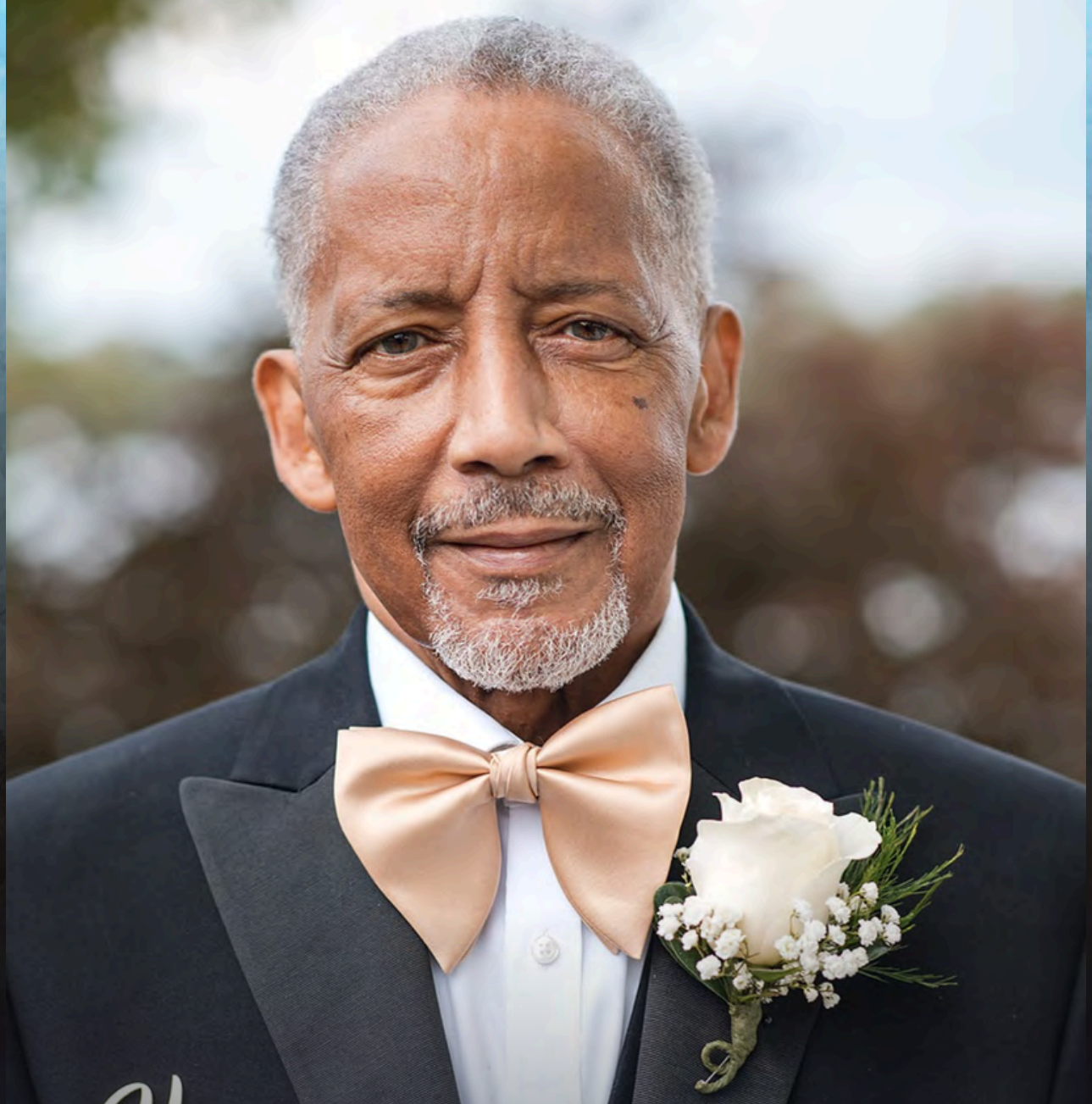


HB

Celebration of Life

HOWARD A. BURNETT

DECEMBER 15, 1952 ~ OCTOBER 28, 2026

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 , 2026

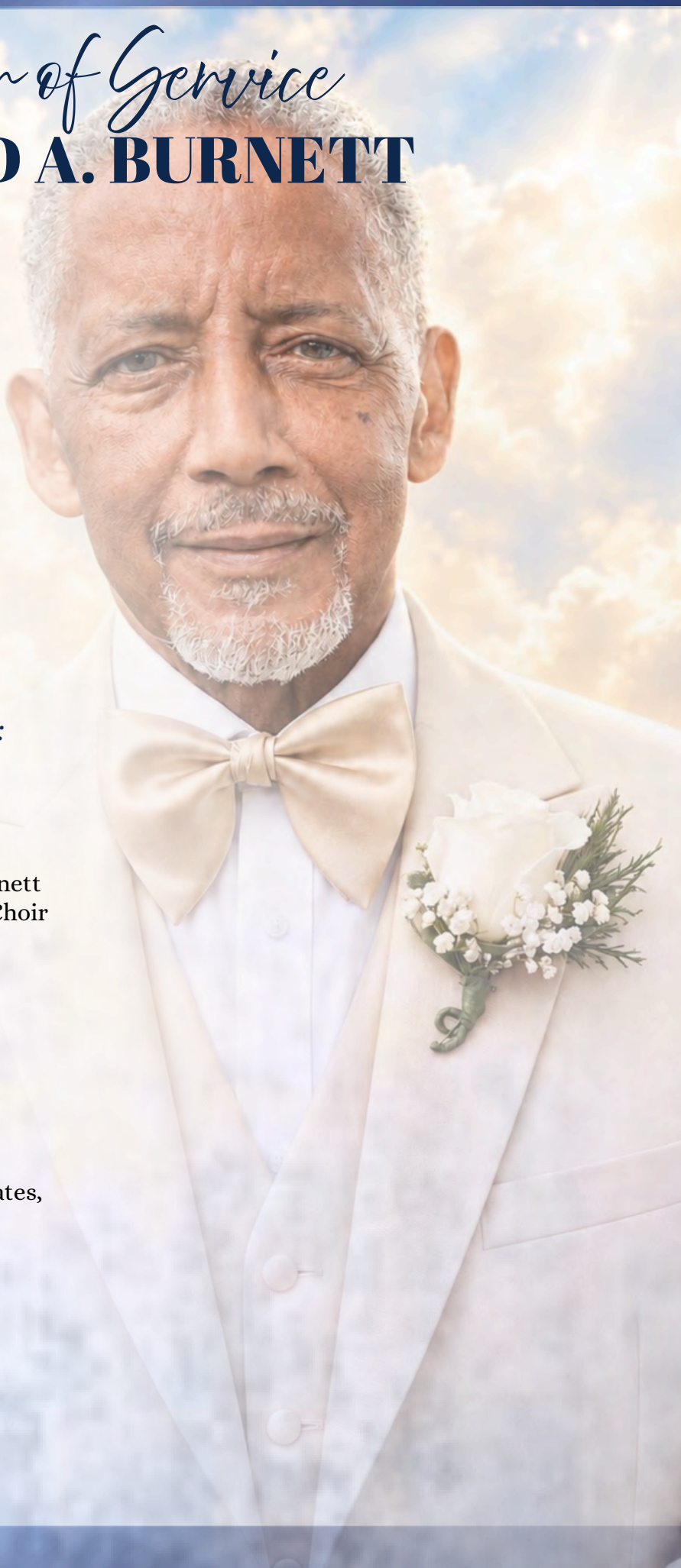
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OF LANDOVER

REVEREND BE LOUIS COLLETON, PASTOR

8801 Ardwick Ardmore Rd, Glenarden, MD 20706

Order of Service

HOWARD A. BURNETT



Prelude
Music, Video of Pictures,
Reverend Clara Irick

Worship: Stephanie Yates
"His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Scripture Readings:
Old testament:
Psalms: 46:10, Psalms 112:5-6
read by Trinity Howard

New Testament:
1 Thessalonians 4 :13-14
read by Cathy Yates

Prayer of Comfort/Short Remarks:
Elder Dennis Yates,
Reverend Maurice Banks III

Dance Tribute:
Malik Austin Burnett and Jaden Noelle Burnett
"Oh Lord How Excellent" By: River of Life Choir

Acknowledgments:
Barbara Holt Streeter

Obituary: read in silence

Words of Comfort/Reflections on Howard A. Burnett:
Andre Hornsby, Anthony Caravan, Deon Yates,
Jerrod Burnett

Worship: Shirletta Settles
"I want Jesus to walk with me"

