

Henry H. Bradby



SMITHFIELD, VA - A great servant of God and his community took flight on the morning of August 23, 2014 to gain his heavenly crown. Deacon Henry Hubert Bradby was a native of Isle of Wight County in the Rushmere community of the Hardy District. Mr. Bradby was born to the late Rev. Bolden and Mrs. Eddie Reed Bradby on November 26, 1923. He was educated in Isle of Wight County and was a member of the Isle of Wight Training School Class of 1942. On December 21, 1947, he married Virtley Elizabeth Thompson. This union lasted for 47 years, until Mrs. Bradby's death in 1994, and produced four children. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his eldest son, Charlton Jeffery Bradby. He leaves to cherish his memory his children, Sheila B. Bailey (Brian Wade) of Prince George County and Jana L. and Bolden D. Bradby, both of Rushmere; one grandson, Sgt. Maurice B. Bailey (Sabrina); four granddaughters, Brandyce A. Bailey and Nijole Bailey of Prince George and Carolyn Bailey and Anita Williams (Jesse) of Petersburg; a loyal and devoted friend, Elinor "Miss Ellie" Jones; his "adopted daughter", nurse and caregiver Missouri Tillery and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Deacon Henry Bradby was a lifelong member of The First Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Smithfield, VA where the Rev. Alexander Bracey serves as the pastor. His commitment to the Isle of Wight Community moved him to pursue the Hardy District Seat on the Board of Supervisors in the November 1974 elections. Mr. Bradby became the first African American to serve on the Isle of Wight Board of Supervisors when he was sworn into office in January of 1975 and went on to hold office for the next thirty years. During his tenure, he served as Chairman for at least two terms. Upon his election, Mr. Bradby immediately went to work toward many changes that improved the living conditions of all citizens of Isle of Wight, including paving roads, installing street lights and increasing job opportunities for minorities. Determined that the Hardy District would have the same services as the other districts, Mr. Bradby's greatest accomplishments as a Supervisor included holding the

deciding vote on the decision to build the New Smithfield High School that opened its doors in the fall of 1980. He also started a quest, with the support of the citizens in his district, to organize and build the Rushmere Volunteer Fire Department, one of a few predominantly African American fire departments of its kind in the United States. During his years of religious and community service, he received many accolades and awards. In 2005, Mr. Bradby was the recipient of the Virginia Association of Counties prestigious Jefferson Cup, becoming the first African American to receive this award. He also received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Eastern Theological Seminary/ Maryland Theological Seminary. His family, friends and the community are invited to a Celebration of Life for Deacon Bradby at The First Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 5186 Old Stage Highway, Smithfield, VA 23430. The wake will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 6PM followed by the funeral on Friday, August 29, 2014 at noon. The family may be reached at (757) 357-2915. Poole's Funeral Home, Sabrina Hardy-Newby, Licensed Funeral Director

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