

Celebrating the Life of



Albert Einstein
HANDY

December 2, 1930 - January 19, 2024

Saturday, January 27, 2024

12:00 pm C.S.T.

Powell Chapel UMC

100 3rd Place NE

LaFayette, AL 36862

Rev. Kelsey Barnes, Pastor

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Invocation.....Rev. Kelsey Barnes
Powell Chapel UMC, LaFayette, AL

Song.....*Amazing Grace*

Lessons from Holy Scripture:

Old Testament Scripture.....Byron P. Marshall - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

New Testament Scripture.....Joi Gresham-Conant - II Corinthian 1:3-4

Song.....*How Great Thou Art*

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Randy B. Kelley
Pastor of Lakeside UMC, Huntsville AL

Reflections.....The Family:
Dr. Catherine Marshall
Elizabeth Handy
Albert E. Handy

Song.....*His Eyes are on the Sparrow*

Prayer.....Rev. Kelsey Barnes

Recessional.....*On Eagle's Wings*

Postlude

The Life and Legacy of Albert E. Handy

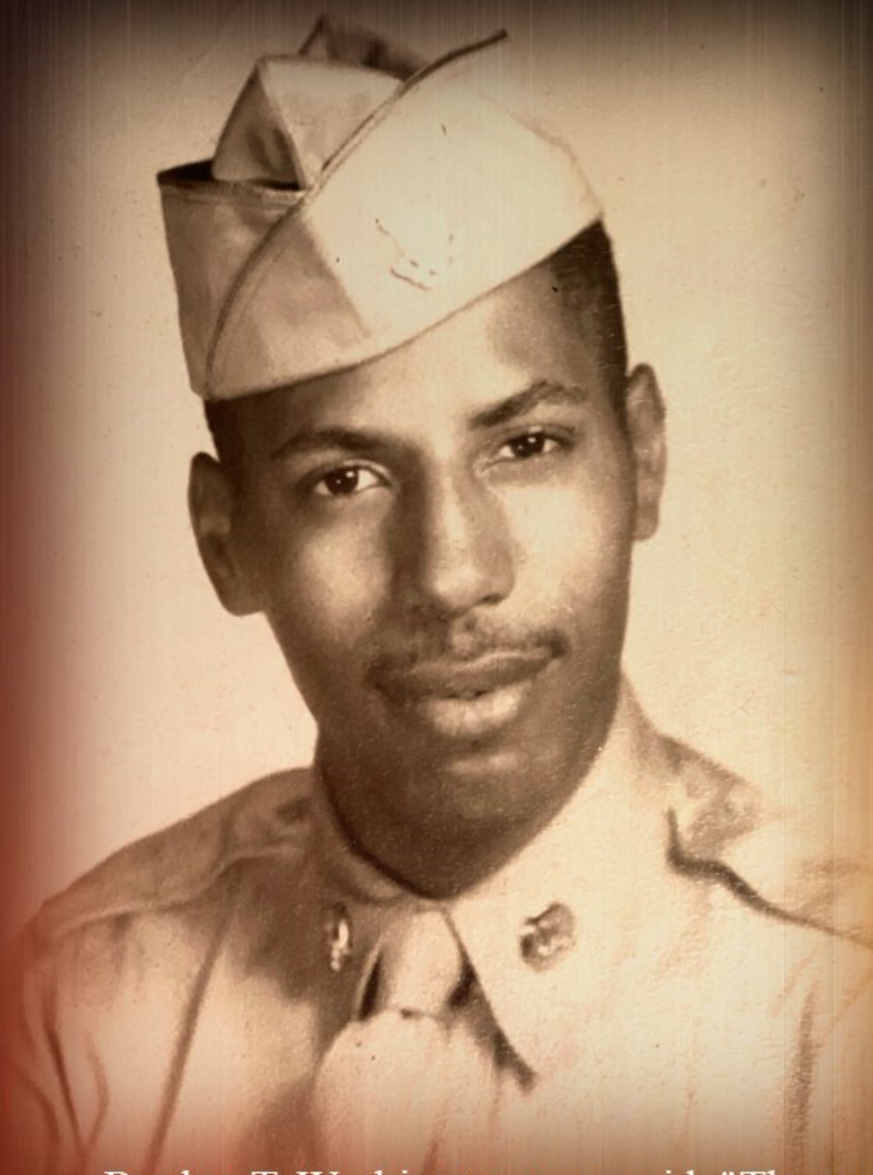
Al's mother called him "Einstein;" in Turkey everyone called him "Ali-Bey;" in Westbury he was called the "Mayor" of Franklin Street; and at Westbury High, he was called Mr. Handy. He was a devoted son, brother, uncle, husband, dad, brother-in-law, father-in-law, grandfather, neighbor and friend. This is the man we honor today and whose memory we will cherish forever.

