



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COACH

Maurice McGowan
"The Legend"

Saturday, May 14, 2022

10:00a.m. Viewing



11:00 a.m. Service

Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church

Pastor Tabatha C. Whitten, Officiating

Order Of Service

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Musical Prelude.....(Soft Music)

Processional ..Ministers, Pallbearers & Family

Musical Selection..... Billy Grant

Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Rev. John Gibbs

New TestamentRev. James Oakry

Prayer.....Rev. G.T.Curry Sr.

Solo.....Sis. Debra Greer

Poem.....Leanna Thomas

Reflection & Expression

Prairie View A&M Alumni.... James Sherrod

Yates Girls Basketball....Monica Lamb

Yates Boys Football.....Charles Price

Coworker.....Coach Roy Wayne Johnson

Resolutions/Acknowledgments....Sis. Yolanda McCray

Obituary Reading

Solo.....Billy Grant

Eulogy.....Rev. Will Fortune

Recessional

Obituary

Maurice McGowan Jr. was born on September 21, 1947 in Houston, Texas to Maurice and Shirley McGowan, the first of nine siblings. He was reared on the north side of Houston in Acres Home by his grandparents, Thomas and Myrtle McGowan.

He accepted Christ at an early age. He served as an altar boy at Saint Monica Catholic Church on West Montgomery. He later joined Antioch Baptist Church, Rev. Floyd Williams Pastor and sang in the choir. Thereafter, he joined Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church and was baptized by Pastor G.T. Curry Sr.

Maurice was educated in the Houston Independent School District. He attended Highland Heights Elementary, Hopper Middle School and MC Williams High School. During his middle school years he was very competitive in sports and always wanted to be the best. His high school years at MC Williams were most memorable. He starred in three sports, football, basketball and track. His competitiveness and his athletic abilities lead him to a football scholarship at Prairie View A&M University. In 1972, he graduated with a BS degree in Physical Education. He received his Masters in Education in 1974.

Maurice's first teaching position was in Palestine, Texas where he coached ninth grade football and basketball. After two years he got an offensive coordinator position at Jack Yates High School under his mentor and the legendary Coach Luther Booker. In 1979, he started girls basketball at Yates and went to the State Finals five years straight. He won a State Championship in 1983 and was district champs every year. His record was 185 - 18. He also called plays for the 1981 Lions, the first predominantly black inner city school to make it to the State Finals in Division 5A Football. In 1985, the Lions went 16-0 and won the State Championship.

In 1987, Maurice became the head coach at Booker T. Washington High School in Houston, Texas. After two years at Washington he was named head coach at Jack Yates High School. He continued the Lions tradition, making the playoffs every year. He won nine district championships, three regional appearances and he took the Lions to the State Finals in 1992.

Maurice was blessed to father three children whom he cherished. In 1972, he married his first wife Vicki Stimpson. In 2000, he found love again and remarried Gloria Thompson who had three great children.

He received numerous awards. Touchdown Club "Coach of the Year" in 1991 and 1993. Outstanding Accomplishments in Youth Development in April 1992. As well as, Greater Houston Football Coaches Association, "Hall of Honor" in 2005 and many others.

Maurice is preceded in death by his father, Maurice McGowan Sr. and mother Shirley McGowan. His grandparents and his first wife Vicki Stimpson.

He leaves to cherish his memory, wife Gloria McGowan, sons Deidric McGowan, Damonte McGowan, Eddie Thompson, daughters Damieka McGowan, Emelder Thompson, Tursheicia Thompson, nine grandchildren, five great grandchildren, five sisters Sandra Norton, Wanda Clarence (Melvin), Gwendolyn Daniels (Seloid), Glenda Berry (Ronnie), Rhonda McGowan, two brothers Terry Lynn McGowan (Tyasha), Ronald McGowan (Georgia); five aunts Thelma Taylor (Edward), Mildred Benford, Betty McCray (Marion), Carliss Johnson, Lola B. Smith along with three special cousins Ronnie McGowan, Emelder McCollough, Wanda Walker and a host of family and friends.

Tributes

A Letter to My Husband

Dear Maurice,

On June 28, 2000, I found not only a friend, but my soulmate. During thirty years of marriage, we have had many ups and downs. With you by my side it has made all the difference. My heart was destroyed, as your health began to fail. You have fought a good fight. You no longer have to suffer, because God has called you home. I will miss you terribly, but God knows best.

Love,

Gloria

Daddy's Girl

As I think back over the years my eyes began to fill with tears. Though you were only a phone call away, you were always there on the right day. Your lectures were long and you were always right. You had an answer for everything. I love you and my memories of you will never be erased because no one can ever take your place.

Your Loving Daughter,

Damieka

To My Daddy

My heart beats because of you

Today it hurts , but I'll make it through.

You taught me well how to be strong

But times like these are hard to hold on

Winning, working, staying three steps ahead

Let no one out work you is instilled in my head

My love for you can't be measured or weighed

And I can only show you with my remaining days. So, until we meet again, I say "Good Bye" to my dad and best friend.

Love You,

Damonte

To my Father

You have inspired me to be the man I've become today. You were not only my dad but a father figure to a lot of young men and women. I got into the education and coaching profession because I wanted to follow in your footsteps and I was truly blessed to have you walk that journey with me.

I love you and will truly miss you.

Love,

Scooter!!

