WAVERED!**

**FROM THE DAY MOM SAID "THIS IS OUR DAUGHTER",  
YOU TOOK IT LITERALLY.**

**WE WILL EVER BE GRATEFUL.**

**WE LOVE YOU AND WILL MISS YOU! TILL WE MEET AGAIN...**

*Traci, Danica, Tiana & Briea*

*Dear Family And Friends...*

I CLOSED MY EYES AND FELL ASLEEP,  
SO, THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOU TO WEEP.  
THIS IS A DEBT THAT WE ALL MUST PAY.  
YOU WILL SEE ME AGAIN SOMEDAY.  
I ENDURED PAIN AND SOMETIMES SORROW.  
NOW, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW.

THIS LIFE FOR YOU MUST GO ON.  
YOU MUST NOT WORRY BECAUSE I AM GONE.

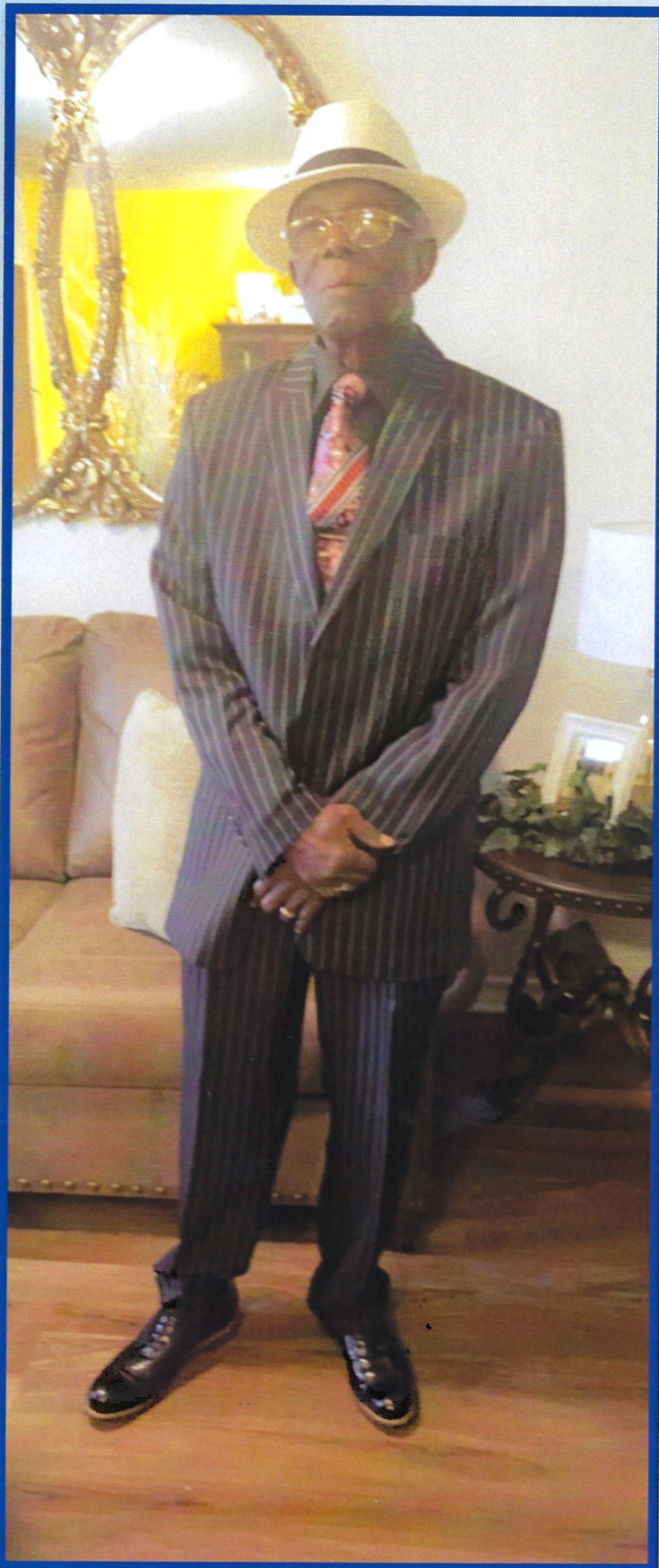


YOU STOOD BESIDE ME ALL THE WAY.  
WHEN I WAS DOWN, YOU KNEW WHAT TO SAY.  
YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME TO GET SOME REST  
AND NOT TO WORRY.  
LET ME SLEEP NOW, I HAVE DONE MY BEST  
SO PLEASE LET ME REST IN PEACE,  
THE TEARS YOU ARE SHEDDING SOON WILL CEASE.

YOU WILL SOON REALIZE HIS WAY WAS MEANT TO BE,  
AND I THANK GOD BECAUSE HE CAME FOR ME.

*From Vernon ...I'm Free!*

DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME,  
FOR NOW I'M FREE.  
I'M FOLLOWING THE PATH  
GOD LAID FOR ME.  
I TOOK HIS HAND  
WHEN I HEARD HIM CALL.  
I TURNED MY BACK AND LEFT IT ALL.  
I COULD NOT STAY ANOTHER DAY  
TO LAUGH, TO LOVE, TO WORK OR PLAY.  
TASKS LEFT UNDONE  
MUST STAY THAT WAY.  
I FOUND HIS PEACE  
AT THE CLOSE OF THE DAY.  
IF MY PARTING HAS LEFT A VOID  
THEN FILL IT WITH REMEMBERED JOY.  
A FRIENDSHIP SHARED,  
A LAUGH, A KISS.  
AH YES, THESE THINGS I TOO WILL MISS.  
BE NOT BURDENED  
WITH TIMES OF SORROW  
I WISH YOU THE SUNSHINE  
OF TOMORROW.  
MY LIFE'S BEEN FULL, I SAVORED MUCH.  
GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD TIMES,  