Born on December 2, 1930 in the Powder Town section of LaFayette, Alabama, Al was the last of the 10 children of Elisha and Essie Handy. He attended Chambers County Training School (CCTS) where his father, Elisha, was the Principal. In the 1940s there was only one school gym in LaFayette and it was located in CCTS, which was segregated for Black students. Al and other students, Black and White, would sneak into CCTS at night to play basketball. Al always attributed these basketball games as the first stepping stone toward integration in LaFayette.

Al went on to attend North Carolina Central University where he received a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Physical Education. He completed training at Tuskegee University to become a corrective therapist and concluded his post graduate studies years later for New York State Certification as a School District Administrator from St. John's University in New York.

Al's first job was to deliver The Birmingham News by bicycle to subscribers in the LaFayette community. His last job was as a Shibley Summer Day Camp bus driver on Long Island, New York. A lifetime of service filled the years in between.

Al served in the 82nd Airborne Division of the United States Army and received an Honorable Discharge. He worked at VA hospitals around the country. He volunteered for service in the Peace Corps and worked in Ankara, Turkey teaching Corrective Therapy to University students at Hacettepe Children's Hospital. By 1968, Al secured a Physical Education teaching position in Westbury High School on Long Island. During the summers he continued working in programs such as Open Door and Americorps and continued in service around the world, including traveling to Peru to help after a devastating earthquake.



Booker T. Washington once said, "Those who are the happiest are those who do the most for others." That was Al. Over the course of his lifetime he helped so many family members, students, and people in his communities.

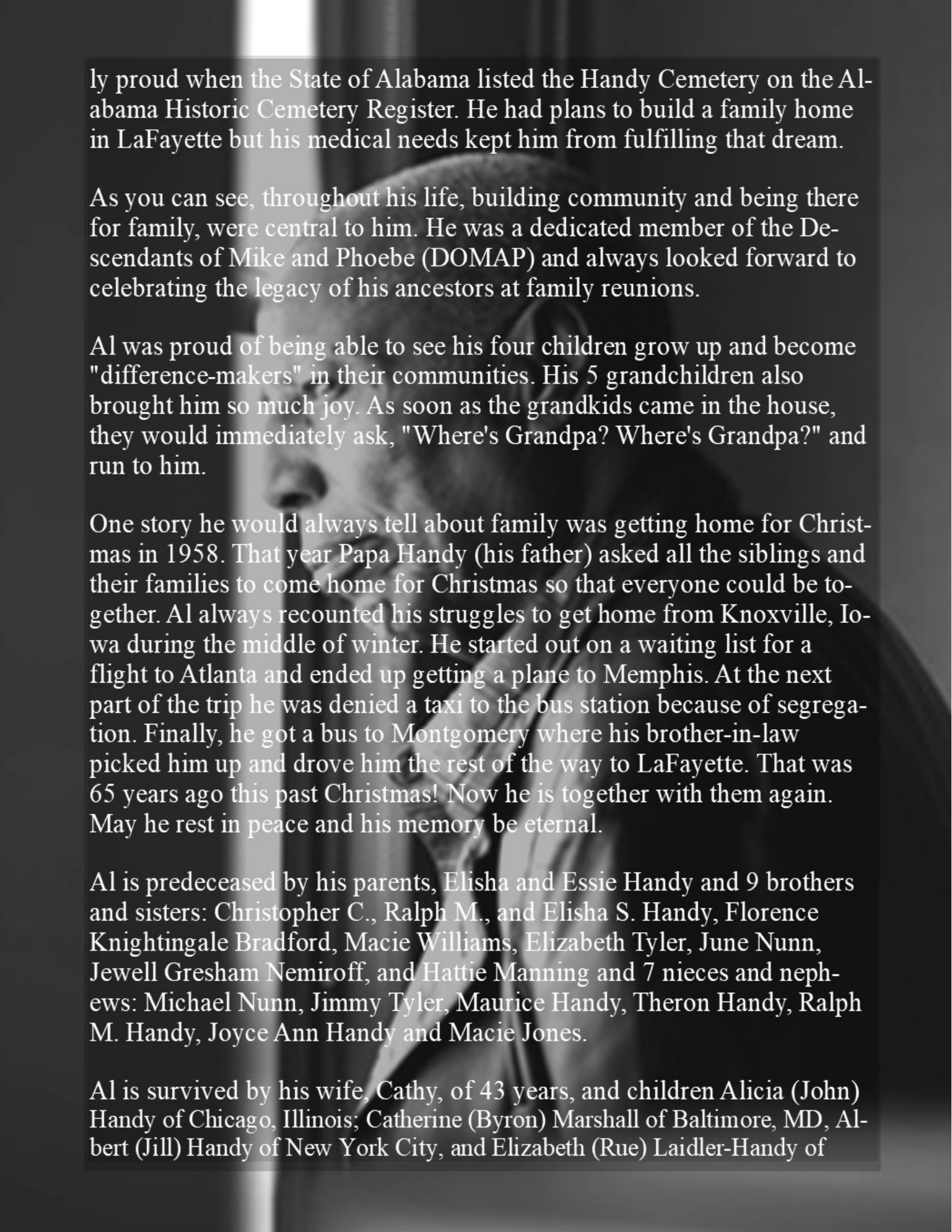
While in Turkey he met Michael Muiga, a young Kenyan national who was studying in Ankara at the same time Al was there. Michael shared his desire to come to America to attend college. Al made the arrangements and paid all of his tuition and expenses so that Michael could achieve his goals. Michael recently wrote, "Albert Handy's family is my family. Albert helped me with finances through two universities and guided me and my family until I received my BS in Mathematics, BS in Civil Engineering and MS in Water Resources Engineering and a PhD in Civil Engineering and became a Professor. Without Albert I could not have the education I have now. I appreciate very very much how Albert helped me during my time in the USA and in Turkey."

