

Celebration of *Life*, Legacy, and Love of
REV. JUNIUS BOYD DOTSON



Sunrise
AUGUST 7, 1965



Sunset
FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 11:00am

Windsor Village United Methodist Church
6011 W. Orem Dr. | Houston, Texas 77085

Kirbyjon Caldwell, *Eulogist*
Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr., *Officiating*

A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

Written by Wesley Dotson

On behalf of my family, I'd like to thank everyone that is here today and those who have sent their condolences. We have received so many messages of thoughts and prayers, and the outpouring of love for my Dad has been comforting and heartwarming during this difficult time.

I am so incredibly proud of my Dad, who was a true servant of God. I'm amazed at the impact his ministry had on so many lives across the world and how he dedicated his life to helping others grow closer to God. Hearing all of your stories about what my Dad meant to you is something I'll cherish greatly.

To my Dad: You meant the world to me and always will. Those annual Thanksgiving trips to watch our Dallas Cowboys helped us bond in so many ways other than just football. It became my favorite tradition.

I loved hanging out with you in the "J-Spot" and talking about life. I learned so much from you just from the example you set for Janelle and me.

There was nothing like seeing the joy music brought to your life. Over the past few years, I couldn't pick up the phone and call you without hearing you playing the piano in the background. Guess it's my turn to finally get back on the keys, too.

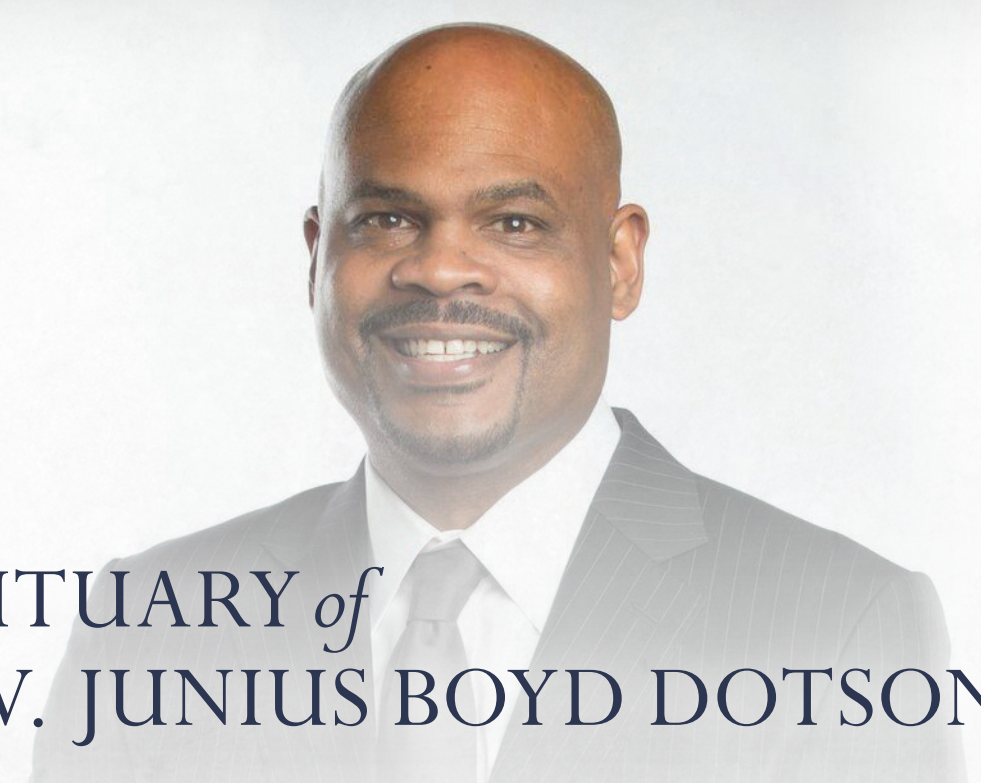
You were always the life of the party. I am going to miss your cooking and grilling, especially those ribs. It was amazing to see how good food, family, friends and music was all you needed to bring a smile to your face.

Above all, I'll never forget how you were always there for us. You were quick to help and comfort anyone in a time of need and always made sure we were all right.

Dad, I love you more than words can say. I'm proud to call you my father. May you Rest in Heaven.

