

*Earth's Blessing*  
NOVEMBER 29, 1938

*Heaven's Reward*  
JANUARY 19, 2023

THE  
*Celebration*  
OF LIFE AND LEGACY OF



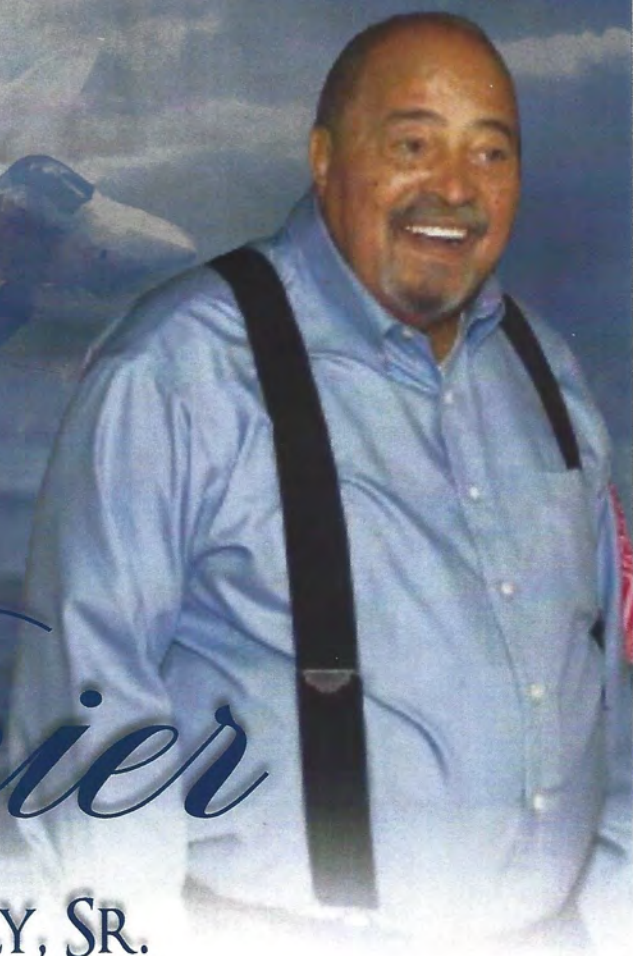
*Stelly*

JOSEPH STELLY, SR.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023  
11:00 A.M.

WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME  
817 E. SOUTH ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570

PASTOR ROLAND DEMOUCHET





# A Life Well Lived...

*Xavier Joseph Stelly, Sr.* AFFECTIONATELY CALLED "PAPÉ" OR "STELLY", WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 29, 1938, IN SUNSET, LOUISIANA TO THE LATE JOSEPHINE PIERRE. HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON JANUARY 19, 2023, AT HIS HOME SURROUNDED BY FAMILY IN CHURCH POINT, LOUISIANA.

XAVIER WAS EDUCATED AT GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER HIGH SCHOOL IN SUNSET, LA. FROM THERE, HE WENT ON TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY, AIRFORCE BRANCH, AND FOUGHT IN THE VIETNAM WAR. HE SERVED TWENTY YEARS IN THE AIRFORCE AND THAT CAREER AFFORDED HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL THE WORLD WHILE SERVING HIS COUNTRY.

UPON GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL, XAVIER MET HIS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART, GERALDINE DEMOUCHET. THEY WERE MARRIED FOR 34 YEARS. DURING THESE YEARS, THEY HAD CHILDREN (LYNN, LISA, AND XAVIER "GEORGE" JR.) AND GRANDCHILDREN (TREY, KRISTIN AND D.J.). AFTER MANY YEARS OF LOVE AND HAPPINESS, GERALDINE TRANSITIONED TO BE WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. XAVIER, THEN FOUND LOVE AGAIN AND MARRIED CHARLENE WHIPP; WHO HE SPENT 25 YEARS OF LOVE AND COMPANIONSHIP WITH UNTIL SHE TRANSITIONED TO BE WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER AS WELL.

