



## Taylor Knowles, III

September 7, 1942 - November 3, 2023

Born on September 7, 1942, in Gadsden, Alabama, to the union of Taylor Knowles, Jr. and Esther Mae Stone Knowles, Taylor Knowles, III was the son of proud parents who instilled in him a strong sense of faith and community.

From a young age, Taylor's spiritual journey led him to Athens CME Church, where he found solace and embraced the teachings of Christ. Later, he became a devoted member of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Gadsden, where throughout the years he faithfully served as a senior deacon and choir director sharing his devotion and compassion with others.

With a thirst for knowledge, Taylor pursued his early education at James L. Cain Elementary School and later graduating in 1960 from Carver High School. He continued his journey by earning his Associate's Degree. He valued education and recognized its power to shape lives and uplift communities. Immediately following high school, Taylor decided to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army. Once completing his duty there, he served in the Reserves as an A Unit National Guard 1st Sergeant and later became a member of the California Army National Guard until retiring to continue enjoying the fruits of his labor.

In addition to his professional achievements, Taylor embraced his cultural heritage and was actively involved in preserving African-American history and

culture. As the property manager and financial manager at the Central Carver Legacy Museum, he was instrumental in preserving the legacy of old Carver High School and ensuring that future generations could learn from our shared history.

Taylor's commitment to service extended beyond his professional and community endeavors. He was a devoted Freemason who reached the esteemed level of 33rd Degree and held various leadership positions within the Masonic community. As the Most Worthy Grand Master of Masons (Modern Free California) and Grand Potentate of Al Kodash Shriner (Modern Free AF & AM of the World), he exemplified the values of brotherhood, compassion, and unity.

While on this 81-year earthly journey, Taylor united in holy matrimony to Lois Waddles and to this union two children born Michelle and Patrece. Later in life he married Dianne Melton Weatherly on September 8, 2003. Taylor was a loving and devoted father to his children, both of whom brought immeasurable joy and pride to his life. Additionally, he welcomed his bonus son, Tony, into his heart as his own. Taylor was a pillar of love and support to his family and community, always there to offer guidance and encouragement.

Family was of utmost importance to Taylor, and he took great delight in being a doting grandfather to his grandchildren, Mya and Trenton Hickman, and Corian Santiago. He reveled in their achievements and nurtured their dreams, leaving an indelible mark on their lives.

Taylor Knowles III, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, nephew, and esteemed member of the community peacefully answered his Master's summons to come from labor to reward on November 3, 2023, at the age of 81, while surrounded by his loved ones at Riverview Regional Medical Center in Gadsden, Alabama. He was reunited with his parents, Taylor Knowles, Jr.

and Esther Knowles, and sister, Teresa.

Taylor's warm and compassionate nature extended beyond his immediate family and his legacy of love and precious memories will continue to live on in the hearts of his loving and devoted wife, Dianne Knowles; two beloved daughters, Michelle (Danny) Clifford of Portland, Maine and Patrece (Terrell) Hickman of Rancho Cucamonga, California; bonus son, Tony Weatherly of Gadsden, Alabama; two grandchildren, Mya Hickman and Trenton Hickman of Rancho Cucamonga, California; bonus grandson, Corian Santiago of Gadsden, Alabama; two brothers, Willie (LeeAnne) Knowles of Huntington Beach, California, and Michael (Francine) Knowles of Chicago, Illinois; two sisters, Johnnie (Buford) Pope of Rialto, California and Shirley Knowles of Atlanta, Georgia; aunt, Dorothy Price of Chicago, Illinois ; uncle, Leon Knowles of Gadsden, Alabama; special children, Jamella, Shenette, Tina, Cam, Malik, Amaria, Aloni, and J.J.; two brothers-in-law, Bernard (Val) Melton and Marlon Melton (Teresa) both of Gadsden, Alabama; two sisters-in-law, Celetha (William) Cunningham of Gadsden, Alabama and Marcia (John) Edmondson of Stockbridge, Georgia; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Taylor touched the lives of countless individuals through his exemplary career as a dedicated City Supervisor in the public works industry while residing in Ontario, California. His commitment to improving his community and ensuring a better future for all will forever be remembered. Taylor's tireless efforts in civic service and his boundless passion for public works made a lasting impact on the lives of those he served.

Taylor Knowles III will forever be remembered for his kind heart, unwavering devotion to his loved ones, and passion for making a difference. His legacy of

love, resilience, and compassion will continue to inspire us all. Though we grieve his loss, we find solace in knowing that his spirit will live on in the hearts of those he touched.

May his soul find everlasting peace, and may we find strength in the memories we shared with Taylor, a man whose heart overflowed with compassion and love.

# Cemetery Details

## Lincoln Hill Cemetery

408 Miller Ave  
Gadsden, AL 35901

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

NOV **9**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Oak Grove Baptist Church  
1513 Rose St.  
Gadsden, AL 35903

## Celebration of Life

NOV **10**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Baptist Church  
1115 Tuscaloosa Ave  
Gadsden, AL 35901

# Tribute Wall

ES

“ After losing a husband, father, grandfather or anyone close to you...Nobody tells you that on a bright sunny day just driving down the road for no reason at all, tears will start to fill up in your eyes out of nowhere...Nobody tells you that for minutes on end, your mind puts you back in that time and place of trauma and you feel it all over again, so much so that you have to literally snap yourself out of it, and shake it off and say to yourself "I'm ok"... Let no one tell you there is a time limit on grief....Prayers and Comfort during this time and the days ahead; in JESUS NAME 🙏🙏❤️🙏🙏

Enga and ArieYuna Sturns - November 10, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Taylor Knowles, III.



November 08, 2023 at 09:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Taylor Knowles, III.



November 08, 2023 at 12:13 PM

AL

“ Annie L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Taylor Knowles, III.

Annie L. - November 08, 2023 at 12:13 PM

MG

“ Sincere condolences to the family from the Martin and Goldwire families. I have great memories of visiting your home in California with my parents when I was a child, and had fun playing with Patrice and the puppy you all had. Great memories!! Rest In Heaven Mr Knowles 🙏

Marche (Martin) Goldwire - November 07, 2023 at 08:06 PM

JA

“ Wow! I just want people to know this was a really good man! I remember Christmas morning He put the training wheels on my bike because I couldn't ride and me enjoying the bike while he did stuff in the garage and watched me. Growing up he continued to randomly visit me, he would drive and meet my mom half way, we would have our bags packed and ready for the week! We would always stop to have breakfast/ lunch somewhere..that was our thing!! He took me to a lot of little unique places growing up. He was also a mason back in California, I remember he would put on his outfits and we would go to their place of business. He was the man in there!! We would go to church whenever we visited him In Alabama, him and Diane would find someone to do our hair. And he knew how to cook very well! One day he cooked me frog legs but told me it was chicken lol but it was soooo good. I can go on and on about him. As I am so sad and heartbroken knowing my physical journey here on earth with you has come to an end, I know that you are a strong believer in god and you served him well...your with him now 🧡 I love you grandpa, -Mela

Jamela - November 06, 2023 at 08:47 AM

CH

“ *I just met Mr. Knowles a year ago. He had a gentle spirit, and I could just tell, from the first time, I met him. Rest in peace!* ”

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**Cherri Hudson** - November 06, 2023 at 06:58 AM

PT

“ *Pat Turner lit a candle in memory of Taylor Knowles, III* ”



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**Pat Turner** - November 04, 2023 at 05:55 PM