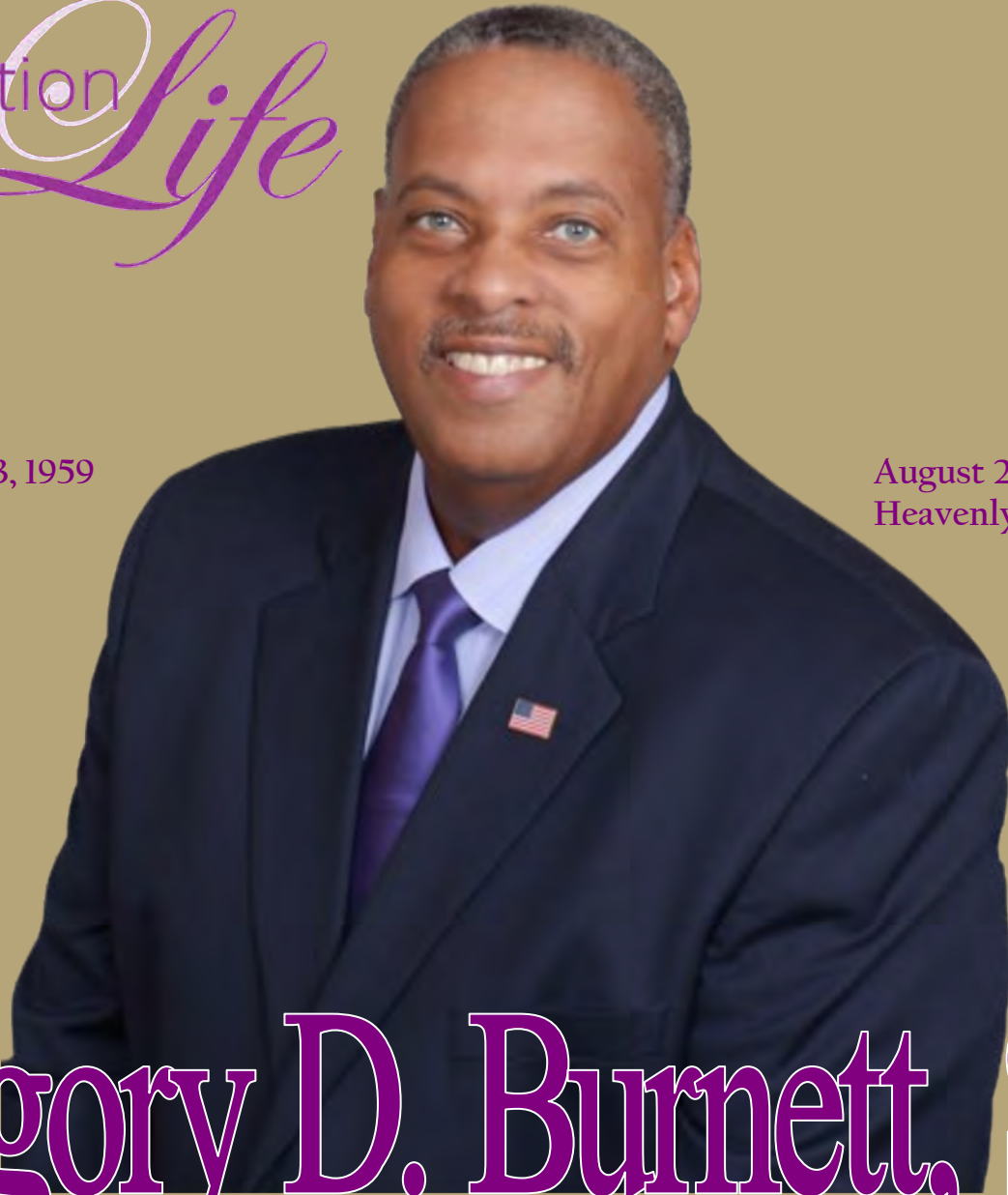


Celebration
of *Life*

September 23, 1959
Earthly Sent

August 28, 2025
Heavenly Received



Gregory D. Burnett, Sr.

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

**Norwalk City Hall
In the Concert Hall**

125 East Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut

Rev. Carleton J. Giles, Officiant

Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church

21 Concord Street
Norwalk, Connecticut 06854

Order of Service

Rev. Carleton J. Giles, Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church, Norwalk
Presiding

Greetings & Welcome.....Rev. Giles

Opening Prayer.....Rev. Tamara Moreland, Pastor
First Congregational Church on the Green

Musical Selection.....Hugh Askew

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13.....Rev. Donald Burr
Episcopal Church of Connecticut

New Testament.....1 Corinthians 15: 50-58.....Rev. Greg Saunders, Pastor
Community Baptist Church, Norwalk

Tributes & Reflections

Superintendent, Norwalk Public Schools.....Dr. Alexandra Estrella
President, Norwalk Common Council.....Barbara Smyth
Lt. Governor, State of Connecticut.....Susan Bysiewicz

Musical Selection.....Hugh Askew

Reflections & Tributes

1st Vice-President Norwalk Chapter NAACP.....Mark McElveen
Friend/Mentee.....Norman Martin
Friend/Frat Brother/IBM Colleague.....Ted Childs
Nephew (on behalf of friend).....Marc Maignan (Otis Jennings)

Acknowledgement of Condolences.....Carla Monteiro Walsh, Principal
Fox Run Elementary School

The Reading of the Obituary.....Marc Maignan

Family Reflections

Brother.....Brian Burnett
Sister.....Sharon Maignan

Reading from the Gospel.....Matthew 25: 31-46.....Rev. Nancy Fields

Musical Selection.....Hugh Askew

Eulogy..... Harry W. Rilling, Mayor
City of Norwalk, Connecticut

Benediction.....Rev. Tamara Moreland



On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Samuel Stennett

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

O'er all those wide extended plains shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

No chilling winds or poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
sickness and sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

When I shall reach that happy place, I'll be forever blest,
for I shall see my Father's face, and in his bosom rest.

