

The Family Tribute

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

Mr. Leonard Alexander Gabriel, Jr., 72, of Troutman, was born in Washington, D. C. on November 18, 1947, and was the son of the late Leonard A. Gabriel and Estelle Green Gabriel. He departed this life on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, in Greensboro, N.C. following an extended illness.

Gabe, as we affectionately called him, was exceptionally smart in school and was an avid reader. In fact, he was the selected valedictorian of his class. He was an alumnus of the Unity High School class of 1965. Leonard enjoyed attending social events sponsored by his Alumni Class for many years. Whether it was the annual cookout in August or the Christmas holiday social, he lived life to the fullest. He loved to dance and was a great swing-dancer indeed! He also enjoyed cruising with his wife to the Bahamas or Jamaica with family, friends or members of the alumni chapter.

In addition to watching his favorite Miami Dolphins NFL team, he also enjoyed playing golf, a game of spades competitively and spending time with his grandchildren, especially his namesake, Gabriel. He was much loved by all and will be greatly missed by many.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia Gabriel Howard; a sister-in-law, Willene Summers Carson; a nephew, Anthony Howard. He was united in marriage to Paula Dalton Gabriel, who survives.

He leaves to cherish the memory of his life, in addition to his wife, Paula Dalton Gabriel of the home; one son, Marcus L. Dalton of Greensboro; grandchildren, Ashanti Dalton of Statesville, Asa Dalton of Atlanta, Georgia, Purvis Dalton of Raleigh, Marcus Dalton of Burlington, Gabriel Dalton of Greensboro, Jordan Reid of Statesville; two great grandchildren; one sister, Dr. Deborah Gray of Clinton, Mississippi; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Cathy (Walter) Cornelius of Greensboro, Shelia (Kenneth) Boller of Statesville and James Dalton Carson of Corona, New York; nieces and nephews, Jada Howard Greene, Johona Howard and Antione Howard; an aunt, Patricia Haskins of New Jersey; cousins, Orian Holland and Todd (Tracy) Gabriel of Salisbury; and a host of other relatives and friends.

*In tears we saw you sinking, and watched you fade away
Our hearts were almost broken, we wanted you to stay
But when we saw you sleeping so peacefully and free from pain
How could we wish you back with us to suffer that again
It breaks our hearts to lose you, but you do not go alone
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.*

The Celebration of Life for

Mr. Leonard Alexander Gabriel, Jr.

Dr. J. C. White, Officiating
Assistant Pastor Shelia Boller, Eulogist

At The Iredell Memorial Park
Statesville, North Carolina

The Order of Service

The Old Testament Reading
Overseer Kenneth Boller

The New Testament Reading
Assistant Pastor Shelia Boller

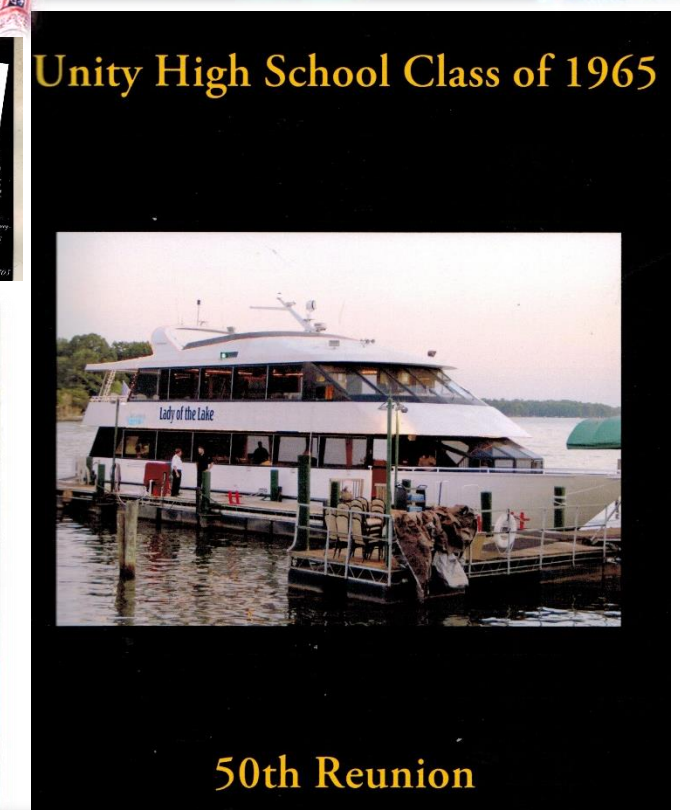
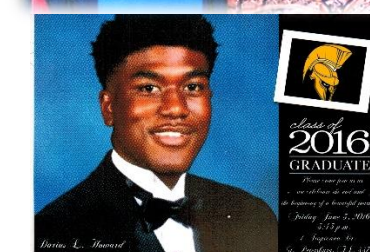
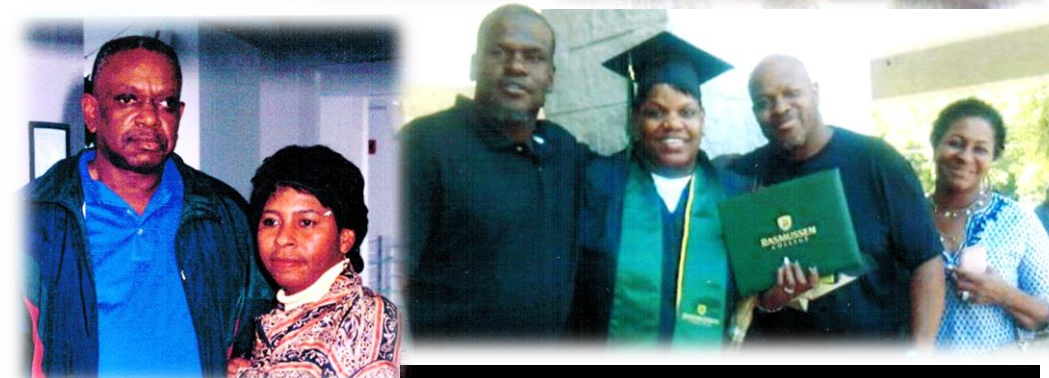
The Prayer of Comfort
Dr. J. C. White

