



Melville Bertram Herron

April 12, 1932 - May 3, 2020

A memorial service has been scheduled to celebrate the life of the Rev. Dr. Melville B. Herron, one of Lauderhill's most prominent civic activists.

The service will be at 10 a.m. Sept. 12 at Grace Funeral Chapels, 5980 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Lauderhill, Florida 33313. Rev. Herron's body was cremated following his May 3rd passing.

Rev. Herron and his wife Grace relocated to South Florida in 2001 after they both retired from hectic careers in New York – her an RN and him, a Department of Transportation engineer for New York City.

They moved to Lauderhill, to the spacious, tranquil, suburban Inverrary neighborhood. Rev. Herron had no intention of being idle in retirement. He caught a second wind and took on a full roster of civic and cultural duties and activities, aimed at bettering his community. Rev. Herron became known for his unrelenting dedication, commitment and compassion.

He served as chair of the Lauderhill Planning and Zoning Board; president of the Inverrary Homeowners Association. He spearheaded a successful push for a multimillion dollar bond issue in Lauderhill for civic improvements. He graduated from Lauderhill's Citizen's Police Academy.

One of his biggest civic accomplishments was having a strong guiding hand in Lauderhill being named All American City in 2005. A year later, he was named as the city's Lauderhill Citizen of the Year.

He was also very active in the Masons, one of the world's most well-known philanthropic societies. He lived his life by the many Masonic virtues – honor, integrity, trust, compassion for his fellow man. And most of all, keeping God central in his and his family life.

In addition to his civic activities, Rev. Herron also shared his unshakeable faith in God, day in and day out - not in a boastful way, but encouraging and uplifting. He continued giving sermons, and officiating at christenings, weddings and funerals until his failing health forced him to stop.

In addition to Grace, his wife of 61 years, and sons, Dwayne and Dexter (Hillary), he is survived by brother Edward of Houston, and sisters Gloria Dewdney (Trevor) of Jamaica and Monica Herron of Indian Lake Estates, plus a list of nieces, nephews, others relatives and friends too numerous to name.

The memorial service will be livestreamed on Facebook

Events

SEP **Memorial Service** 10:00AM
12

Grace Funeral Chapels

5980 West Oakland Park Blvd., Lauderhill, FL, US, 33313

Comments



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lilla Stampley - September 15, 2020 at 07:29 PM



“ It pains me so much to write this eulogy, for I loved my Uncle Mel very much. He is worthy of much praise! He was a constant positive presence in my life. We had many discussions about life and the importance of being Godly. I loved hearing him speak his political views and learned so much. His passing leaves a void which cannot be filled. I will sorely miss those conversations. When I asked him to officiate his grandniece's (my daughter's) marriage, he did not hesitate. It was at that time, when I saw him in his white robe, that I realized how amazingly handsome he was. When he walked into a room, it made me want to stand to attention, pay attention and focus on him. His words were direct, and his comments pointed. He was a very straightforward man, but he also had a comical side. I will surely miss his jokes. I can hear him now, in my ear, after a conversation chuckling and saying, "alrighty then, here's your Aunt Grace". Although he was opinionated, his beliefs were uplifting and valid, and always made so much sense. He was always quick to give me excellent advice and mail me important information he thought I needed. I remember him shouting, "I LOVE YOU". Those were his last words to me before he handed off the phone to Aunt Grace. I will miss him every day, every hour and most of all when I communicate with my Aunt Grace. She reminds me often that he is still with us in spirit and that keeps me going. Thank God for her and thank God for him. Written by his niece, Lilla Herron Stampley

Lilla Stampley - September 15, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ Melville was a very special person to me and my family. I met him at his first Inverrary Homeowners meeting and was very happy that we finally had a retired person to take the reins of the Association as there was too much to do and very little time and too few people to get it done. Not only was Melville more than up to the task, he also took on additional volunteer responsibilities with the City of Lauderhill where he displayed his outstanding skills and competence. We will always remember him for his kindness, dedication, integrity, sense of humor and energy.

