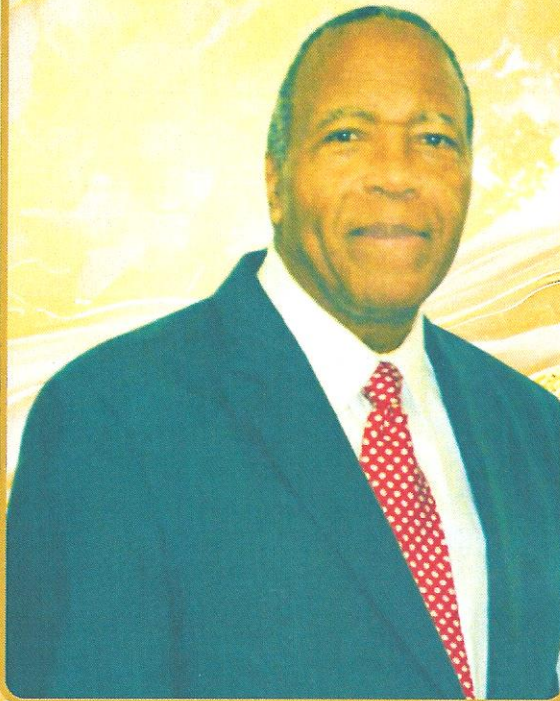


*Pastor  
Herman L. Pickens*

**JUNE 19, 1948 - NOVEMBER 3, 2025**



*A Celebration of Life*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025  
AT 1:00 PM**

**Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church  
16813 Hufsmith-Kohrville, Rd  
Houston, TX 77070**

*In Loving Memory of*

# Obituary

Pastor Herman Lee Pickens - June 19, 1948 to November 3, 2025

Reverend Pickens entered eternal rest on Monday, November 3rd, surrounded by his loving family. A devoted husband, father, and man of God, he lived a life filled with purpose, adventure, and faith. A proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, he served in ROTC and won awards as a member of the Debate Club. He attended Texas Southern University where he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He transferred to the University of Houston where he earned a degree in Economics, and later built a successful career in sales with Armour-Dial, Mass Mutual Insurance, Amway, and Joe Myers Toyota. Rev. Pickens' gifts extended far beyond the pulpit. He was a lover of music, poetry, and performance, often expressing his faith and joy through singing, songwriting, and spoken word. His rich voice and lyrical heart lifted spirits and brought people together wherever he went. He was also a natural athlete who found peace and joy on both the tennis court and basketball court, where his competitive spirit met his love of fellowship and fun.

Many can claim that he taught them how to play either or both sports. He was also known to give lessons at the domino table for anyone who was brave enough to join the game. His journey in ministry began as Choir President at Bellavista Missionary Baptist Church, where his love for music and worship flourished. He later founded Graceway Baptist Church, took classes at the College of Biblical Studies, and for the past 16 years, he faithfully served as Pastor of Pilgrim Branch Baptist Church, guiding his congregation with wisdom, humility, and love.

He shared an unshakable bond with his beloved wife, Judy. You seldom saw one without the other. They complemented and supported one another. Together, they built a family rooted in faith, laughter, and unconditional love. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Judy Ann Pickens; his son, Rajolei Pickens; his mother, Audrey Pickens; his father, Luke Pickens, Sr.; and his brother, Marvin Pickens. He is survived by his loving children, Sonya (Michael Clark, II) and Jahrel Pickens; his sisters, Catherine Rosette and Doris Alexander; his brothers, Larry (Caroline) Pickens, MacArthur (Shirley) Pickens, Luke Pickens, Jr., Gerry (Yolanda) Pickens, and Jeffrey Pickens; grandchildren, Davidia Mims II, Ruben Mims, Ariana Mims, Lauryn Mims, William Pickens, Diego Pickens, Elijah Pickens, Judah Pickens, Arun Pickens, Charlotte Pickens, and Haizel Pickens; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-grandchildren, extended family members, dear friends, and his church family who will forever carry his legacy of love, music, and faith.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." — 2 Timothy 4:7