XAVIER WAS AN ADVOCATE FOR HIGHER LEARNING AND BELIEVED THAT EDUCATION WAS THE KEY TO SUCCESS. AFTER RETIRING FROM THE AIRFORCE IN 1980, HE BECAME AN AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTOR AT THE LAFAYETTE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CENTER IN LAFAYETTE, LA. HE ALSO WAS A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

XAVIER LOVED THE SPORT OF BOWLING. HE PLAYED THE SPORT FOR OVER 30 YEARS AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE PEPPERMINT STRIKERS BOWLING LEAGUE AND THE OAK ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE WHERE HE WON NUMEROUS TOURNAMENTS. HE BOWLED REGULARLY UNTIL HIS HEALTH DECLINED.

XAVIER LEAVES TO REMEMBER HIM IN LOVE, APPRECIATION, AND GRATITUDE TO HIS THREE CHILDREN: LYNN KEE, LISA STELLY, AND XAVIER STELLY JR. GRANDCHILDREN WHOM HE LOVED DEARLY: GEORGE "TREY" KEE III (BRANDY), KRISTIN MAJOR (RODNEY JR.), DELDON "D.J." KEE (KIMBERLY), AND PRAVAN JAMES. GREAT GRANDCHILDREN: HILARIA KEE, BROOKLYN MAJOR, AND GEORGE KEE IV. SISTER IN LAW: NORMA JEAN DEMOUCHET. ALSO MOURNING HIS LOSS, IS A HOST OF COUSINS, STEPCHILDREN, STEP GRANDCHILDREN AND STEP GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.

HE WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS MOTHER, JOSEPHINE PIERRE; HIS AUNTS: LEOLA PIERRE, WILLA MAE GRICE, WILHEMINA MOORE, AND MARY LOUISE WILLIAMS; HIS UNCLÉS: IGNATIUS WHEELER, VOORHIES WHEELER, JOSEPH PIERRE, AND HENRY PIERRE; HIS FIRST WIFE, GERALDINE STELLY; AND HIS SECOND WIFE, CHARLENE WHIPP-STELLY.

WE ALL LOVED XAVIER, BUT GOD LOVED HIM BEST. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

# Xavier

JOSEPH STELLY, SR.  
11.29.1938 - 01.19.2023

A Reflection of Life

# "To My Family"

WHEN I COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD  
AND THE SUN HAS SET FOR ME  
I WANT NO RITES IN A GLOOM FILLED ROOM  
WHY CRY FOR A SOUL SET FREE?  
MISS ME A LITTLE, BUT NOT FOR LONG  
AND NOT WITH YOUR HEAD BOWED LOW  
REMEMBER THE LOVE THAT ONCE WE SHARED  
MISS ME BUT LET ME GO.  
FOR THIS IS A JOURNEY WE ALL MUST TAKE  
AND EACH MUST GO ALONE.  
IT'S ALL PART OF THE MASTER PLAN  
A STEP ON THE ROAD TO HOME.  
WHEN YOU ARE LONELY AND SICK AT HEART  
GO TO THE FRIENDS WE KNOW.  
LAUGH AT ALL THE THINGS WE USED TO DO  
MISS ME BUT LET ME GO.