Melville, you were a true friend and i will miss our dining table discussions. Rest in Peace my Brother.

My condolences to Grace, Dexter, Dwayne and the rest of the family.

Robert, Angie and Ryan Irvine

ROBERT IRVINE - September 12, 2020 at 01:05 PM



“ Pleasure to call him friend, frater and brother. Most sharing, giving and loving person one could have associated with.
Peace and love to family and may his soul rest in peace.

Leroy Robinson - September 12, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ I remember Mr. Melville as a Christian man who was devoted to GOD and his Church families at home and the gathered Church. In my absence he always responded to my mother's call for assistance. She too has fallen asleep, in faith.
May your souls rest in peace as we await the upward call.

Thank you cousin Melville.



Trevor Hastings - September 12, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ Bro Heron has been my councilor mentor and friend for so many years. Our fraternal and spiritual interaction has been so great. May his soul rest in PEACE.
Bro Stedman Stennett and family.

Stedman Stennett - September 12, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ Melvin Herron was a man of enormous faith. My dad held Uncle Mel in such high regards, he always says he was like his father. I remember as a baby, my brother and I, Uncle Mel was there for every event or function. There was not a time that he was not around if we all gathered. Our dearest memory of Mel will be when he did the funeral service for our beloved mom, wife, Lorna Longott on Oct 17, 2018. He was so full of life while performing the service. We are all so heart broken that he has transitioned from this earth to the next life. He will never be forgotten.

We love you Gracie and for ever will love Mel. May he be resting well, God's humble servant. Job well done.

Sincerely Veron(Stephen), Olivia, & Christopher Longott

Olivia Longott - September 12, 2020 at 09:48 AM



“ Growing up on East 48th Street in Brooklyn was very special. We had parents who would do anything for us and all of the children were well taken care of by the village. As president of the block association, Mr. Herron taught us all how to be great citizens and how important civic engagement is for this country to continue to be what it is. He was also adept at ensuring we pursued all necessary avenues to get whatever our community needed. My memories of those times are of love and a true sense of community. I will never forget his distinctive whistle which could be heard in every corner of the block, calling the boys home and of course who could forget the slamming of dominoes onto the table into the wee hours of the morning. Mr. Herron lived a life to be admired and I am grateful to have been a part of his village. Well done sir, well done.

Cathy Aikins - September 12, 2020 at 09:28 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Herron, Dwayne, and Dexter,

First I want to say that I am so sorry for your loss Mr. Herron will be greatly missed by all. As one of the kids who grew up on East 48th Street in Brooklyn, Mr. Herron had a big impact on us as a role model, educator, and protector. We may not have understood the importance of the things he tried to teach us until we became adults.

One of the things he taught us was the importance of voting and the voting process. Mr. Herron ran to become Mayor of NYC several times as kids we would get signatures for Mr. Herron's candidacy and we would make sure that everyone on the block was registered to vote that was our first civics lesson. Mr. Herron was one of the leaders of our Block Association, he and the other members planned the best block parties and activities for all who lived there. I have so many fond memories and will leave you with this:

H - High Achiever - not only the Mr. Herron emphasized education he went to school as an Adult to become a Reverend he was always learning something new

E - Energetic - no one had more energy and drive and we kids knew him as an enforcer

R - Rigorous - Mr. Herron was a detailed oriented person who could quickly back out a car in a narrow driveway without a scratch

R - Recreation -the best parties were in Mr. Herron's basement he was a great dancer

O - Opportunity Mr. Herron know where to find jobs for people and where to get things

N - Noteworthy after reading all of these tributes, Mr. Herron made a mark on all of our lives.