# A Lifetime of Memories



## A Tribute To My Big Brother Herman ~ Doris Alexander ~



My brother Herman was my oldest and dearest friend. From the very beginning, he looked out for me — and no matter how grown up we became, he always called me “Sis.” That simple word meant so much, because it reminded me that I would always be his little sister and he would always be my protector. Herman had a big heart and a gentle spirit. He was the kind of person who made people feel safe, loved, and understood. He carried himself with quiet strength and a steady kindness that touched everyone around him. I’ll never forget his laughter, his advice, and the way he could make everything feel okay just by being there. Losing him leaves a space that can never be filled, but the love he gave will stay with me forever. Rest peacefully, my dear brother. Thank you for being my lifelong protector, my example, and my friend. I will love you always.

Love, Doris

# *Special Tributes*

## **A Tribute to My Big Brother**

*Herman, thank you for the many years of prayer and wisdom that you have shared with me and the rest of the family. I really appreciate the fun and laughter that you brought to me during the early years as you pretended to be a singer from the Motown era of the 60's and 70's. You could have been the artist singing the song that we heard on the radio. It was not you, but it could have been. You have always had a song in your heart and now you can sing with the angels before the Lord. Let the sound of your songs and voice never be forgotten and give us the courage and wisdom to live by, day to day. We will miss you here on earth, but the Lord has gained one more voice for his choir in Heaven.*

*Love you brother forever more,  
Jeff Pickens*

## **A Tribute to Reverend Grandpa**

Reverend Grandpa, the anchor of our family, our shepherd to Christ, calm, relaxed, and spiritually grounded, truly one of a kind.

A remarkable soul, meek, kind, and creative, witty, gentle, and profoundly supportive. You taught us the power of silence and empathy, that you don't need to be loud to be impactful.

In a world that seeks to overpower, you collaborated, you led with kindness and understanding, tearing up at any given occasion, showing us that emotion was never a weakness. You offered life lessons gone awry with a giggle.

We remember your wisdom, your love of adventure, and your multi-faceted approach to life. Always pushing us to pursue happiness, whether athletic, academic, or artistic. We hear our favorite sermon echoing in our heads, we laugh thinking of your confusion over the simplest concepts. Our dear, endearing Reverend Grandpa.

From trips to James Coney Island, to singing our praises, you embodied the sweetness that comes from a smile. You were the man who never left God out of a conversation.

Our Reverend Grandpa, deeply loved, an essential pillar, eternally revered.

Love, Your Grandkids

# Order of Service

Final Viewing.....1:00 pm to 2:00 pm



Officiant.....Rev. Dr. Brian Williams

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Musical Selection.....Choir

Old Testament Scripture.....Reverend Will Inman

New Testament Scripture.....Rev. Dr. Timothy K. Price, Sr.

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Michelle Leaphart

Musical Selection.....Armand Hill

← ROAD  
(LIVE)

A Tribute to Dad.....Jahrel Pickens

A Tribute to Grandpa.....Ariana Mims

Resolutions.....

Musical Selection(s).....

Expressions of Love.....(2 Minutes Please)

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Elmo Johnson

M 25 : 21

Rose of Sharon Missionary Baptist Church

← SONG

Recessional.....

M'

Repast Immediately Following the Service at  
Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church

Internment  
Amos West Cemetery  
16813 Hufsmith-Kohrville Rd  
Houston, TX 77070



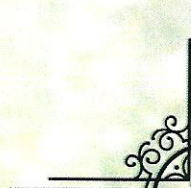
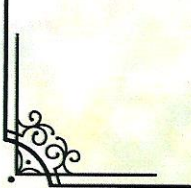



## Dear Dad...

To my first love — who shaved his beard because I pulled on it, who cheered at every game, and swore I had the best shot on the team. You taught me basketball and tennis, and the beauty of words — how language could sing and stories could dance. Your advice came often, sometimes wise — “Get your education,” sometimes funny — “Dessert goes in a different compartment,” and sometimes impossible — “Play basketball and you’ll grow three inches taller.”

