



## Charles Alonzo Duncan Sr.

July 18, 1939 - May 20, 2025

Charles Alonzo Duncan, Sr., the son of the late Robert M. Duncan and Iona Bates-Duncan, was born on Tuesday, July 18, 1939, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

He received his formal education in the Harrisburg School District graduating from the former William Penn High School. He also attended Harrisburg Area Community College.

At a youthful age, Charles attended and was baptized at The Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church under Rev. Clarence L. Henderson, Sr.

“Sonny,” as he was affectionately called by his family and friends who enjoyed his sense of humor and his many amusing stories about his childhood days, was an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan; he loved his Cadillacs (the older the better); he loved the movies and was known as the “Tape Man” .....videos, cassettes, DVD’s; you name the movie, he had it on some kind of a tape, and he knew if one was missing. He had impeccable style; everything always matched from head to toe.

Charles was one of the first African American heavy equipment operators in the Harrisburg area. During his working career, he worked for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 542 for over 60 years until his retirement

in 2002. He took pride in being one of the few African American operators in the Tri-State Area, and he loved reminiscing about instructing the younger men joining the field.

Charles lived a checkered life filled with both triumphs and tribulations. He experienced moments of great success and happiness, as well as periods of hardship and struggle. His journey was marked by a series of highs and lows, making his life story both complex and fascinating. When he rededicated his life to Christ, he became a staunch witness for Jesus. He would often say when witnessing to others “you can’t run that game by me.” He then became one of the chartered members of the XII Stones Congregational Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Elder Wilson Mosley, Jr. where he served as a Deacon, Superintendent of the Sunday School, Choir Director and original director of the church’s Sunshine Band. He loved traveling to the convocation in Detroit, Michigan to hear Bishop Hosea Evans bring the uncompromised Word of God. Deacon Emeritus Duncan remained a member of XII Stones Church of God in Christ until his health prevented him from attending. He then became a watch-care member of Mount Olive Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Roberta M. Duncan-Thompson.

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the age of 85, Charles Alonzo Duncan transitioned peacefully from earth to glory.

In addition to his parents, Robert and Iona Duncan, he was preceded in death by his children, Debbie Everette, Char Shay Harper, Vanessa Duncan, Olujimi Duncan, Helen Duncan, Charles (Charlie) Stewart, Charles M. "Marty" Duncan; his brothers, George Haskins, Jr., Robert Melvyn Duncan, Sr.; his sisters, Queen Elizabeth Duncan-Haskins and Geneva Duncan-Woods.

He leaves to cherish and celebrate his life and legacy: his wife, Gaila L. Duncan; his children, Candis Harper (David), Rev. Martha Brown, Stephanie

Turner, Marquita Jones (James), Michelle (Shelly) Belle, Khadija Duncan, Syeetta Harper, Travis Fleming, Robert "Bobby" Stewart (Nikole "China"), Gibron Wampler, Charles (Chuckie) Duncan, Jr., Diallo Sekou "Mort" Duncan, Keyattha Duncan, Ayinda Harper, Ayodi Harper; his niece/daughter, Rev. Roberta M. Duncan-Thompson; nephew/son, Dr. Otis Martin; bonus children, Andrea Carter, Rory Danielle Gordon, Tyron Hodges, Felicia Roy (Michael), Herman Duncan, Jerry Duncan (Tammy), Trena Jackson; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Faye E. Carter; sisters-in-law, Anna Duncan of Sarasota, Florida, Janice Childs, Margaret Carrier (Terry), Anna Carey (Harry), all of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; two brothers-in-law, Thomas C. and John T. Carter; daughter-in-law, Angela Duncan of Fort Mitchell, Alabama; Godchildren, Calvin McKinney (Crystal) and Josè Espolà; a good neighbor and friend, John Coniglio, along with many other nephews, nieces, cousins, a multitude of grands, great-grands, great-great-grands, great-great-great-grands and other friends.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Sorrowfully Submitted, The Family

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

# Cemetery Details

## Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens

6701 Jonestown Rd  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

# Previous Events

## Flower Delivery

JUN 5. 8:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Steelton  
1850 S. 19th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

## Viewing

JUN 5. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Steelton  
1850 S. 19th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

## Service

JUN 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Steelton  
1850 S. 19th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104



# Tribute Wall

BC

“ *To Cousin Gaila and family, my deepest condolences to you all* ❤️

**Bridget Carter** - June 06, 2025 at 12:09 AM

CB

“ *My Prayers and Condolences to Chuck Jr. and Family.*



**clarence banks** - June 05, 2025 at 06:35 PM

DE

“ *Mrs. Gaila and Family,*

*We were saddened to hear about Duncan's passing. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. We know how much Duncan meant to his family. And, we can only imagine the pain that each of You are feeling at this time. We pray that the love and memories You shared with Duncan will bring You comfort and strength in the days ahead.*

*With All Our Love and Sympathy* 🙏  
*JW & Deb*

**Deb** - June 04, 2025 at 09:47 PM

FW

“ *Frances Waters lit a candle in memory of Charles Alonzo Duncan Sr.*



Frances Waters - June 03, 2025 at 07:46 PM

EG

“ *Emmett Green lit a candle in memory of Charles Alonzo Duncan Sr.*



Emmett Green - June 03, 2025 at 05:11 PM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Trav Flem - June 03, 2025 at 12:44 PM

PJ

“ *Priscilla Jackson lit a candle in memory of Charles Alonzo Duncan Sr.*



Priscilla Jackson - June 03, 2025 at 10:27 AM

LR

“ *Lucille Ray lit a candle in memory of Charles Alonzo Duncan Sr.*



Lucille Ray - June 03, 2025 at 08:22 AM

KD

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Khadija Duncan - June 02, 2025 at 11:14 PM

KD

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Khadija Duncan - June 02, 2025 at 11:06 PM

TD

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**Tasha Duncan** - June 02, 2025 at 08:50 PM