Tributes

Tribute To Our Brother

Life has a way of reminding us, that this is not our home.
We prayed for your healing, but God decided to take you on.
We knew this day would come, even though it is hard for us.
We'll cherish the memories and the pictures you took, that caused such a fuss.
We will never forget the good times we had, as we shared the memories of our past.
You will always be remembered as the first of nine siblings, who loved us with all you had.
Rest in peace until we meet again.
Love,
Your Siblings

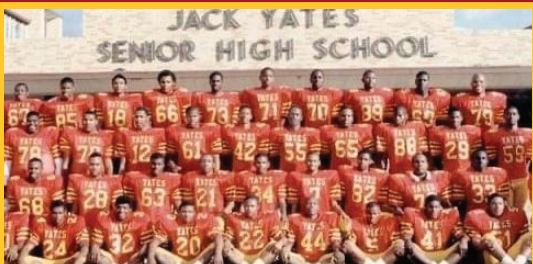
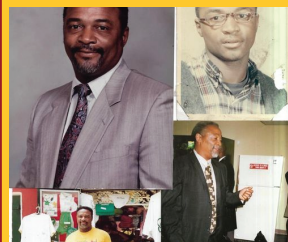
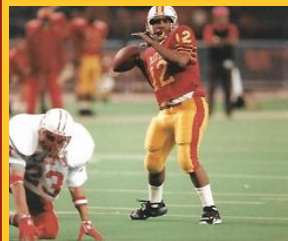
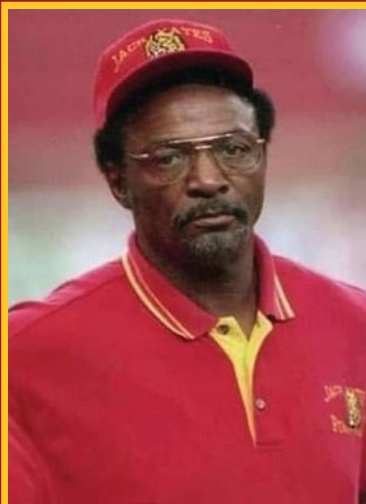
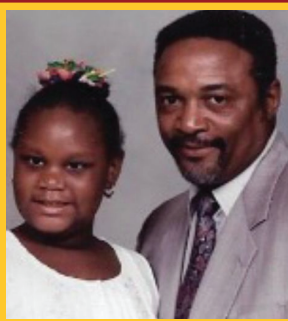
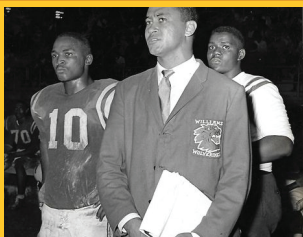
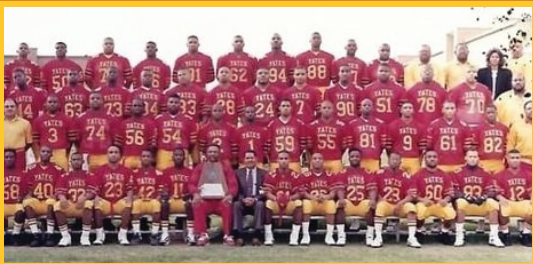
From Former Players

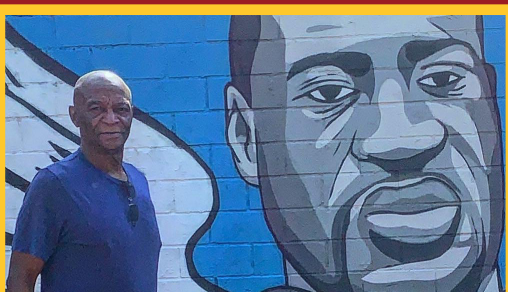
Coach, the life lessons we learned in all of those "Skull Sessions" are still living within us with our families and throughout our daily lives. "It's not about what they do, cause these people can't beat us, it's about what we do!" Don't worry about what someone else does, take care of your own business. "We aren't playing to beat these people, but those people over there." Learn to live and function outside of your own comfort zone, adjust and improve your life and your family's lives. "Kill a gnat with a sledgehammer!" If you're going to do something, do it to the best of your ability and leave no doubt that it was done the right way.

Coach we are going to miss your words of wisdom, your confidence and your smile. You were consistent, tenacious, honest, uplifting but always fair. You saw something in all of us that we didn't know was there but more importantly, you found a way to bring it out of us for what was best for the team and JY. Thank you for being a part of our lives and sharing yours with us.

In Loving Memory of Coach McGowan

It is one of my life's greatest honors and pleasures to have known and been coached by Maurice McGowan. He has left us with so many wonderful memories and life lessons to cherish. The time and resources he lavished on the Jack Yates Lady Lions Girls Basketball players will always be dear to our hearts. We are so very thankful and grateful for his wise words, kind heart, generous spirit and fatherly love for us.
Thank you Coach McGowan, we will always love you.
From McGowan's Girls, Jack Yates Girls Basketball Players and Lions for life!
Monica Lamb co'83.





Active Pallbearers

Harold Bailey
Quentin Hines
Thomas Ledat

Clarence McKinney
Kevin Phillips
Charles Price

Honary Pallbearers

Gordon Berry
Ronnie Berry
Melvin Clarence Jr.
Melvin Clarence Sr.
Seloid Daniels

Arnold McGowan
Deron McGowan
Ronald McGowan
Terry Lynn McGowan
Marion McCray III.

Roy Norton

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Maurice McGowan, are truly grateful to all of our family, church family and friends, who have comforted us with words of care. Your prayers, personal visits, telephone calls, messages, cards, monetary gifts and your presence here today will be forever cherished.
Thank you.

The Family

Funeral Services and Interment

entrusted to the Professionals of

Johnson Funeral Home

5730 Calhoun Rd.

Houston, Texas 77021
