Celebration of Life
Hugh Victor Browne, II

Sunrise
February 16, 1925

Sunset
December 17, 2015

Service
Wednesday, December 30, 2015
Eleven o'clock AM
Viewing 9AM-11AM

First Baptist of Jericho
981 Mail Ave.
Deptford, New Jersey
Life Reflections

Hugh Victor Browne II was the 6th and youngest child born to Rev. Sylvanus S. & Lovie Lee Browne on February 16, 1925. Vic accepted Christ at an early age under his father's pastorate at Baptist Temple Church in Camden, NJ. Vic was very active in his church and participated along with his siblings in the music ministry. Vic attended the Woodbury school systems where he was a baseball pitcher and singer in the High School chorus until his graduation in 1943. Vic was a gregarious young man who never met a stranger. He was an exceptional dancer and singer and was often found in local establishments showcasing his melodious baritone voice.

Shortly after graduation he joined the newly forming Montford Point Marines and was one of the first black Marines recruited in New Jersey of the approximately 20,000 black men who helped break the Marine color barrier during World War II. Upon completion of boot camp, he was assigned to Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands in support of black Marines serving throughout the Pacific. After his discharge, he returned to New Jersey, and met and married the beautiful Erma E. Huff. Together they had five children and were married until her death in 1994.

Vic and Erma returned to Woodbury and soon after united with Bethlehem Baptist Church where they served for many years. Their entrepreneurial spirit led them to own several dry cleaners and apartment dwellings, a deli, and a taxi. Vic and Erma loved their family and often opened their home to family members and friends who were in need of assistance. As a result, they helped to raise other family members and friend's children as their own. He raised all of his children to be proud of who they are, confident in their abilities and always seek opportunities to help others. Vic was a long-time active member of his community and his political activism included serving as a Committeeman and working on many elections. He received numerous commendations for his service to his community and his country. In fact, in 2012, he received the country's highest civilian award for distinguished achievement and service, the Congressional Gold Medal.

On Thursday, December 17, 2015, Vic was called home to be with the Lord. He is preceded by his wife of 37 years, Erma E. Browne; son, Minister Hugh Victor Browne III; parents, Rev Sylvanus S. and Lovie Lee Browne; brothers, Roscoe Lee, Moses Douglas, Arthur W. “Ted” and Sylvanus Browne Jr.; and sister Juanita G. Neal. Vic is survived by his children, Rev. Barbara Taylor, Clarke D. Browne, Lovie B. Tarver (Jerome "Sam"), Craig V. Browne (Charlene), Leslie M. Browne and Bryan L. Smith (Leanne), and special friend Catherine Remether. His legacy will live on through 12 Grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.