Sincerely,

Joyce Spratley Henry

Joyce Spratley Henry - September 11, 2020 at 10:32 PM



“ There are lots of people who enter and exit your consciousness without leaving an imprint, Melville Herron was not one of those people. He was an example of how one should successfully conduct their life.
He came into my family's life by purchasing the home directly across from ours and it took no time for us to become friends.
He resuscitated the floundering Home Owners Association and conscripted me as his VP.
Although I didn't do any of the heavy lifting I learned a lot from his approach to getting things done. Not many people know that he initiated the move to have all those attractive looking walls that surround many Lauderhill communities.
I will truly miss our regular get together at his home, with a couple of other friends, where we would discussed how to resolve the worlds problem's.
On behalf of my family, our desire is that he rest in peace.

Deswin Miller - September 11, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ There are memories that time and distance can never erase, the time spent as a searching young man up the block on East 48th street placed within my life lessons that stand with me to this very day. When my mother called and gave me the news out of the pause and over the time and the miles I realized that there still is a level of RESPECT that Mr. Herron (that's what I always called him) even now still commands. Condolences and Prayers to the family.

Robert M. Wright

Robert M. Wright - September 10, 2020 at 09:21 PM



“ Mr Herron was the best neighbor and friend I could ever ask for especially for my mom. We as a family thought of him as a part of our family. I could always depend on him to keep me informed about mummy whenever I'm in NY. I remember trying to reach my mom on the phone on several occasions but couldn't... I called his phone he would answer right away and without hesitation went next door tell my mom I'm searching for her and get her to call back. I could always count on him no matter what. He is soooooo deeply missed by everyone in this family . Nina and her family send condolences to his family. He lives in our memories forever.

Debi Nina Russell - September 08, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Melville Bertram Herron.



September 07, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ Dear Grace,

The first time I met Mel he not only was kind and welcoming but he also made me feel as if we were instant friends. I had the privilege to attend your 40th wedding anniversary celebration at St. Paul's United Methodist Church June 26. 1999. I still have the program. The love you had for Mel will never stop.

Gods Blessings for you, Dexter, and Dwayne are in my prayers.

You have sorrow now but I will see you again John 16:22

My condolences,

Dale Toscano

Dale Toscano - September 07, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ I will always remember and be grateful for the E 48 Street village we had. Thank you for all you and Mel did for my family. May God continue to watch over you and give you strength during this time. Yours in Christ's love Alistine and family.

Alistine Aikins - September 08, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ Dear Herron Family,

I share your sadness as you remember Reverend Herron's life. The 'Rev' was a champion of the truth who always worked to make Lauderhill a better place. He was my friend and I will miss him.

May God bless your family,
Chuck Faranda

Chuck Faranda - September 07, 2020 at 08:24 AM



“ 17 files added to the album Dad



M Dwayne Herron - September 06, 2020 at 04:28 AM



“ Mel was the cousin of my late husband, Terence. He and his wife Grace took our son Michael under their roof and supervision when he migrated to New York (NY) 40 years ago. They were known as Mike's second parents and both families became friends with visiting rights any time.

When they lived in NY, Mel picked me up numerous times at the airport after I arrived from various business trips in Europe, and took me back to the airport for my departures home to Jamaica.

With Mel and Grace moving to Florida, we were able to visit and keep in touch more regularly. He was always ready to display his backyard farm and share whatever fruit was ready for reaping.

Mel was a very social person, always on the go. Whenever he visited Jamaica, Mel would keep us posted on what he planned to do with the family property in rural Jamaica. We always looked forward to his family updates.

I have many fond memories of Mel; my family and I will truly miss him. May his soul rest in peace.

Merel Hanson

Merel Hanson - September 05, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ Dearest Grace, words cannot express the feeling of loss that we all feel with the passing of Mel.

The Toppin family would like to offer our deepest condolences to you, Dwayne and Dexter, and your extended family.

Our families have known each other for nearly fifty years. We share so many memories with each other, we met as friends that became family a life time ago.

Grace, even though it's been a few months since Mel's passing, my heart knows your pain and it is reaching out to you everyday for what you're going through. I know your heart is broken as it's hard to say goodbye; but know I'm thinking of you frequently and praying for you too.

Mel and Edwin along with many other that have passed on. I can close my eyes and see them at the dominion table ready to play, I can hear them slap those dominions on the table and I can hear them chatting it up, their laughter, and feel their love. Mel will be truly missed.

