



## Mr. Oliver L. Roach

January 20, 1933 - September 19, 2019

Oliver L. Roach, son of the late Beauregard Roach and the late Thelma Spann Roach, was born Friday, January 20, 1933, in Steelton, PA.

Oliver graduated from the former Steelton High School and retired from the United States Air Force where he served honorably during the Korean War, Gulf War, Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War.

While residing in Harrisburg, PA, Ollie, as he was known by family and friends, was united in Christian fellowship with Monumental A.M.E. Church, Steelton. For many years, he was a member of Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, PA, where he served with the Usher and Trustee Ministries and helped raise money for youth groups with Super Market Sweeps at the ACME, Pilesgrove, NJ.

An icon of his community, Ollie was best known most recently for his work with youth and the gospel concerts at Keswick Theater, Glenside, PA, helping to raise money for various youth groups. He was Founder of the Crestmont Halfway House which helped bring awareness of the drug problem in the Montco area and provided outlets, hope and recovery for many addicted to heroin, opioids and alcohol. A powerful civil rights activist and leader, Ollie organized buses to rally at the Poor People's March on Washington; attended several of Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches; and committed himself to ensuring inclusion and diversity before it was popular. Also, among his civic and fraternal memberships were the YMCA of Harrisburg, Citizens for Progress and the Optimist Club of Lower Montco.

On Thursday, September 19, 2019, at eighty-six years of age, while at his home in Alloway, NJ, Ollie transitioned from time to eternity. He leaves to celebrate his life and honor his legacy his devoted wife of sixty-one years, Lara G. Roach of Alloway; daughters, Trina Roach of Germany, and Ronda C. Wells of Willingboro, NJ; son, Oliver Allen of Pittsburgh, PA; brother, Kenneth Roach (Lois), and sister, Joyce Roach Bradshaw, all of Harrisburg, PA; ten grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Ollie's gentle spirit and quiet strength will be missed!

# Cemetery Details

## William Howard Day Cemetery

Lincoln and Carlisle Streets  
Steelton, PA 17113

# Previous Events

## Flower Delivery

SEP 28. 7:30 AM (ET)

Salem Baptist Church  
2741 Woodland Rd.  
Abington, PA 19001

## Viewing

SEP 28. 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Salem Baptist Church  
2741 Woodland Rd.  
Abington, PA 19001

## Service

SEP 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

Salem Baptist Church  
2741 Woodland Rd.  
Abington, PA 19001



# Tribute Wall

MT

“ I was sorry to hear of Oliver's passing and want to send my condolences to the family. I was a teacher at Phil-Mont Christian Academy in Dresher, and my children attended the school, during the time that Oliver worked there. He was a blessing to know! He was such a kind, godly man, and his influence extended far beyond his keeping the building clean (which he did immaculately). He loved the students and they loved and respected him. He would talk to the kids and encourage them, especially the ones who may have found obeying a difficulty. He was also an encouragement to the teachers and staff, and we all loved him. I remember how he taught the children respect for our country and the flag, and how he always had an older student help him raise the flag each day. He also taught them how to properly fold the flag, which my children still know to this day. He was a very special man, and I hope it is a comfort to you now to know that he is with his Lord.

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**Marilyn Todd** - September 28, 2019 at 09:04 PM

GS

“ Kenny Roach and all of the Roach Family Very sorry to hear about the lost of your brother, may the thought of knowing that family and friends share your loss. The God of all comfort is with you..  
*Proverbs 17:17*

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**Gus and Shelia** - September 28, 2019 at 10:33 AM

PJ

“ Pauline and John Clea Jr. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Oliver L. Roach.



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**Pauline and John Clea Jr.** - September 24, 2019 at 02:48 PM