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.



Obituary:
Gregory D. Burnett Sr.
September 23, 1959 – August 28, 2025

Gregory D. Burnett Sr., a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and pillar of his community, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 28, 2025. He was 65 years old.

Born on September 23, 1959, in New York, NY, Gregory was the cherished son of the late Sylvester Burnett and Violet Ferguson. From an early age, Greg embodied the values of leadership, service, and joy—principles that guided his life and left a lasting imprint on all who knew him.

Brother Gregory D. Burnett Sr. was a devoted servant leader, tireless community advocate, and a faithful Omega man. He earned dual undergraduate degrees in Biology and Sociology from Syracuse University, and in 1983 began a distinguished career at IBM Corporation, eventually serving as Executive Talent Program Manager in Global Technology Services North America.

A proud and active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for over 42 years (Life Member #3107), Greg served the fraternity with unmatched dedication at every level—chapter, district, and international. His leadership included serving as Basileus of both Alpha Nu and Kappa Omicron Chapters, Keeper of Records and Seal, First District Protocol Chairman, and Chairman of the International Achievement Week and Community/Civic Affairs Committees. In recognition of his unwavering commitment, he received the International Superior Service Award, one of the fraternity's highest honors.

Greg's passion for service extended deeply into his beloved city of Norwalk, Connecticut. He served as an elected City Council Member, Democratic Majority Leader, and Chairman of the Finance and Claims Committee. He also chaired the Board of Estimate and Taxation and previously served on the Board of Education, Board of Health, and Facilities Construction Committee.

Throughout his life, Greg was driven by a love for uplifting others—mentoring youth through the Norwalk Mentor Program and Project Uplift, serving on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and volunteering on the city's COVID-19 Planning & Response Team and the Fairfield County Strike Force. He was an active member of the Norwalk Branch NAACP, serving on the Executive Committee and as both Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

He was also a proud Mason, respected for his integrity, leadership, and commitment to brotherhood. For his lifelong service, he was honored with the Silver Eagle Award by the Connecticut Council of Deliberation.

While Greg's public service was profound, it was his love for family and life's simple joys that truly defined him. He was a natural comedian, always ready with a joke, a quick wit, or a story that would leave the room in stitches. A loyal New York Knicks fan, he treasured attending games throughout the season with his sons, Greg Jr. and Justin, turning shared fandom into cherished tradition.

Greg was a constant source of joy for his family—always keeping candy in the car, and never leaving for a road trip without drinks and snacks packed and ready. For many years, he hosted legendary Fourth of July fireworks shows upstate, entertaining family and friends with his signature flair.

He had a deep love for the beach, often sitting quietly for hours, soaking in the sun and peace, fully present in each moment. He was deeply committed to his granddaughters, always arriving with a thoughtful, personal gift just for them, his pride in them beaming from his smile.

Greg was a big supporter of the Norwalk High School Marching Band, cheering loudly and proudly—especially when his granddaughter played bass drum and quads. He was also passionate about track and field, a sport he supported from his sons' youth: from the high school track meets with his eldest, to the collegiate stage with his youngest. That passion led him to become a certified official, and he was on the verge of officiating at the Olympic level—a testament to his dedication and excellence in all things.

Greg had a deep sense of style—always sharply dressed, often in monogrammed gear—and he made sure everyone in the family joined him. When he gave you clothes, you were trying them on immediately—no exceptions. His pride in appearance reflected his larger-than-life personality and appreciation for detail.

A devoted father and coach, Greg personally trained both sons in basketball from a young age, dedicating countless hours to drills, one-on-one sessions, and court-side encouragement. He went from cutting their hair as boys to proudly letting them return the favor as men—a quiet but meaningful gesture of love and trust.

Greg lived each day guided by the Four Cardinal Principles of Omega—Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Though he has now been called home to the Omega Chapter, his spirit lives on in the many lives he touched—with laughter, wisdom, and unshakable love.

He is survived by his wife, Ava; his devoted sons, Gregory (Desiree) and Justin; and his cherished granddaughters, Viviana, Ryella, and Amara. He also leaves behind his brother, Brian (Carol) of The Bronx, NY; sisters Sharon of Stratford and Lauren of Stamford; brothers-in-law Arthur and Owen; and a host of beloved nieces and nephews: Marc, Keith, Jasmin, Curtis, Clarence, Jasahn, Arthur, Raquel, Jiovanna, Taylor, and Alex.

Gregory D. Burnett Sr. lived a life of joy, purpose, generosity, and deep-rooted love. His laughter, leadership, and legacy will echo for generations—in the stories told, the lessons passed down, and the lives forever changed by his presence.



If

by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!





PALLBEARERS:

Gregory Burnett, Jr.
Marc Maignan
Brian Burnett

Justin Burnett
Keith Burnett
Jay Hinton



INTERMENT

Riverside Cemetery
Norwalk, CT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Everyone that provided any acts of comfort, support, or condolences during our time of bereavement.

Your prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, flowers and other acts of kindness and expression of love during this time of bereavement has comforted us and for that we are eternally grateful to each of you!

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)

The Family



THE FINAL TRIBUTE AND LIFE CELEBRATION IS ENTRUSTED TO:

Collins Funeral Home

92 East Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut 06851
203-866-0747