Eulogy and Benediction:
Reverend Ralph Williams

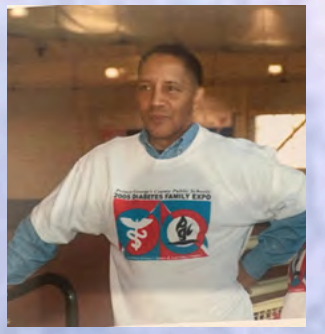
Recessional

Celebrating

A LIFE WELL LIVED







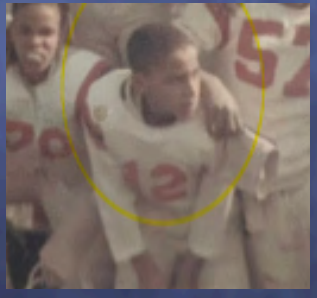




HOWARD A. BURNETT

December 15,1952- October 28, 2026




A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND FAMILY

Howard A. Burnett

Howard A. Burnett was born on December 15, 1952, in Washington, D.C., to Dolores E. Burnett and Mercer W. Burnett. His early years were spent in several neighborhoods throughout the District before his family settled into their home on Oneida Street in the Riggs Park community in 1961. It was there that Howard began developing his interest in leadership, service, and community involvement.

Howard attended LaSalle Elementary School, Bertie Backus Junior High School, and Louis Charles Rabaut Junior High School before graduating from Calvin Coolidge High School in June 1970. A talented young athlete, Howard served as quarterback for the Lamond-Riggs Boys & Girls Club football team, leading the team to its first championship.

During his years at Calvin Coolidge, Howard served as an assistant to physical education teacher and football coach Phillip Gainous. This experience sparked his interest in education and inspired him to pursue a career in teaching. Accepted to both Howard University and the District of Columbia Teachers College (DCTC), Howard made the practical decision to attend DCTC, where tuition was just $35 per semester compared to $350 at Howard University. He graduated in 1974, having served as Class President.

While attending college, Howard also completed the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at neighboring Howard University and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. He continued his military service for more than two decades, retiring in the late 1990s.

Howard's commitment to community service began at an early age. At just 19 years old, he was elected Chairman of the Neighborhood Planning Council in Riggs Park. In this role, he helped establish programs for young people, including tutoring initiatives, youth basketball tournaments, and a Courtesy Patrol that encouraged teenagers to take an active role in serving their community. His early involvement reflected a commitment to education and leadership that continued throughout his career.

A Career in Education and Public Service

Howard dedicated 31 years to Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) before his initial retirement in 2006. Throughout his career, he served in numerous capacities, including classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, labor relations officer, executive assistant to the superintendent, associate superintendent for human resources, acting deputy superintendent, and interim chief executive officer.

His leadership spanned the administrations of six superintendents and chief executive officers, and he played an important role in facilitating five successful leadership transitions. As Chief Negotiator for the Board of Education, Howard earned a reputation for fairness, sound judgment, and the ability to navigate complex negotiations with professionalism and integrity. His experience allowed him to serve effectively under elected, appointed, and hybrid Boards of Education.

Howard's dedication to public service extended beyond the school system. He subsequently served as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services for Prince George's County under two County Executives, retiring from that position in 2011.

Following his retirement, Howard continued to contribute his time and expertise to several community organizations. He served as Chairman and Board Member of the Foundation for Applied Technology Construction for Students (FACTS – Student Built House), Board President of Nonprofit Prince George's County, and Council Vice Chairman of the Salvation Army Regional Advisory Board.

In July 2018, Howard returned to PGCPS at the request of Dr. Monica Goldson, then Chief Executive Officer. He served as Senior Advisor to the CEO and Chief Negotiator for the Board of Education until July 2023. He subsequently served as Senior Advisor to PGCPS Human Resources during the transition to a new superintendent, continuing in that role through June 2024.

A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND FAMILY
Howard A. Burnett

In April 2026, Howard returned once again at the request of the Superintendent and Board of Education, serving as Chief Negotiator for a union contract in June 2026.

Throughout his career, Howard was respected for his knowledge, fairness, and ability to work with people at every level of an organization. His continued involvement in the school system reflected both the trust others placed in his leadership and his longstanding commitment to public education and the Prince George's County community.

Family, Character, and Personal Life

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Howard was a loving and devoted family man who valued time spent with those he loved. He was patient, kind, encouraging, and consistent, always offering thoughtful advice, steady support, and a voice of reason when it was needed most.

Howard also had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed having fun and sharing laughter with family and friends. He loved bringing people together and took great pleasure in hosting family gatherings, creating opportunities for everyone to connect and enjoy one another's company.