You never needed to raise your voice; a look was enough, because your disappointment was the only punishment I ever feared. You showed me how a husband loves his wife — opening doors, picking her up at the front door, making sure she was always cared for. You weren’t perfect — none of us are — but you were kind, compassionate, and brilliant. You sang every day, even if rhythm wasn’t your gift. You chased bluebonnets, snow, and sand dunes, turning ordinary days into adventures.

Your humor, your wit, your love of learning — they filled every space you entered. And though you’re gone, your lessons remain: Always play the game. Always order dessert. Never eat standing up — it’ll go to your feet. And when you’re lost, turn right — you’ll find your way. Thank you for loving me without limits, for showing me what it means to be cherished. You will always be my first love — and forever my guide.



 Your favorite daughter - Sonya

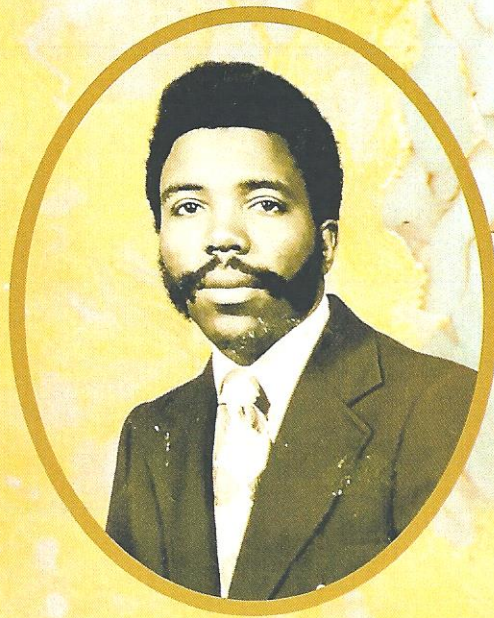
A Tribute to My Big Brother  
~ MacArthur Pickens ~

What can I say about my big brother, Herman?  
He was a man of gentle strength, a heart overflowing  
with kindness.  
Never a harsh word, never a bitter tone—only love, only  
grace.  
And when he spoke, his words carried light,  
for every word he shared was a word from God.

Herman loved his siblings to the core—  
with a devotion that wrapped around us like a warm  
embrace.  
He had a way of lifting our spirits,  
of making ordinary moments feel touched by heaven.  
I can still see that bright smile,  
hear his cheerful voice saying, “Hey brother, how are  
you?”  
It echoes in my heart, soft and steady, like a song that  
never fades.

Though his chair may now be empty and his laughter  
stilled,  
his spirit lingers in every memory,  
in every act of kindness, he left behind.  
Herman walked this earth with love as his compass,  
and though he has gone home to glory,  
his light continues to guide us—  
a reminder that true love never dies,  
It only shines brighter in eternity.

Love, Mac



**Active Pallbearers:**

Deacon Dwight Jackson  
Deacon Curtis Jones  
Deacon Jermaine Stewart  
Rev. Mack Brown  
Rev. Bobby Guinn  
Rev. Jordan Haddock

**Honorary Pallbearers:**

MacArthur Pickens, Sr.  
Larry Pickens  
Luke Pickens, Jr.  
Gerry Pickens  
Jeffrey Pickens  
Deacon Freddie Stewart  
Grandsons  
Nephews

**Your Love will remain  
in our hearts forever...**

**Acknowledgments & Special Thanks:**

The family of Pastor Herman Pickens wishes to express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and thoughtful expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. Your kind words, visits, calls, and gestures of support have provided comfort and strength as we celebrate the life of our beloved father. Each prayer and act of kindness reminds us of the impact he made and the love he shared with so many.

Thank you to Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church for loving and honoring Pastor Pickens in life and in death. We also extend our appreciation to Pruitt's in the Heights for their care and guidance. We also express gratitude to Heart to Heart Hospice Inpatient Center for their care, warmth, and kindness to Dad and the family in his final hours.

May God bless each of you for the compassion you have shown. It has truly been a source of peace and comfort for our family.

With love and appreciation,  
Sonya and Jahrel