Love, your Son, Wesley





OBITUARY *of* REV. JUNIUS BOYD DOTSON

On August 7th, 1965, Paul Dotson and Patricia Durden dedicated a beautiful brown baby boy to God. As a man, Junius Boyd Dotson offered himself as a messenger of God spreading His word with spiritual gifts and a fire to serve humanity, whose aim was drawing people together and leading them to salvation.

Junius' brief but powerful life reflected his vision of a ministry without boundaries and one of possibilities and transformation.

As a child, he attended church with his grandmother, Hilda L. Durden, who encouraged him scholastically and was his first Sunday School teacher at Windsor Village United Methodist Church (UMC). Patricia and Hilda directed Junius toward Christ. Junius' primary education began at Garden Villas Elementary where Hilda taught. He arrived at Jack Yates High School of Communications in 1980. A charismatic speaker, he excelled in debate and speaking at community events.

Two opportunities shaped his personal and professional future: an immersive year as an exchange student in Israel and a stint in Houston as a congressional aide working for the late Congressman Mickey Leland. His Israeli odyssey tapped his natural and uncanny ability to build human connections, while his work with Congressman Leland demonstrated that he had much to offer the world.

After graduating high school in 1983 with his life-long confidant Paul Bennett, the two of them decided to attend the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) where Junius majored in political science. In 1985, Paul convinced Junius to take a break from school and join him in the Army. His Uncle George Durden was right when he intervened, saying, "Junius, you're destined for greatness and you WILL go to college."

The following year Junius pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at UTA, became president of his undergraduate chapter, and graduated in 1990. In 2016, he received UTA's African-American Alumni Award.

After graduation, he attended the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, ultimately graduating from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California in 1992 with a Masters' of Divinity. He was ordained in June 1992.

Junius began his pastoral career at Jones (UMC) and was tapped to plant a new church, Genesis (UMC) in San Francisco's Silicon Valley. He incorporated technology to boost membership, ultimately growing the church and its community impact.

In 2002, Junius arrived at Saint Mark (UMC) in Wichita, Kansas endeavoring to build a diverse congregation. Under his leadership, the church developed the Saint

Mark E.C. Tyree Medical and Dental Clinic. He also launched dozens of new outreach ministries, including the Annual Community Day, as well as youth and senior ministries.

On Christmas Eve 2013, Junius' nationally televised sermon from Saint Mark celebrated a moment of family pride and allowed him to broadcast God's message from the ABC Network into millions of homes across the country.

In 2016, Junius left Saint Mark to become the Chief Executive Officer of Discipleship Ministries, an international agency of the UMC, based in Nashville, Tennessee. His family's premonition of his greatness settled into focus.

"I am his disciple. And when He comes back for me, He will have no problem recognizing who I am, because my banner will be clear."

– JUNIUS B. DOTSON, SPEAKING AT THE TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

This position allowed Junius to share the mission of Jesus Christ worldwide. He traveled to Korea, South Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and beyond, satisfying the Great Commissions of Jesus found in the Book of Matthew. In addition, Junius was part of the ministerial leadership that brokered the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, an effort to help the UMC to accept progressive and centrist members as well as to sanction same sex marriages and to embrace LGBTQ congregants.

Discipleship Ministries allowed Junius to do what he loved most. As a dynamic organizer and teacher; author and national speaker audiences appreciated his radio broadcasts. He had an uncanny ability to bring worldwide audiences together, leading ministry training and organizing seminars. Junius remains a big presence on YouTube. Junius lived what his family had predicted – a ministry with world-wide resonance.

Junius married Christina Marie Price (d) in August 1990 and that union produced two children. Son, Wesley, now a sportswriter, welcomes his first son, Kayden,

in April 2021. Daughter, Janelle, a student at Tennessee State University, will graduate in spring 2021. Junius spoke lovingly and proudly of his children, talking often about their accomplishments and talents. Junius and Christina encouraged their children to seek God.

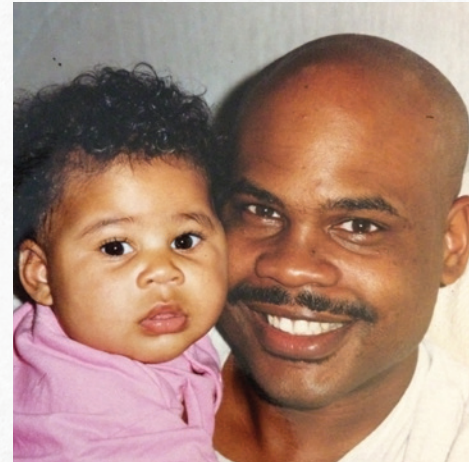
Toska Medlock Lee was Junius' ministry partner, companion, and best friend.

