

Charles Robert Davenport

Washington

Formerly of Monongahela

Charles Robert Davenport, 88, of Washington, formerly of Monongahela, died peacefully on Feb. 16, 2012, in Canonsburg. Born July 28, 1923, in Monongahela, he was the son of the late Herschel H. and Myrtle Phillips Davenport. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, the late Roberta Pearl Jamison, whom he married on Oct. 23, 1963; five brothers, Isaac, Joseph, Clarence, Kenneth and Grayson Davenport; and one sister, Amelda Davenport. Mr. Davenport graduated from Monongahela High School in 1941. After he graduated, Mr. Davenport was employed at Hiram Swank brickyard in 1942. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp on Nov. 27, 1942, attending boot camp at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Mr. Davenport was one of the original black enlistee at the segregated Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, N.C. in 1942 and the first black enlistee from Washington County. Mr. Davenport served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater in World War II, in the Korean War 52nd Defense Battalion and Motor Transport, F.M.F in 1953-54, and state side. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Korean Presidential Unit Commendation, U.S.M.C. Good Conduct Medals and was a Rifle Marksman. He received an honorable discharge on March 30, 1957, in Barstow, Calif., as a Sergeant Major. Mr. Davenport worked as an electrician with his father at Davenport's Electric. He and his father were the proprietors of the Hallam Hotel and Bar from 1949-1980. During this time, he attended Washington and Jefferson College from 1958-1960 majoring in psychology. He became a Counselor I, working at Morganza and the Youth Forestry in Florence, Pa. from 1961-1975 and Counselor II at the Youth Development Center in Waynesburg, Pa. retiring in 1984. Mr. Davenport was a lifelong member of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Monongahela, a member of the Board of Trustees and the church electrician. He also participated annually in the Bethel A.M.E Church bazaar. He was a Mason, former member of Lodge No. 5, M. and P.H.A.F. and A.M.M.P.H.A. In his later years, he fostered 17 children with Children International for 20 years. He enjoyed participating in the annual Marine Corp Conventions highlighted in Philadelphia 1981, cruising to St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Martin and Barbados in 1987 with his son, Eadrik, and visiting Chicago in 1992, Camp Lejeune in 1993 and 2006, Las Vegas in 2000 with his daughter, Shelley and son-in-law Reginald, former Marine, and St. Louis in 2002. In 1997 he and his son, Renard (Thomas) traveled to China and Japan for two weeks for his 74th birthday. While in Japan, Mr. Davenport reunited with a former POW Japanese soldier (Kanazawa Shin) he befriended while on the island of Guam in 1943. They remained friends

since 1943. In 2006, Mr. Davenport was invited to Camp Lejeune, N.C. to participate in the Camp Montford Point Marine Association documentary on the History of Black Marines hosted by actor Louis Gossett Jr., which was televised in 2006. Mr. Davenport enjoyed volunteering at the Washington City Mission and Christian Outreach. He was also involved for many years with the KDKA turkey fund. One of his favorite pastimes was cooking Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Mr. Davenport never knew a stranger. He loved to talk and tell stories of his lifelong experiences, always encouraging and inspiring others to succeed. He was also very fond of his late German Sheppard dog, Jairine. Mr. Davenport enjoyed all sports, especially his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates. He also enjoyed all types of music, especially listening to his beloved sister's singing group, The Davenport Sisters and his father's orchestra, Davenport's Blue Rhythm Band. He further enjoyed attending plays, the theater, movies and attending his class reunions as well as his Marine Conventions. He always looked forward to reconnecting with his old Marine buddies. His main focus however was spending time with his children, grandchildren, family and friends. This testimony was Charles Robert Davenport's legacy. Survivors include his second wife, Carolyn G. Kiger-Davenport, whom he married on Aug. 8, 1988; four children, Shelley (Reginald) Adcock, of Las Vegas, Nev., Chauntay (Tracey) Davenport-Mitchell, Renard Thomas and Eadrik Nidaros Davenport, all of Washington; three stepchildren, Cynthia (Timothy) Kincer, Laura (Dave) Moore and James A. (Joy) Kiger; two grandsons, Chase Francis and Gaige Nidaros Davenport; seven stepgrandchildren, Jennifer and Amber Whitsett, Heather Freeman, Dawn and Joshua Moore, Kaitlyn and Hunter Kiger; five sisters, Emma Jane (Janice) Davenport-Jones, of Linden, N.J., Hazel E. Davenport-Bolling, of Columbus, Ohio, Norma J. (Traycee) Davenport-Collins, of Edison, N.J., Florence L. (Penney) Davenport-Thoms, of Dover, Del., and Sylvia B. Davenport, of Roselle, N.J.; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Mr. Davenport was the Patriarch of the family. Family and friends will be received on Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the Bethel AME Church on Seventh and Main streets, Monongahela. An additional viewing will be held in the church on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 10 to 11 a.m., the hour of celebration with the Rev. Mortty G. Ivy officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. Arrangements have been entrusted to the BEVERLY C. DRAPER FUNERAL HOME INC., 608 Sixth St., Monessen, (724) 684-6242.