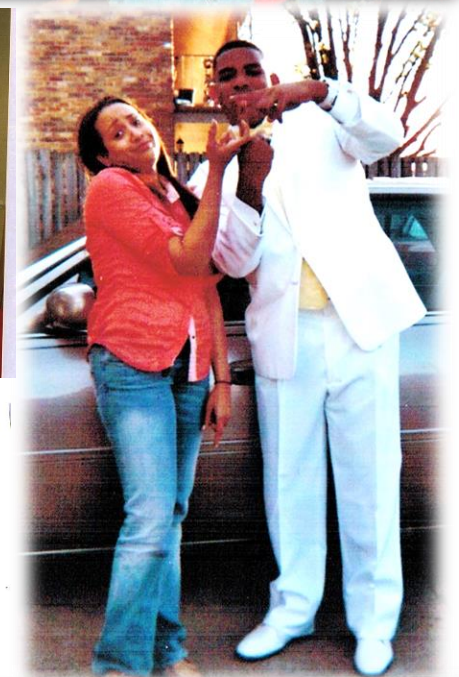
The Words of Comfort
Assistant Pastor Shelia Boller

The Committal
Assistant Pastor Shelia Boller

The Prayer of Benediction
Overseer Kenneth Boller

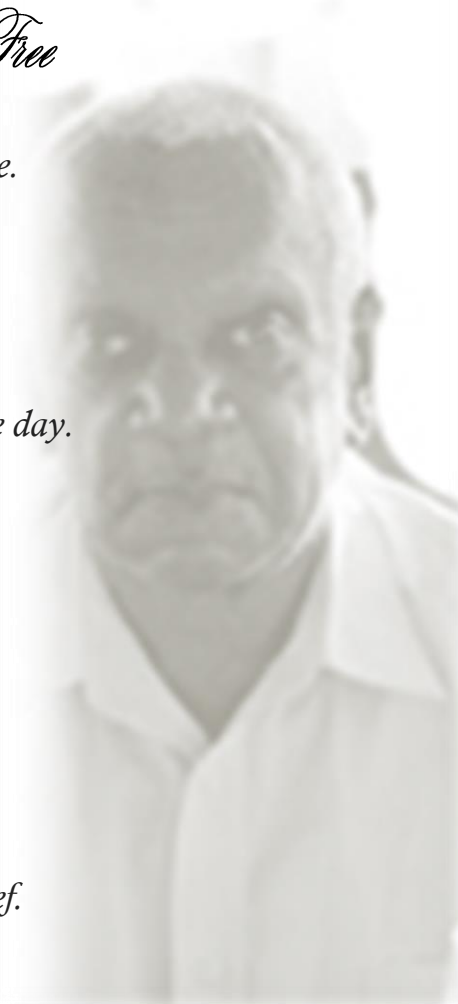
The Final Departure



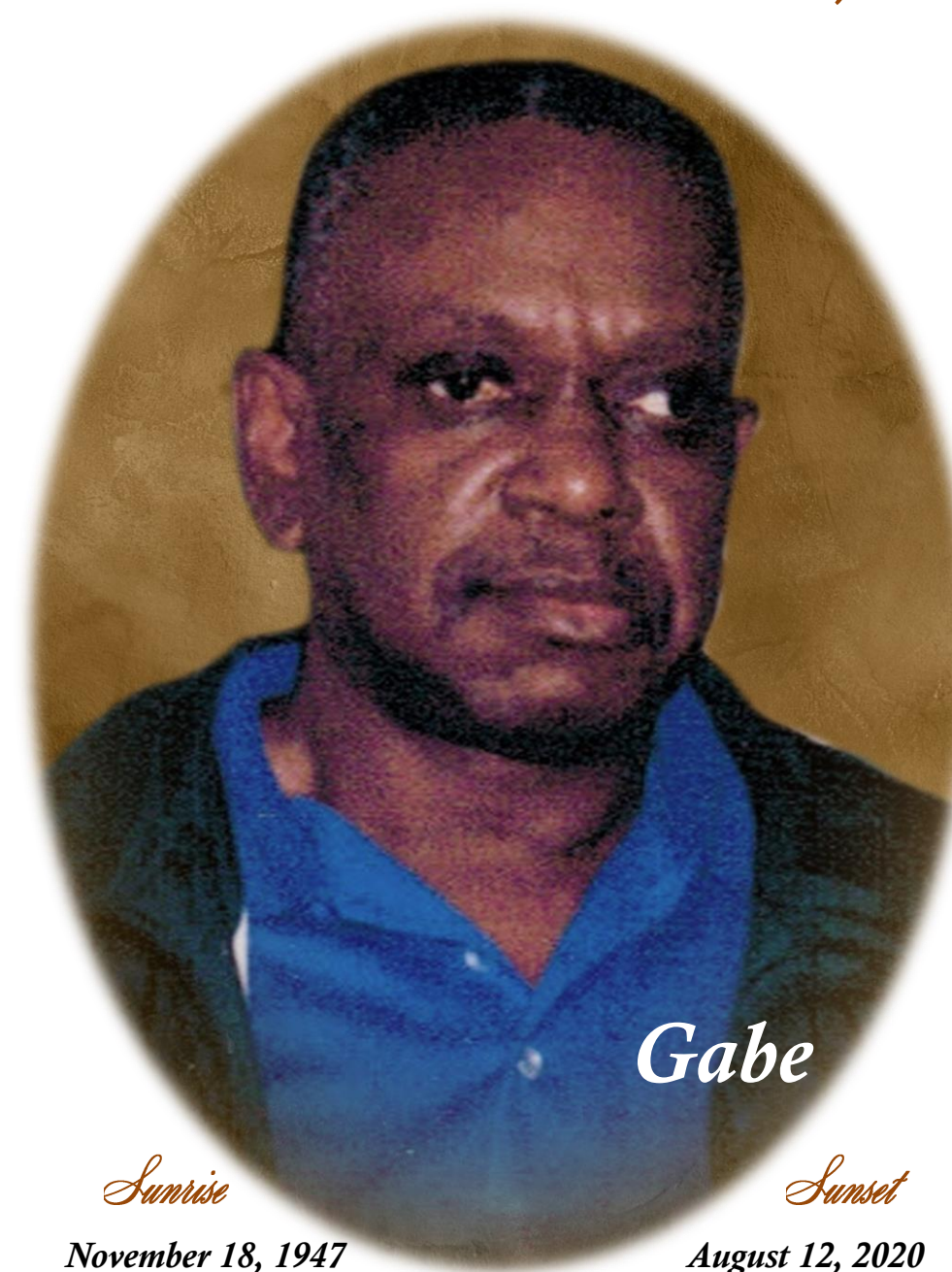


I'm Free

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 his call,
 I turned my back and left it all.
 I could not stay another day,
 To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
 Tasks left undone must stay that way,
 I've found that 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 savoured 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 up your heart and share with me,
 God wanted me now, He set me free.



Celebrating the Life of **Leonard Alexander Gabriel, Jr.**



Gabe

With Our Heartfelt Thanks

...that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures
 might have hope, (Romans 15) God has given us our church family,
 neighbors and dear friends, to help us as we go forward. **God's Word has
 been manifested through** your many expressions of sympathy and support;
 we praise God from whom all blessings flow. Thank you for
 honoring the memory of our beloved "Gabe" and for remembering
 us during his passing. In our risen Lord, we have peace that
 passes all understanding.

The Family



Professional Services Entrusted to "Those Who Care"
Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.
 603 S. Center St., Statesville, NC 28677 704-873-3611
 Visit Mr. Gabriel's Online Tribute at
www.rutledgeandbigham.com

Sunrise

November 18, 1947

Sunset

August 12, 2020

Sunday, August 16, 2020
10:30 a.m.
Iredell Memorial Park
Statesville, North Carolina
Dr. J. C. White, Officiating
Assistant Pastor Shelia Boller, Eulogist