

Elmer Jefferson Brown

September 16, 1932 - October 29, 2018



Elmer Jefferson Brown, Sr., 86 of Drayden, MD, passed away on October 29, 2018. Elmer was born on September 16, 1932 in Drayden, MD to John A. Brown and Edna Mae Smith Brown. The family moved to Washington DC in 1937, where Elmer was raised by his father after the death of his mother in 1939. Mr. John Brown later married Mrs. Florence Hubbard Brown and together they had Elmer's only sister, Leona. Elmer attended Bell Vocational High School studying trade and business management. Elmer served on active duty in the DC

National Guard from 1950 to 1955 as a Heavy Equipment Operator Instructor. In 1950, Elmer married the late Martha E. Powell of Washington, DC. From that union was born Sheila, Elmer Jr., Michael, Tony and Kevin. In 1968, Elmer married Johnnie M Goldson Brown; from this union, Antonio and Michelle were born. As a young father in Washington DC, Elmer established a Boy Scout Troop through his church. Elmer's troop was one of the best troops in the Washington DC area. It won many awards. The troop visited St. Mary's County many times for camping trips. As an independent businessman, Elmer owned and operated the E & E Carry-Out in Washington, D.C. in 1959. He later managed the Blue Jay Motel in Waldorf, MD. In 1983, Elmer created BMS Inc., a successful landscaping, maintenance and construction cleaning business. He also owned several rental properties. Elmer gave back to his community by training others in the construction field. In May of 1967, Elmer became employed by the Federal Government with the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO), which later became the Community Service Administration (CSA). While working in Washington DC, he also ventured into a printing business known as BHB Printing. In 1968, Elmer moved his family back to St. Mary's County, which had always been his dream. In 1982, he accepted a full-time position as St. Mary's County's Public Housing Manager. Under his leadership, Tubman Douglas Estates, a single-family housing development, was established in Great Mills. While serving on St. Mary's County Housing Board, Elmer saw that the young people of Tubman Douglas Estates had few outlets for their energy so in conjunction with St. Mary's College, he created the Sail-To-Life Program to help the children learn water safety and learn sailing. This was just the start of Mr. Brown's lifetime commitment and interest in the improvement of his community. He has joined, worked with or started many organizations to benefit all people of St. Mary's County. Elmer was a charter member, active member or board member in a host of civic organizations such as the Jolly Gents Social Club, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Law Enforcement Assistants Justice Board,

the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Community Development Corporation Board of St. Mary's County, State Board of Apprenticeship, Minority Business Alliance, Christmas in April, National Business League, Maryland Business League, Blacks-in-Government, LOTT Enterprises of Maryland Inc, Masonic Mason, Citizen's Scholarship Foundation, Rotary Club International, Athletic Boosters Clubs, Church Organizations, First National Bank of St. Mary's, Salt and Pepper Group and Tomorrow's Child. His last dreams were to establish the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) and erect an African American Monument. He was the Founder of UCAC, which seeks to document and celebrate African American contributions to St. Mary's County. The Elmer Brown Freedom Park, located on Tulagi Place in Lexington Park, Maryland was named in his honor. It is also the site of the African American Monument he envisioned. Finally, Elmer was the recipient of awards, plaques and recognitions, far too numerous to name. Elmer was preceded in death by his son, Kevin and daughter-in-law, Angela. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 50 years, Johnie Brown; children, Sheila Powell, Elmer Brown, Jr. (Louise), Michael Brown (Cheryl), Tony Brown (Patricia), Antonio Goldson and Michelle Brown (David Wilson); daughter-in-law, Suzette Goldson; grandchildren, Roschelle Bautista (Antonio), Lucretia Brown, Chris Brown (Sugeiri), Yolanda Johnson (Atiba), Sherita Gray (Marvin), Tonya Moffett (Brian), Rashan Beverly (Kim), Tony Brown, Jr. (Starla), Bernadette Brown (Morteza), Keith Lawrence (Shelita), Kevin Brown, Jr. (Beatrice), Darrell Brown, Wayne Brown, Tasha Smith and Marcus McCoy and twenty-two great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. He also leaves behind his sister, Leona Johnson (Eddie); nephews, Ronald Head (Laraine) and Keith Johnson and nieces, Linda Head and Kimberly Johnson (Kenny). Lastly, Elmer leaves his best friend of over 65 years, Bertie Bowman. Elmer Brown, Sr. lived his dreams for 86 years and reminded everyone around him to "Always Do Your Best" because without doing your best, you are only letting yourself down. Family and friends will unite on Wednesday, November 7 for visitation at 12 noon until time of service at 3:00 p.m. at 5 South Event Center, 21030 Point Lookout Road, Callaway, MD 20620. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the UCAC, PO Box 1457, Lexington Park, MD, 20653.

[written by the family; from the Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home website: <https://www.briscoe-tonicfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Elmer-Jefferson-Brown-Sr?obId=30555311> accessed August 18, 2025]