Junius is preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Stewart; stepfather, Johnny Stewart; grandparents, Junius B. and Hilda Durden; brother, Nicholas Durden; aunts, Judieth Durden, Hazel Patton, Viola Mae Alexander and Dorothy Alexander; uncles, Ashton Alexander, Edward Alexander, Junius B. Durden and George Durden; and cousin, George Durden, II.

Junius leaves to mourn his passing: Wesley Dotson, son; Janelle Dotson, daughter; Christina Dotson, wife (d); Toska Medlock Lee, companion; Paul Dotson, father; Paul Bennett, friend/brother; Timothy Dotson, brother; Paul Dotson (Rita), brother; Carol Chatman, sister; Olivia Chatman, Briana Washington, Quinterra Dotson, nieces; Marcellus Malone (Kendra), Bryce, Braell, Bradford Cross, Bradford Cross, Josh Webbert, Christian Dotson, nephews; Dora Durden, aunt; and, cousins Kevin Hail, Carlton Hail, Norman Thompson, Wanda Kramer (Mark), and Angelia Durden; and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity brother, Frank Dyer, whose brotherly bond extended beyond fraternity. Junius also leaves a host of extended family, friends, God-children, and professional colleagues.

His presence will be greatly missed. His legacy of love, laughter, and respect lives on in his children, family, and friends. Using the Jewish word of goodbye which Junius often used—Shalom.





DOTSON *Strong*



Celebration of *Life*, Legacy, and Love of
REV. JUNIUS BOYD DOTSON

ORDER of CELEBRATION

Praise & Worship	Dr. Cynthia Wilson <i>Executive Director of Worship Resources & Director of Liturgical Resources, Discipleship Ministries</i>
Processional of Family A Message from Junius	
Welcome/Greeting	Rev. Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr. <i>Executive Director, United Methodist Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century</i>
Litany of Legacy	Rev. Richie L. Butler <i>Senior Pastor, St. Luke "Community" UMC, Dallas, Texas</i>
Opening Hymn.....	<i>"It Is Well With My Soul"</i>
Invocation/Prayer	Dr. Ron Bell <i>Senior Pastor, Camphor Memorial UMC, St. Paul, Minnesota</i>
Sealing of Prayer - Musical Selection.....	<i>"Draw Me Close," "Draw Me Nearer," "Alpha and Omega"</i>
Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 40:28-31.....	Dr. Rose Booker-Jones <i>Retired Elder, UM Great Plains Conference</i>
New Testament Reading - Matthew 11:28-30	Dr. Emanuel Cleaver, III <i>Senior Pastor, St. James Paseo UMC, Kansas City, MO</i>
Video of Ministry Highlights	Produced by Rev. Steve Horswill-Johnston <i>Chief Communications Officer, Discipleship Ministries</i>
Acknowledgment of Resolutions & Thank You from Family	Rev. Ronda Kingwood <i>Senior Pastor, Heart of Christ UMC, Wichita, KS</i>
Video Tributes #1	Bishop Mark Webb, Dr. Cathy Moffitt, Rev. Stephen Handy, Mr. Clifford & Lecia Medlock
Acknowledgement of Dignitaries	Rev. Mark Norman <i>Southeast District Superintendent, UM Arkansas Annual Conference</i>
Reflectons & Remarks	Bishop Cynthia Harvey, Rev. Kimberly Orr, Dr. Kevass Harding
Musical Selection	<i>"Hallelujah You Are Worthy to be Praised"</i>
Reflectons & Remarks - Family & Friends	Janelle & Wesley Dotson, Frank Dyer, Hannah Paramore Breen, Angila Durden
Video Tributes #2.....	Rev. Bill Selby, Rev. Nathalie Nelson-Parker, Mr. Gerald Jenkins, Rev. Adam Hamilton
Special Remarks	Ms. Toska Medlock Lee
Introduction of Eulogist	Rev. Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr.
Musical Selection	<i>Hymn Medley</i>
Message of Comfort & Hope	Kirbyjon Caldwell
Blessing	Rev. Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr./Music Team
Recessional	

LITANY of LEADERSHIP & LEGACY

Written by Rev. Kimberly Orr, Associate General Secretary, Publisher, Upper Room



LEADER: Holy God, we have come here to thank you for the sacredness of the life bestowed upon your beloved son and servant, Junius B. Dotson.