Grace I wish I could be there with you and hope you know if there's something I can do, all you need to do is call.

With loving memories;

The Toppin Family, -Sally, Sandra, Michele, Jonathan, and your godson, Stephen.

Sally A Toppin - September 04, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ Melville (Mel) Herron and I went to the same elementary school, Gurney's Mount All Age Elementary School, but I never knew him, he was in a higher class. I was friendly with his brother Eddie, we were in the same class.

Several yeas later while residing in Brooklyn, New York, Mel and I became friends. This was due to our working closely together in forming the Gurney's Mount All Age Elementary School Alumni Association, and planning and hosting fund raising events. The Association's annual barbecues were held at the residence of Mel and Grace in Brooklyn.

Coincidentally, when Mel and Grace moved to Florida, they purchased their home on the same street my cousin lives on (bout four houses apart from each other). Whenever I visited Florida (Ft. Lauderdale to be more specific), although Mel was busy with the various associations and civic duties with which he was involved he always found the time to entertain me at their home or visiting my cousin's home. We all went out for dinners or Mel would cook his famous pork or bought Chinese food.

North West 75th Avenue will never be the same .. Mel is no longer there for us to have those discussions while having a drink (or two) of Appleton and coconut water (in a mug, of course)..

Bye Mel, until we meet again. I know Aunt Ruby was happy to meet you, I can imagine the conversations and laughter. Rest in Peace, May Light Perpetual Shine on you.

Daphne Quarless & Family

Daphne Quarless - September 02, 2020 at 09:36 PM



“ Mr. Herron is dearly missed by his next door neighbors Marcia, Markus and Marlon. I never had to worry about my coconut branches or the safety of my home. On many occasions if I forgot to close my garage door or anything out of the ordinary I could count on Mr. Herron to let me know. I miss him so much it is so strange not to see him on the sidewalk in the mornings or evenings. He made such an impact in our community and fought to keep our neighborhood safe and clean. May you rest in peace and continue to watch over us. Miss Grace we are here for you. Much love and respect.

Marcia Singletary - September 01, 2020 at 08:21 PM



“ My family and I are deeply sadden, the passing of Melville Bertram Herron, affectionately known to us as Br. Mel.
We offer our deepest condolences to his wife
Grace and family.
The passing of a loved one is always extremely difficult for those left mourn.
Br. Mel will always live on the memory of all those who knew him and loved him.
Bro mel. will always live on the affection of
All who knew the kindness of his heart
And the true mobility of his mind.
Br.Mel will be surely missed by all of us.May his soul in un interrupted peace, eternal
in the heavens
Fraternally.
Bro. Carltom & family.

Carlton mclean - August 30, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ The City of Lauderhill will memorialize the impressive life of the Rev. Dr. Melville Herron by renaming a street - NW 70th Avenue between 50th Street and Commercial Boulevard - after him. Because of Covid-19, no public event is scheduled at this time. However, the street unveiling will be live-streamed on the City's website (www.lauderhill.gov) and will reside there indefinitely.

Patricia Tabois - August 11, 2020 at 10:15 AM



“ Such a wonderful honor, and most deserving.

Tanya Ragbeer - September 07, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ . I've had the pleasure of knowing Brother Mel since the early 1990's and he was always one of the Brothers that always carried joy and fellowship wherever he traveled. It was always a pleasure to see and talk to Mel.Brother Mel will be missed
My sincere condolences to the Herron Family,
Robert Holland

Robert Holland - July 24, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ 40 years ago, as I started college in New York, Cousin Mel received me into his Brooklyn home and treated me like one of his sons. The knowledge of my residing with him and Aunt Grace eased most of the concerns my parents had with my move to the US. His benevolence, values, and wisdom left an enduring impression on me, building on the foundation I had established before meeting him.

The Hanson Family offers our heartfelt condolences to Aunt Grace, Dwayne, and Dexter. Be strong for each other with the knowledge that we will see Cousin Mel again in paradise.