# ORDER OF Service

PRELUDE

*Scripture Reading:*

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

PRAYER OF COMFORT

PASTOR ROLAND DEMOUCHET

MUSICAL SELECTION

IGNATIUS CARMOUCHE

OBITUARY READING

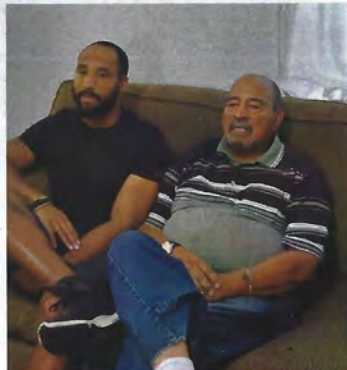
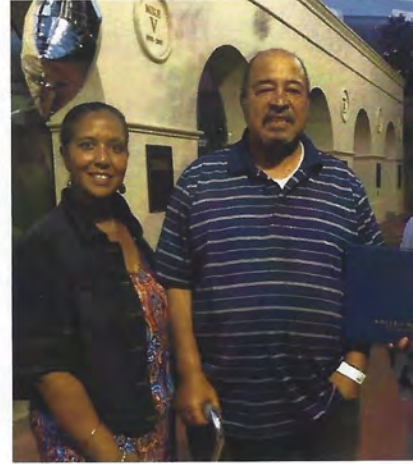
INFORMAL TRIBUTES