Michael went on to establish the Barack Obama University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Al was one of the first Black teachers in Westbury, New York and throughout his career he fought for the rights of minority staff and students. Not so long ago a former student reminisced about how it was many years later that he and his buddies realized what Mr. Handy was trying to instill in them-that there was more to life than a basketball. Just as you have a strategy to run the ball up and down the court, you need a plan to win the game and succeed at life. The young man remarked that at the time, they did not appreciate the lessons, but now that they are adults, raising their own children, they grew to understand the lessons beyond the court.

Al spent time all over the world, but LaFayette was always home. He always enjoyed retracing his original paper route through LaFayette on summer visits with his family. He attended his family church, Powell Chapel, and supported the "Back to School Bash" events to help get students ready for the new school year. He remained dedicated to his family cemetery and was especial-





ly proud when the State of Alabama listed the Handy Cemetery on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. He had plans to build a family home in LaFayette but his medical needs kept him from fulfilling that dream.

As you can see, throughout his life, building community and being there for family, were central to him. He was a dedicated member of the Descendants of Mike and Phoebe (DOMAP) and always looked forward to celebrating the legacy of his ancestors at family reunions.

Al was proud of being able to see his four children grow up and become "difference-makers" in their communities. His 5 grandchildren also brought him so much joy. As soon as the grandkids came in the house, they would immediately ask, "Where's Grandpa? Where's Grandpa?" and run to him.

One story he would always tell about family was getting home for Christmas in 1958. That year Papa Handy (his father) asked all the siblings and their families to come home for Christmas so that everyone could be together. Al always recounted his struggles to get home from Knoxville, Iowa during the middle of winter. He started out on a waiting list for a flight to Atlanta and ended up getting a plane to Memphis. At the next part of the trip he was denied a taxi to the bus station because of segregation. Finally, he got a bus to Montgomery where his brother-in-law picked him up and drove him the rest of the way to LaFayette. That was 65 years ago this past Christmas! Now he is together with them again. May he rest in peace and his memory be eternal.

Al is predeceased by his parents, Elisha and Essie Handy and 9 brothers and sisters: Christopher C., Ralph M., and Elisha S. Handy, Florence Knightingale Bradford, Macie Williams, Elizabeth Tyler, June Nunn, Jewell Gresham Nemiroff, and Hattie Manning and 7 nieces and nephews: Michael Nunn, Jimmy Tyler, Maurice Handy, Theron Handy, Ralph M. Handy, Joyce Ann Handy and Macie Jones.

