

Celebration of Life

Calvin Daniel Gilliam



2/5/1929 – 1/28/2021



Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 2:30 pm

Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills

6300 Forest Lawn Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90068

Pastor Garth C. Gilliam, Presiding Officiant Clergy



ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE	"Amazing Grace"	<i>Recording</i>
WORDS OF GRACE/ GREETING/PRAYER		Rev. Garth Gilliam
HYMN	"How Great Thou Art"	Terrell Moran
WORDS OF COMFORT		Rev. Dr. Lydia Waters
POEM	"If I Were You"	Ryan Gilliam
PRAYER		Pastor Royce Porter
OLD TESTAMENT	"Psalm 23"	Rowland Martin
HYMN	"Blessed Assurance"	Stephen Heu
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		Kimberly Gilliam
READING OF OBITUARY	Lemar Flukers/Nehemiah Gilliam	

FAMILY AND FRIENDS REFLECTIONS

HYMN	"Wind Beneath My Wings"	Summer Gilliam
NEW TESTAMENT		
Epistle Reading	2 Cor.4:16-5:1	Raina Rice
Gospel Reading	John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27	Autumn Horner
EULOGY/WORDS OF HOPE		Rev. Garth Gilliam

COMMENDATION/COMMITAL/BLESSING

CLOSING PRAYER		Rev. Garth Gilliam
THE LORDS PRAYER		Val Flukers
BENEDICTION		Rev. Garth Gilliam
CLOSING HYMN	"Because He Lives"	Terrell Moran

A Video Memorial of Calvin Gilliam's Life
Will be Shown at the Repast/Fellowship Dinner at
Sherman Oaks United Methodist Church after the Service

OBITUARY

Calvin Daniel Gilliam was born in Salisbury, North Carolina on February 5th, 1929. His parents were Coke Gilliam and Lula Sawyer Gilliam. He was the second youngest of eight children: Ezra, Lettie, Grant, Lola, Lucy, Clara, Calvin and Ruth.

Calvin was born the year of the stock market crash of 1929. Growing up during the Great Depression helped him to value money and use it wisely. During the depression, Coke Gilliam was fortunate enough to have steady work with the railroad, while Lula Gilliam took care of their 8 children. She would often make their clothes. Calvin grew up on a 100 acre farm with no running water or electricity. They raised livestock and grew crops as a family business..

As a young boy, Calvin received Christ as his savior and was baptized in the Yadkin River. Growing up, he loved to fish and skinny dip in High Rock Lake. He enjoyed listening to the radio and attending events with his best friend, Henry, whom he reminisced about frequently. His chores around the farm consisted of getting water from well, feeding livestock, and preparing food for the winter season. Calvin was raised in a loving home and honored his parents. Coke built a school house on their land for the family, but also included Black children in the community during Jim Crow. Before Calvin was old enough to attend school, Lula sent him to the schoolhouse with the older children and as a result, he loved school and learning.

When he was old enough to go to school, he quickly completed his courses and was able to graduate high school at the age of 16. In 1945, Calvin attended Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia as a Chemistry major. Although his father paid for his tuition, he worked as a waiter and coat checker at William Byrd Hotel to support himself in college.

After receiving a degree in Chemistry in 1949, Calvin was drafted into the Army in a segregated airborne division as a paratrooper during the Korean War. He was stationed at Fort Campbell in Clarksville, Tennessee from 1950 to 1952. While in the service, he was quickly promoted to an officer. He was in charge of scheduling because he was one of few who had a college degree and knew how to type. While in the service, he met Opaline Yvonne King in San Antonio, Texas at a military football game at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio. It was a whirlwind romance and the two eloped in 1951.

In 1952 Calvin attended Xavier University's pharmacy school in New Orleans, Louisiana on the G.I. Bill. After graduating with a degree in Pharmacy, he worked as a staff pharmacist at a tuberculosis hospital. Later on, he decided to use his G.I. benefits to attend USC in Los Angeles and received a master's degree in Hospital Pharmacy Administration. He secured a job as Chief Pharmacist at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Mission Hills, California. While working at the V.A., he pursued a second master's degree in Radiopharmacy and headed the radiopharmacy program at the V.A.

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OBITUARY *(continued)*

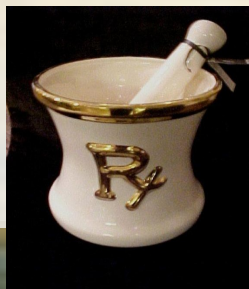
He was an adjunct Professor of Pharmacy at USC. He was fortunate enough to spend his entire career at the V.A. in a job that he truly loved. When he first started as Chief Pharmacist, the pharmacy was poorly managed and understaffed. Over the years, he made many improvements and increased the staff from three to seventy pharmacists, which he was proud of. One of his most notable career accomplishments was assisting in patenting a breakthrough chemical procedure for detecting cancer.

