

## *Pallbearers*

Class of 1972, Calhoun County Training School

Deacons of First Baptist and Nephews

## *Interment*

Bethel Memorial Gardens

460 High Pine Road

Ashland, Alabama 36251

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family of Pastor Henry A. Sterling wishes to express their deepest and sincerest thanks and appreciation to everyone for their many kind gestures of condolences, sympathy and love that was extended to them during their time of bereavement.*

*Special thanks to Enhabit Home Health and Hospice.*

*~The Family*

## *Service by Professionals*

*G*adsden  
MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

1318 EAST BROAD ST.  
GADSDEN, ALABAMA 35903  
PH: 256.492.4366 | FAX: 256.492.4326

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE & HOMEGOING SERVICE FOR



*Pastor Henry A. Sterling*  
AKA PAPA STERLING

*Sunrise*

June 9, 1952

*Sunset*

December 12, 2024

Saturday, December 21, 2024

12:00 Noon

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH EAST GADSDEN**

1411 Meadowbrook Avenue (Green Pastures)

Gadsden, Alabama 35903

*Pastor Ralph Jelks, Jr., Officiating*

*Dr. Melvin Owens, Eulogist*



# Obituary

**P**ASTOR HENRY ALBERT STERLING, born June 9, 1952, as the only son, and youngest of four children to the late Pastor Henry G. and Lossie M. Carter Sterling. A native of Calhoun County, Anniston, Alabama. Educated in the Calhoun County School System at Thankful Jr. High, and Calhoun County Training School. He received his former education and training from Gadsden State Jr. College, Birmingham Baptist Bible College, and Howard College (Samford University).

**As a lad he traveled with his dad from church-to-church learning about God and establishing a foundation for the work God would commission him to do. On the third Sunday of January 1973, Pastor Henry A. Sterling preached his first public sermon at Mt. Liberty Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama, under the leadership of Pastor A.A. Scales.**

Since that time Pastor Sterling has traveled this country preaching, protesting and marching, trying to bring liberty to the oppressed, trying to lift the fallen and free the captive. “He who the Son set free, is free indeed.” He was an employee of the National Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S.C.L.C.) and worked directly under the late Reverend John S. Nettles, to whom he credits for teaching him to be the leader he was. Pastor Sterling received many awards and honors from churches and organizations throughout the United States. Pastor Sterling served as Pastor of Hollins Spring Baptist Church, Hollins of Alabama, Bethel Baptist Church of Ashland, Alabama, as well he moved his membership to Bethel from Mt. Liberty, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Wedowee, AL, and First Baptist Church - East Gadsden (Green Pastures) of Gadsden, AL.

**Pastor Henry A. Sterling was preceded in death by his father and mother, Reverend Henry G. and Mrs. Lossie M. Carter Sterling, and one sister, Mrs. Sara Teague.**

**Pastor Sterling leaves to mourn his passing, cherish his memory and celebrate his life: his loving wife, Rosa Sterling of Ashland, AL; three sons, Mr. Jomarlan (Cassandra) Ford of Montgomery, AL, Traskey (O B) Ford and Mr. Amari Ballard of Ashland, AL; two sisters, Mrs. Annie (Charles) Turner of Eastaboga, AL, and Mrs. Juanita Montgomery of Oxford, AL; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.**





# Precious Memories



# Order of Service

Processional .....Soft Music

Selection ..... Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church Choir

Prayer ..... Pastor Z. Andre Huff  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church East Gadsden

Scripture Readings:  
Old Testament ..... Pastor Clifford Ballard  
First Thessalonian Missionary Baptist Church, Dayton, OH  
New Testament ..... Pastor Patrick Vandegrift  
Morning Star Baptist Church, Attalla, AL

Selection .....Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church Choir

As a Pastor ..... Sister Mary Carstarphen-Kelly

As I Knew Him .....As a Civil Rights Leader: Hycall Brooks III  
The Lions Cross, Hueytown, AL

As I Knew Him ..... As A Friend: Pastor Ben Little  
Refuge Full Gospel Methodist Church, Anniston, AL

Words of Encouragement .....Mrs. Annie Minniefield

Reflections ..... Family & Friends

Solo ..... Rosa Sterling

Presentation of Speaker .....Pastor Chris Taylor  
First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, AL

Eulogy .....Dr. Melvin Owens  
Pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
President of Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, USA INC

Floral Tribute .....Gadsden Memorial Funeral Director

Recessional .....Soft Music

Committal and Interment





## *If Roses Grow In Heaven*

*If roses grow in Heaven, Lord,  
Please pick a bunch for me.  
Place them in my Husband's arms  
And tell him they're from me.  
Tell him that I love and miss him,  
And when he turns to smile,  
Place a kiss upon his cheek,  
And hold him for a while.  
Because remembering him is easy;  
I do it every day.  
But there is an ache within my heart  
That will never go away.  
Your Loving Wife, Rosa*



## *A Broken Branch*

*A limb has fallen from the Family Tree.  
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.  
The good life I lived while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Continue traditions, no matter how small.  
Go on with your life; don't worry about falls.  
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin,  
Until the day comes we're together again.*