Mike Hanson

Mike Hanson - July 23, 2020 at 05:48 PM



“ I did not know Melville, but his sons are fine men, of whom any father should be proud. May he rest in peace, knowing that through them he has made the world a better place.

Cyrus Eyster - July 19, 2020 at 10:58 PM



“ I didn't know Brother Melville. I am fortunate to call his son my friend and Brother.

I hope this will offer a bit of comfort; my grandfather left a copy of this poem in his effects, never knowing that 18 years later, his grandson would also become a Mason. (He wasn't the author; the author is credited below)

The Work

The gavel sounds
and all is still:
The Master speaks,
proclaims his will:
Each one obeys,
takes up his tools.
Inspects the plan,
consults the rules:
With trowel and level,
plumb and square,
Each stone is set
exactly where
The plan provides,
the drawing shows
And day by day
the Temple grows:
The porch is finished,
pillars placed;
The strands of net-work
interlaced;
The chambers furnished,
pavement laid,
The sacred vessels
all displayed:
The walls are standing
straight and true;
The roof is on,
the labor through:
The Master speaks,
The work is done:
The gavel sounds,
God calls us home.

- Brother Montford C. Holley

Rest in peace, Brother.



“ Worshipful Brother Herron was a very honorable and accomplished Freemason and Past Master of J. Dewey Hawkins Masonic Lodge No. 331, Oakland Park Florida.

I considered Worshipful Herron a good friend.

My wife Janet and I offer our heartfelt condolences and comfort and prayers to Lady Grace and the Herron family.

This Brother will be missed.

Michael and Janet Binder

Mike Binder - July 19, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ I have soooooo many memories growing up in Brooklyn across the street from the Herrons. But my most unexpected Melvin Herron story is as follows. I was looking at a wedding pictures of dear friends from Howard University long after their wedding when I recognized the officiant...it was Mr Herron. I was unable to go to the wedding and I didn't know that my neighbor had married two of my dear friends. The world is such a small place.



Kay - July 19, 2020 at 08:22 PM



“ Memory--Melville B. Herron

One of Mel's influencers was Rev. Rupert Adams, Grace's dad. He was a Methodist minister who served in Delair, East Orange and Orange NJ. Mel looked to him for guidance in both religious and family matters.

Mel's education and professional life also covered Civil Engineering, the training and occupation of Grace's brother Andy. We were able to relate with each other on many levels. With Grace's sister Patricia, and Andy and his wife Elaine, we will always be grateful for the great legacy that Mel has given to his family.

Andy Adams - July 19, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ Brother Mel was always a kind and very respectful gentleman. Of deep religious convictions. A great friend and role model as Brother Mason. Always had the opportunity of sharing great and profound conversations about many different topics. At the end of his life I was next to him as one of the physicians that took care of him. Was able to keep his wife Grace informed on a regular basis of his condition all the way to the day that he passed to the eternal lodge. Will always miss you Brother. Rest In Peace and May your pathway continues in the other side. Ramon Ramirez

ramin ramirez - July 19, 2020 at 07:39 PM



“ I, first, met Melville at one of our family reunions on Grand Turk, years ago. Aside from his wealth of of general knowledge, I so enjoyed his sense of humor. I am, eternally, grateful for Melville officiating a memorial service for my mother, nearly two years ago, in West Palm Beach. Sending love to cousin Grace and the entire family.

Michael Adams - July 19, 2020 at 07:17 PM



“ I know my father (retired shop teacher) greatly enjoyed talking with him the one time they met!

Jenna - July 19, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ Mr. Melville had a lot of Knowledge.....he loved to share with everyone.....Rest Easy Family.....

KimRichardson - July 19, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ My father holding court. If you wanted to know what was going on in the neighborhood and be a part of it, you went to see my Dad.