EULOGY

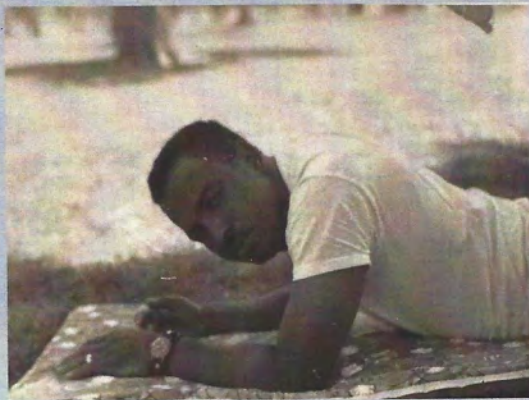
PASTOR ROLAND DEMOUCHET

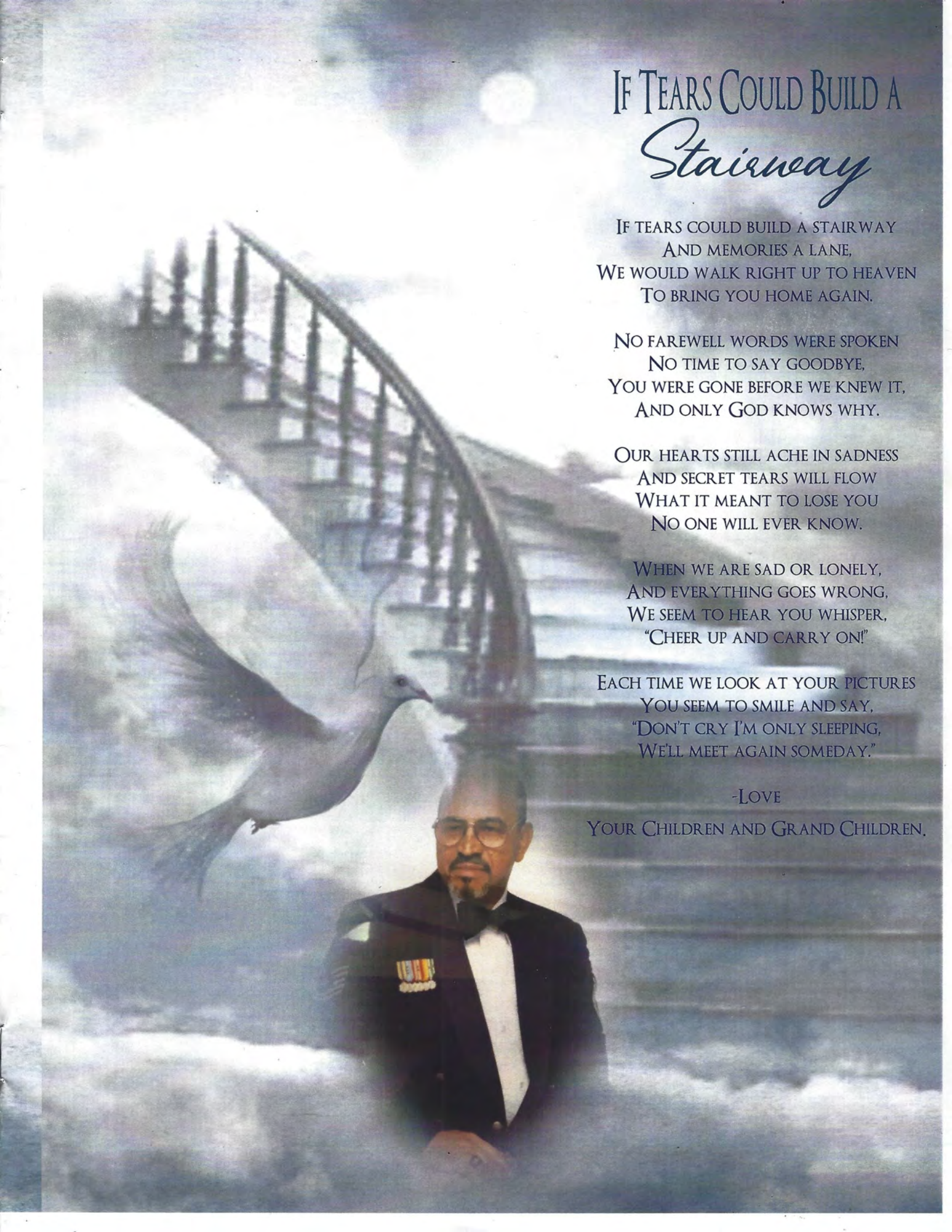
RECESSIONAL











# IF TEARS COULD BUILD A *Stairway*

IF TEARS COULD BUILD A STAIRWAY  
AND MEMORIES A LANE,  
WE WOULD WALK RIGHT UP TO HEAVEN  
TO BRING YOU HOME AGAIN.

NO FAREWELL WORDS WERE SPOKEN  
NO TIME TO SAY GOODBYE,  
YOU WERE GONE BEFORE WE KNEW IT,  
AND ONLY GOD KNOWS WHY.

OUR HEARTS STILL ACHE IN SADNESS  
AND SECRET TEARS WILL FLOW  
WHAT IT MEANT TO LOSE YOU  
NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW.

WHEN WE ARE SAD OR LONELY,  
AND EVERYTHING GOES WRONG,  
WE SEEM TO HEAR YOU WHISPER,  
"CHEER UP AND CARRY ON!"

EACH TIME WE LOOK AT YOUR PICTURES  
YOU SEEM TO SMILE AND SAY,  
"DON'T CRY I'M ONLY SLEEPING,  
WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY."

-LOVE

YOUR CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN.

A portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a military uniform with "U.S. AIR FORCE" visible on the chest. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a soft, light blue and white, suggesting a sky or clouds.

## *Active Pallbearers*

GEORGE KEE III  
DELDON KEE  
PRAVAN JAMES  
RODNEY MAJOR, JR.  
JONATHAN WILLIAMS  
MARLON EWELL

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

XAVIER J. STELLY, JR.  
PAUL WILLIAMS  
ROLAND DEMOUCHET  
CHRISTOPHER WASHINGTON  
MICHAEL CYPRIEN

## *Acknowledgements*

QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES & AMEDISYS HOSPICE CARE

THE FAMILY OF XAVIER J. STELLY, SR. WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION OF ALL OF THE LOVE, SUPPORT, PRAYERS, CONCERN, AND KINDNESS DURING OUR LOVED ONE'S ILLNESS AND DURING OUR BEREAVEMENT. WE ARE SADDENED FOR LOSS BUT COMFORTED TO KNOW THAT HE IS NO LONGER IN PAIN AND IS WITH HIS HEAVENLY FATHER. MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU IN OUR PRAYERS.

XAVIER JOSEPH STELLY, SR.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:  
WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

INTERMENT:  
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CEMETERY  
GRAND COTEAU, LOUISIANA

THERE WILL BE NO REPAST AND NO HOME VISITATIONS FOLLOWING THE BURIAL

PROGRAMS DESIGNED & PRINTED BY  
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