Howard believed in the importance of character, integrity, and personal responsibility. One of his favorite sayings was, "You take yourself with you wherever you go," a reminder that who you are matters regardless of where life takes you. It was a principle reflected in the way he lived and in the guidance he shared with his family.

Whether offering words of encouragement, sharing a laugh, or bringing everyone together for a celebration, Howard made those around him feel loved, supported, and valued.

Family and Loved Ones

Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Dolores E. Burnett and Mercer W. Burnett, and his brother-in-law, Wayne Robinson.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Gloria Brown Burnett; his children, Tiffany Burnett Howard, Jerrod Burnett (Shakita), Malik Austin Burnett, and Jaden Noelle Burnett; and his bonus children, Bethany Garcia, Ian Brown, and Meghan Brown.

He is also survived by his sisters, Liz Burnett, Patricia Robinson, and Cathy Yates (Dennis); his grandchildren, David Burnett, Zaire Burnett, Jarvis Burnett, Trinity Howard, and Takashi Howard; his nephews, Bill Burnett (Xavier and Raelyn) and Wayne Robinson (Michael, Aliyna, and Janessa); and his niece, Alicia Robinson (Ajari, Amiyah, and Aiden), along with a host of extended family members, colleagues, and beloved friends.

A Lasting Legacy

Howard A. Burnett dedicated much of his life to education, leadership, and public service. He took pride in helping others, strengthening his community, and creating opportunities for future generations. His professional contributions were significant, but equally important were the relationships he maintained and the love and guidance he shared with his family.

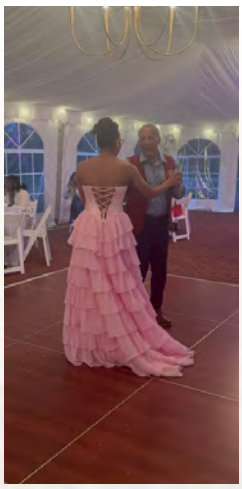
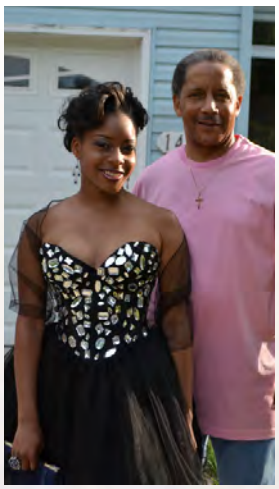
He will be remembered for his servant leadership, genuine concern for others, wisdom, humor, generosity, and commitment to bringing people together. His influence will continue through the family he loved, the people he mentored, and the many lives he touched throughout his wonderfully blessed life.




2022 PGCPS HALL OF FAME
GALA



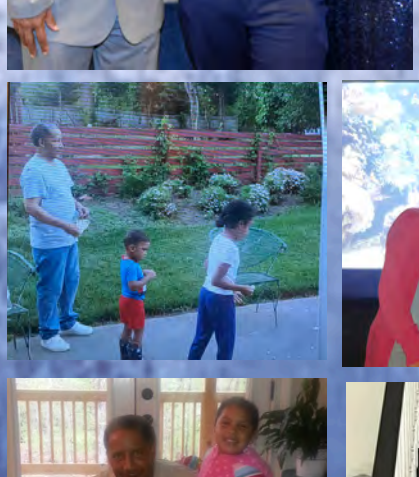

















AWESOME
DAD


HOWARD


WE ARE















































Thank You

FROM THE FAMILY OF MR. HOWARD BURNETT

We, the family of Mr. Howard A. Burnett, express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your prayers, love, and support during our time of loss. We thank you for the many calls, cards, and expressions of sympathy extended by colleagues, family and friends. Your kindness will always be remembered.

We extend a special thanks to Reverend Be Louis Colleton, Pastor, and the Shiloh Baptist Church of Landover family for their continued support. We also extend special thanks to Ray and Pamela Adams, Tiffany Turner (Non-Profit Prince George's County), Gary Michael, Dennis Brownlee and the many friends who have come along side us to offer love, support, and sustenance during this difficult time.



Following the service, the family will gather privately for their repast. We kindly ask for your understanding and continued prayers as we share this private time for comfort and reflection.

~ Urn Bearer ~
The Burnett/Brown Family

~ Florist ~
Johnnie's Florist LLC
2000 Georgia Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001

~ Celebration of Life Coordinator ~
Impact Enterprises

~ Program Design & Graphics ~
OGM Designs LLC

~ Program Printer ~
CH Graphics