Dexter Herron - July 19, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Grace Herron - July 18, 2020 at 07:31 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Grace Herron - July 18, 2020 at 07:29 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Grace Herron - July 18, 2020 at 07:26 PM



“ From carmen James. Mel was like a father to me, I miss him so much, words cannot explain rest in peace

Carmen - July 18, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ About 18 years ago I was privileged to cross paths with this wonderful Soul personality, Rev. DR. Melville B. Herron, fondly called Rev by his friends. At our first meeting we shook hands, and from that moment we bonded and wrote a beautiful history of brotherhood. I learned much from the times that we shared, and we shared many a lighthearted moment together. His wife Grace Herron provided a beautiful life partnership with him and he always felt blessed to have her as his wife. Brother Mel, and I called him Brother as that had a special meaning for us, lived life to the fullest he left nothing undone if it was in his power to do it; he lived by the adage “Whatsoever thou resolvest to do, do it quickly. Defer not till the evening what the morning may accomplish.” This was the way he lived, a lesson learned and a life lived.

Rev. Dr. Melville Herron was an avid reader and seeker of knowledge. He had at his disposal both digital and print mediums to support his reading, but he had a passionate love for the print medium, he could be seen engrossed in an actual newspaper or an old hardcover book or books. He would spend days preparing his projects if he had to deliver a sermon or chair a group meeting. He was dedicated to whatever he undertook. He loved to encourage everyone that he associated with to find their passion and pursue it.

I loved that man, Rev. Dr. Melville B. Herron, but although I miss his physical presence I feel privileged to have met him, the memories we shared is alive and well, and would always be vivid in my mind. We all love you and miss you, we were all privileged to know you on this plane. I feel gratitude to you for all that you imparted to me and to all those that you have touched. Travel well My Brother.

Fr. Michael Sutherland

Michael Sutherland - July 17, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ Mel enjoyed watching old sitcoms like 'All in the Family' and he would laugh at the antics of Archie Bunker, the not-so-politically-correct throwback from the "old days". He used e-mail and social media to share his latest jokes with his wide circle of friends, and share laughs. Like a true Jamaican son of the earth he had a backyard that was an orchard of fruits and vegetables including sugar cane, mangos, avocados, and scotch bonnet peppers. Friends and neighbors stopped by to enjoy fruits in season and swap jokes and stories. His was truly a life well lived, well admired and he will long be remembered. RIP Mel! Andy Adams

Andy Adams - July 15, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ I grew up knowing the entire Herron family at Great Valley, and as a matter of fact, my uncle was their tailor. By the time I started the Gurney's Mt. primary school, Mr. Herron had already left, but fortunately, my older siblings, Cecil, Lola and Babs, talked about Melvin a lot. As adults living in Brooklyn, NY, our paths crossed again, and I remember visiting his home - accompanied by Sis, Daphne, and Tibsy. I even raided his garden for mint cuttings. Again, when my daughter died, it was Melvin who officiated at her funeral.

The world has lost a true gentleman. May his soul Rest In Peace.

Patsy Madourie-DeVeaux

Dr. Sybil DeVeaux - July 20, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Brother Mel was a man of character, integrity, and compassion.

Late April of this year Frater Mike Sutherland and I were together

at Rev's house to spend a little time like we always do whenever

it's possible to talk about life, politics and our temple.

We had a stellar moment at the table. It is so true behind a great

man there is a great woman, Ms. Grace Herron such a

marvelous person. May God continue to strengthen and

encourage you every single day.

Frater Mel "Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts"

à Dieu mon Frère.

Brother Kernes.

Kernes Conze - July 21, 2020 at 12:36 PM



“ I had the privilege and absolute honor to have met Rev. Herron about 13 years ago and only found out just now that he passed on in May. I am indeed saddened by his passing but is assured that "we shall meet on that beautiful shore" To his wife, children and family i pray

for peace and comfort during these difficult times and may the good Lord illuminate your path and dilute your sadness and give you perpetual peace. Rev. Herron's life was a blessing and as we mourn his passing we must always remember the principles and virtues for which he stood.

Blessings always!

Denzle G. Latty, Esq.

DENZLE G. LATTY, ESQ. - September 08, 2020 at 05:38 AM