



Melvin Austin Leroy Douglas

August 23, 1942 - October 22, 2013

Celebration of life services for Mr. Melvin Austin Leroy Douglas, Sr, of Ellenwood, GA, formerly of Bermuda, will be held 1PM Friday Nov. 1, 2013 at Gregory B. Levett and Sons, South DeKalb Chapel. Interment at Kennedy Memorial Gardens. Viewing and visitation Thursday Oct. 31, 2013 from 7PM-8PM. Gregory B. Levett and Sons, 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy., Decatur, GA. 30033. 404-241-5656.-----

-----Obituary Melvin A. L. Douglas Sr. August 23rd 1942 – October 22nd 2013. Melvin A. L. Douglas was born August 23, 1942 in Bermuda. He was the third child and only son of the late Alice Maude Douglas and Austin Leroy Peterson. From a young age he attended Gospel Hall in North Shore Devonshire Bermuda, and in recent years said he had rededicated his life to Christ. Melvin’s carpentry skills started at The Central School with Mr. Cunningham and then continued at George Trott’s carpenters shop in Bermuda. Melvin loved his craft, he was known to work even when he went on vacation – building decks, renovating houses or whatever his friends and relatives needed done. Most recently he made two toy chests for his granddaughters in Charlotte N.C. For a short time, he took a break from carpentry to pursue other dreams such as sailing on the Queen of Bermuda, but he eventually returned to carpentry. Melvin could build anything from bedroom sets to computer desks, go-carts, roofs, kitchen cabinets, dining room sets and even built his own house from ground- up. He was talented, very smart, and capable of reading any blue print – knowing whether it would

work as designed or had faults that needed addressing before building. Carpentry was definitely his primary passion and he left many pictures of his work to reaffirm this. He also cherished and held onto countless pictures, memorable items, and gifts he received from friends and family over the years. He took his daughter Tracey to construction sites to show her things the pictures could not explain. His son Melvin Jr. (Jay), cannot remember a summer that went by when he did not work with his Dad but that was fine by Jay, as it was some of the most memorable times he recalls with his Dad, along with weekend fishing trips. One of the most memorable vacations for his family was a trip to Orlando Florida in 2010, where Tracey, Jay, Solomon, Isaiah, Anaiah, Michaela (grandchildren) and the rest of their family all got to hang out together and enjoyed each other's smiles, laughs and skills in the arcade; after which, they sat around eating pizza and blowing soap bubbles till they literally just fell out! After Melvin first left home to start his own family, he still would stop by his Mother's house on a regular basis to cut the grass and ensure all was in order. He felt that it was his responsibility and went about it without ever being asked to do so. His sister, Nita, also recalls the times when not once, twice or even three times, but numerous times she would ride her bike till it ran out of gas on the side of the road and would call Melvin for help. Although he would get mad and give her a piece of his mind, he always would go get the bike wherever Nita had left it and fill it up again – he had a big heart. There was a family fishing trip in Canada when Tracey, after catching a gold fish that was too big for their fish tank, debated with her dad on what was best to do. Melvin got back in the car and drove several hours back to the lake, and released the fish back to its home just to satisfy the little heart of his daughter. Fishing was definitely a hobby he loved. Whatever he caught was eaten, and no matter what size the fish when caught, every time he told someone about it, the fish got bigger and bigger. With his buddies, he would often go hunting and they ate anything that could be cooked, and that was just the way he rolled- from bear, raccoon or snake to goat's tongue or cow's foot – you name it he ate it! Travelling was another mandatory part of his life. He

went to places like France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and islands like the Azores, St. Kitts and Dominican Republic among many others. When he lived in Toronto, Canada he would clean out his work van, put a piece of carpet in, and take the family for a drive to Buffalo or Detroit just for some Church's Chicken, hot wings and corn on the cob. Life was always more about the journey than the destination for Melvin. He also loved to dance – the Waltz and Off-time were some of his favorites; but doing the Funky Chicken was when he really wanted to get down. If there was a special song he knew he could dance to real good, he would grab his sister Nita regardless of where she was and say, "let's do this dance" – He was a real bully! Working hard and saving funds were characteristics he drilled into his children both by word and his actions, but he still always found himself giving more money to others than he ever spent or saved for himself. He always liked to look and smell good, so his sister Mable would often give him a gift of cologne. The last moments of his life were spent on a phone call talking to his daughter and son, who had the opportunity to pray with him moments before his passing. This brought peace to Melvin Sr. and his family. He was one of the hardest workers ever and always took care of his family. His final words to Tracey and Jay were, "I'm tired, just really tired. I'm going to get some sleep and talk to you all later." Melvin A.L Douglas Sr. leaves to cherish his memory: his daughter Tracey (Valachi) Pearman, son Melvin (Adol) Douglas Jr, Sisters Mable (Leon – deceased) Dill , Jean (George – deceased) Mouchette, Juanita Rhule, Phyllis Douglas, Grandchildren Solomon and Isaiah Pearman, Anaiah and Michaela Douglas. He also had numerous nephews and nieces.