Al is survived by his wife, Cathy, of 43 years, and children Alicia (John) Handy of Chicago, Illinois; Catherine (Byron) Marshall of Baltimore, MD, Albert (Jill) Handy of New York City, and Elizabeth (Rue) Laidler-Handy of

Hong Kong and 5 grandchildren: Byron, Ella, Warren Marshall and Albert Alexander and Conrad Archer Handy. He is also survived by nieces and nephews: Shirley Handy, Joi Gresh- am Conant, Tammy Nunn, Carly Cox, Lisa Clem, and nephews: Chris Handy, Junius C Williams, Paul and Marty Nunn, Terry (Doc) Handy, Nicholas, Matthew, and Sean Seniuk, Oliver Seniuk and Kasey Crane and many grandnieces and nephews. He is also survived by 13 brothers and sisters-in-law: Mary & Willie Davis (Tampa), Steve & Debbie Seniuk (Jefferson, GA), Nadia & Tom Morris (Virginia Beach), Anne and Robert Cox (Murrysville, PA), John & Ellen Seniuk (Norfolk, VA), Theresa Bates (Benton, Illinois, and Sophie & Ernie French (East Hampton, NY).

Who Killed Cock Robin

Who killed Cock-Robin?	'I' said the dove, 'for I mourn my
'I' said the sparrow, 'with my	love,
little bow and arrow,	I'll be chief mourner'.
I killed Cock-Robin'.	
Who saw him die?	Who will sing the psalm?
'I' said the fly, 'with my little eye,	'I' said the thrush, 'as I sit in a
I saw him die'.	bush,
Who'll dig his grave?	I'll sing the psalm'.
'I' said the owl, 'with my spade	Who will carry the coffin?
and trowel,	'I' said the kite, 'if it's not in the
I'll dig his grave'.	night,
Who'll be the parson?	I'll carry the coffin'.
'I' said the rook, 'with my little	Who'll toll the bell?
book,	'I' said the bull, 'because I can
I'll be the parson'.	pull,
And all the birds of the air,	I'll toll the bell'.
Fell sighing and a sobbin'	For all the birds of the air,
When they heard the bell toll for	Fell sighing and a sobbin'
poor Cock-Robin.	When they heard the bell toll for
Who will be chief mourner?	poor Cock-Robin.



Honorary Pallbearers

Byron Elisha Marshall * Warren Isaiah Marshall * Albert Alexander Handy
Conrad Archer Handy * Albert E. Handy * Byron P. Marshall
Johnathan Foster * Paul Nunn * Marty Nunn * Terry (Doc) Handy
Joshua Connors * Gary Blunt * Octavious Johnson * Steve Seniuk

Flower Bearers

Alicia Handy * Dr. Catherine Marshall * Ella J. Marshall
Elizabeth Handy * Jill S. Handy * Ruth Handy

Interment

Essie J. Handy Memorial Cemetery LaFayette, Alabama 36862

Repast

Powell Chapel UMC

Acknowledgements

The Handy family wishes to thank Rev. Kelsey Barnes, Pastor of Powell Chapel UMC, Rev. Dr. Randy B. Kelley, Pastor of Lakeside UMC, Huntsville, AL; the Members of the Powell Chapel UMC Choir and Music Staff; Dr. Madhu Patel of NYU Langone in New York, the doctors and staff at the Weinberg Cancer Center of Johns Hopkins University Hospital; the Gilchrist Hospice staff; and our neighbors and friends in Westbury, NY, Baltimore, MD and LaFayette, AL. We thank our family and friends who were not able to attend today's services for their phone calls, text messages, emails and prayers that have guided us through these difficult times. Al was not in any pain; he knew that he lived a long and good life and was grateful for all the time God had given him. May God continue to bless all of you.

- The Family

In Memory of Albert E. Handy, donations may be made to **The Essie J. Handy Cemetery Association**, Account No. 2036911, c/o Farmers & Merchants Bank, PO Box 128, LaFayette, Alabama 36862. The Cemetery Association is planning to construct a Gazebo in the Cemetery.

Final Arrangements For Loved One Entrusted:

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