



You taught us the way you lived –
how to work hard,
how to speak honestly,
how to love without keeping score.

The lessons you carried from those before you
now live in us,
and will live in those who come after.

We are part of a chain
that began long before our time,
and because of you,
it will not be broken.



Acknowledgement

The family of Sgt. Herbert Hoover Fields
wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to our friends
for their love, support, kindness and prayers shown
during our time of bereavement.




PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

James E. Churchman, Jr.
FUNERAL HOME
345 13TH AVENUE - NEWARK, NJ 07103
PHONE: 973-242-8454 ~ WWW.CHURCHMANFUNERALHOME.COM

Homegoing Celebration for

Sgt. Herbert Hoover Fields

Sunrise
January 4, 1930

Sunset
September 7, 2026



Saturday ~ September 26, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

Grace Cathedral Outreach Ministries
54 Elizabeth Avenue ~ Newark, New Jersey

Rev Dr. Joseph B. Fields, Jr. ~ Officiating

OBITUARY

Sgt. Herbert Hoover Fields was born to Corrine Hunter Fields (Gilliam) on January 4, 1930, in Church Road, Virginia, and went home on September 7, 2026, after a long and remarkable life centered on family, music, service, and the relationships he built along the way.

Herbert grew up as one of ten children alongside his beloved brothers and sisters: Mittie, Anne Belle, Esther, Christine, twins Mary and Lucy, James, William, and Ruth. The bonds of family remained important to him throughout his life.

In the late 1940s, Herbert relocated from Virginia to New Jersey, the place that would become his home and where he would build his life and family. On August 28, 1954, Sgt. Fields married the love of his life, Estelle "Bitsie" Fields. Together they built a life rooted in love and family and were blessed with two daughters, Berneda Fields and Alicia Richardson.

Music was one of Sgt. Fields' greatest loves and became an important part of his life's work. He proudly served his country in the United States Army, where his musical talents became his military career. He served in the Army Band and as a band leader until his retirement after more than 20 years of active military service.

His military career included service during the Korean War, and among his honors was the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars. His decorations also included the United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Good Conduct Medal, which he earned nine times. His many years of service reflected the discipline, dedication, and love of music that were so much a part of who he was.

After retiring from the Army, Sgt. Fields continued his working life as a self-employed businessman with NJ Office Supply. Through his business, he developed lasting relationships with his customers and the many people he encountered through his work. He was especially well known and beloved by many of the people he served at the City of Newark. His warmth, dependability, and ability to connect with people left an impression that extended far beyond business.

Above all else, Sgt. Fields loved music and his family. Music was woven throughout his life, but his family was his foundation. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and family man whose kindness and support made those around him know they could depend on him. Sgt. Fields was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Estelle "Bitsie" Fields, and his daughter, Berneda Fields, as well as loved ones who went before him.

He leaves to cherish his memory his daughter, Alicia Richardson; his son-in-law, Anthony Richardson, Sr.; his grandson, Anthony "AJ" Richardson, Jr.; his brother, James; his twin sisters, Mary and Lucy; his sister, Esther; his brother-in-law, Lawrence "Butch" Williams; his beloved niece, Valerie Montgomery; his beloved great-nephew, Saamee Hawks; as well as a host of nieces and nephews spanning many generations, friends, and loved ones whose lives were touched by his presence.

**Sgt. Herbert Hoover Fields was truly one of one. His was a life of service, music, love, and family
—a life that will continue to resonate in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRAYER OF COMFORT

MUSICAL SELECTION

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament ~ New Testament

REMARKS/REFLECTIONS

(2 minutes, please)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND READING OF OBITUARY

MUSICAL SELECTION

EULOGY

Rev Dr. Joseph B. Fields, Jr.

NCO~CREED

Councilman Brian Fields (ARMY, RET. SSG)

BENEDICTION

INTERMENT

FOREST GREEN CEMETERY

535 Texas Road ~ Morganville, New Jersey