A LOVED ONE'S TOUCH.  
PERHAPS MY TIME  
SEEMED ALL TOO BRIEF.  
DON'T LENGTHEN IT NOW  
WITH UNDUE GRIEF.  
LIFT YOUR HEART AND SHARE WITH ME,  
GOD HAS SET ME FREE,  
FROM SICKNESS AND PAIN,  
IN JESUS' NAME!



### *Active Pallbearers*

BRO. JOHNNY BOWENS, JR.                      BRO. TYRONE GLASCO  
REV. LESTER JAMES GILLESPIE, JR.        BRO. TYRAS GILLESPIE  
BRO. ANTHONY JONES                          BRO. TIMOTHY SHEPPARD  
BRO. TYRA TAYLOR

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

BRO. CORNELL EVANS                          BRO. ELMORE LEACH  
BRO. ANDREW MELONTREE                  BRO. LESTER MELONTREE  
BRO. CARL MITCHELL                         BRO. MARK SHEPPARD  
BRO. LARRY WILLIAMS

### *Acknowledgements*

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 WORDS AS ANYONE COULD SAY.

PERHAPS YOU WERE NOT THERE AT ALL, JUST THOUGHT OF US THAT DAY.

PERHAPS YOU PREPARED SOME TASTY FOOD OR  
MAYBE FURNISHED A CAR. PERHAPS YOU RENDERED A SERVICE UNSEEN,  
NEAR AT HAND, OR FROM AFAR.

WHATEVER YOU DID TO CONSOLE OUR HEARTS BY WORD, BY DEED, OR BY TOUCH...

OUR HEARTS ARE INDEED GRATEFUL...

WE THANK YOU, OH SO VERY MUCH!

### *Interment*

DATE: APRIL 1, 2022

TIME: 1:45 P.M.

FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY  
1520 HARRY WURZBACH ROAD  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78209

### *Repast (Immediately Following Homegoing Services)*

SALTGRASS STEAKHOUSE  
60 N. E. INTERSTATE 410 LOOP  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78216

### *Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To*

CARTER-TAYLOR-WILLIAMS MORTUARY  
601 CENTER STREET  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78202-2802