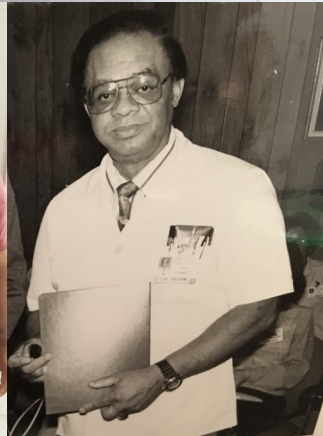
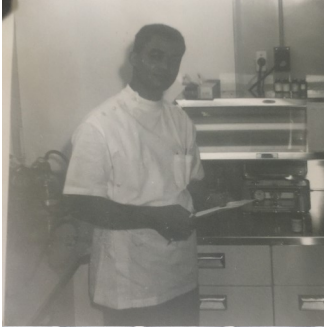
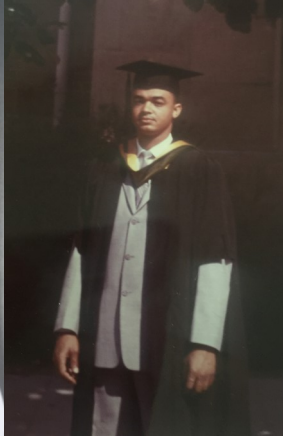
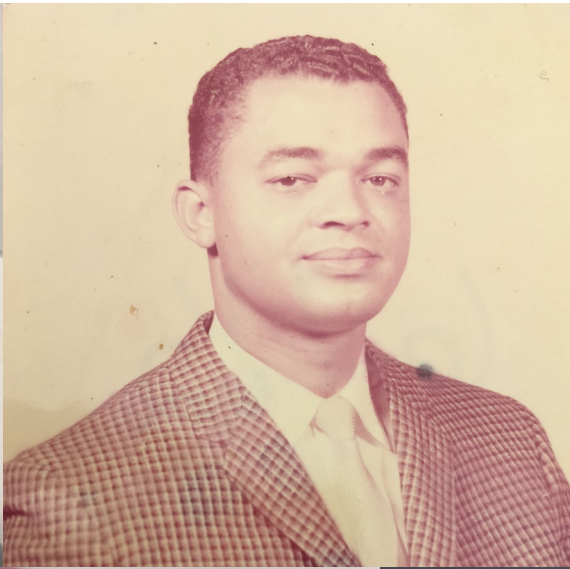
After working for the V.A. for forty years, he retired. He cared for his ailing wife Opaline who was battling Parkinson's disease, never leaving her side until she transitioned in 2003. Years later, he fell in love again with Lea Ferrer. After a short courtship they married. Lea was Calvin's comforter, companion and loving caregiver until the day he transitioned on January 28, 2021. Calvin often referred to Lea as his rock.

Calvin was active in his church. He was choir member, treasurer, and chair of finance and administrative boards.

Calvin valued and preached that education was the way to success. He instilled this sentiment in his children and grandchildren. He often financially supported their educational pursuits. He would often joke about maximizing his G.I. Bill benefits until there was nothing left. Some of Calvin's greatest interests were telling funny stories about his life, watching football and CNN, playing ping pong, and tennis. In his retirement years he received great joy in studying and investing in the stock market and options trading. He was always eager to talk about his meticulous investing strategies. Calvin was a loving, dedicated and devoted father, a great role model, a protector and provider for his family and friends. He was well known for his generosity, kindness, and encouraging words. Simply put, Calvin Daniel Gilliam was our rock, and he will be dearly missed!

Calvin is survived by his 2 sisters, Clara Nicholson and Ruth Leigh; his second wife Lea Gilliam; his 4 children Valora Dionne Flukers, Garth Coke Gilliam, Raina Patrice Rice, and Ryan King Gilliam; his 9 grandchildren, Lawrence Flukers, LeMar Flukers, Autumn Horner, Summer Gilliam, Nehemiah Gilliam, Trevor E. Rice Jr., Trinity Opaline Rice, Tabitha Rice, and Truman Rice; and his 5 great grandchildren, Gabriella Bowie, Sena Flukers, Patrick Potter, Marlie Potter, and Evann Flukers.



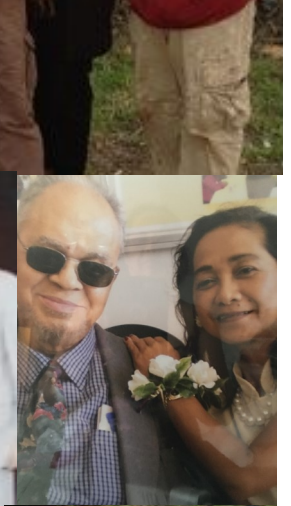














Pallbearers

Active Pallbearers Escorts:

- Lawrence Flukers
- Lemar Flukers
- Nehemiah Gilliam
- Trevor Rice Jr
- Garth Gilliam
- Ryan Gilliam

Honorary Pallbearers:

- Autumn Horner
- Trinity Rice
- Tabitha Rice
- Truman Rice
- Summer Gilliam
- Rowland Martin

Special Acknowledgements

The family wishes to thank and acknowledge with sincere appreciation all of the many telephone calls, comforting messages, cards, emails, texts, Facebook posts, prayers, floral tributes, and many other expressions of kindness and concern at this time in word and deed.

A very special thank you to all who contributed to the Homegoing Celebration and the Repast.

Repast Information

Repast will immediately follow the internment.

Sherman Oaks United Methodist Church

Phillips Hall (Downstairs)

14401 Dickens St

Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

818-789-0351