ALL: God of life, we do indeed offer praise and thanksgiving for Junius’ life and for all who are present here, and the memories of Junius we now gather to share.

LEADER: God who ordered the cosmos, we thank you for Junius’ legacy of leadership across the United Methodist Church Connection.

ALL: Creator of all things, we thank you for raising up Junius as your messenger for such a time as this. May his clarion call for justice and equity continue to echo loud and clear among the people called Methodist, and beyond.

LEADER: God who is Love, we thank you for Junius’ passion for discipleship in the local church and his #SeeAllThePeople initiative that breathed new life into so many congregations.

ALL: Jesus, Great Teacher, may the good work of discipleship that you birthed through Junius continue to nurture your people for the sake of God’s Kingdom.

LEADER: God who is Joy, we thank you for Junius’ broad smile, musical heart, and keen mind that graced our lives.

ALL: Immanuel, we give you praise for the gift of Junius’ presence among us as leader, colleague, musician, pastor, brother, father, and friend.

LEADER: God of comfort, we recognize the holes Junius’ absence leaves among us.

ALL: God of healing, we acknowledge the void Junius leaves, yet we are confident that the work you began through him will be carried on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

LEADER: We do believe that love is as strong as death.

ALL: And death does not have the final word.

LEADER: Risen Savior, we are a Resurrection People who move forward on our journey, strengthened by your love and our love for one another.

ALL: Christ, our Resurrection and Life, give us the grace to make every moment count with love for you and love for each other in this pilgrim journey. Amen.



JUNIUS' AFFIRMATION

*I am a **believer**, not a doubter.*

*I am a **winner**, not a whiner.*

*I am **victorious**, not victimized.*

*I am **the head**, not the tail.*

*I am **above**, and shall never be beneath.*

*I am **blessed and highly favored**.*

*This is the **word of the Lord**.*

*I **can do**, what it says I can do.*

*I **can have**, what it says I can have.*

*I **can be**, who it says I can be.*

*And all of this is brought to me in the **name of Jesus**.*

Amen...Hallelujah!



A BEAUTIFUL LEGACY *of* LOVE, LIFE & LAUGHTER

J.U.N.I.U.S.

A Tribute by Toska Medlock Lee

Joy

The words “joy,” “rejoice,” or “joyful,” appear more than 400 times in scripture. The joy of Junius’ spirit was felt by everyone he came in contact with. It was Jesus’ Joy that caused him to engage complete strangers in coffee shops, at gas stations, or in line at grocery stores. Junius’ Joy for friend and foe alike, reminds me of Nehemiah when he said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Upstanding

Junius left every community he lived in a better place. He served on committees and boards and was also a supportive confidant to others serving in a civic capacity. His brilliance often meant that he would find himself leading or being sought out by people in leadership who needed his advice and counsel.

Nourishing

Junius fed everyone around him a steady diet of love, positivity and hope. He poured himself into others through his ministry and through his friendships.

Intentional

Junius was intentional in every level of his life, because God was intentional about him. His intentionality and gentleness in fostering meaningful relationships, both personal and professional, will be felt for generations. I am reminded of Romans 8:28-30, that reads, “and those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Unique

Unique is often misused in sentences. Unique doesn’t take a modifier, which means you never place a word like “very” in front of it. Anything “unique,” is singular. There’s nothing else like it. Everything about Junius was unique, from his laughter to his moves on the dance floor, to his heart, and finally, to his soul.

Sociable

No one had a bigger, warmer or more genuine smile. No one enjoyed the work of organizing and energizing more than Junius. No one filled a room with laughter quite the way he did.



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Special Thanks

The family, friends and loved ones of Junius B. Dotson acknowledge with genuine appreciation all expressions of kindness and love tendered during this difficult time. The love and support you have shown our family will always be remembered.

THE DOTSON FAMILY

ACTIVE

Pallbearers

Bradford Cross
Bryce Dotson
Braell Dotson
Kevin Hail
Carlton Hail
Jason Medlock

HONORARY

Pallbearers

Wesley Dotson	Paul Bennett
Frank Dyer	Michael L. Bowie, Jr.
Emanuel Cleaver, III	Kevass Harding
Ron Bell	Stephen Handy
Ed Jones	
Mark Norman	

Interment

Paradise Cemetery South
2237 Cullen Blvd.
Pearland, TX 77581

Service & Arrangements

McCoy & Harrison Funeral Home, Inc.
4918 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77021

