



# Press



# Release

## **Frederick Drake, Sr.**

(October 17, 1920 - November 15, 2010)

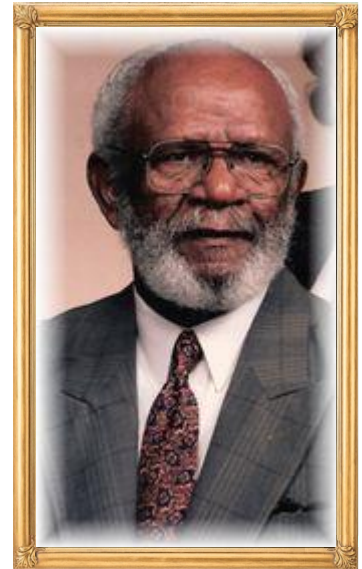
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USMC Retired M/Sgt Frederick Drake, Sr. 90, of Port Royal, SC and husband of Mrs. Daisy Drake, died Monday, November 15, 2010 at Beaufort Memorial Hospital.

Funeral Services: 11:00 AM Monday, November 22, 2010 at Bethesda Christian Fellowship, St. Helena Island. Burial with full military honors will follow in Beaufort National Cemetery.

The Family will receive friends from 6 to 7 PM, Sunday in the sanctuary of the Grace Chapel A.M.E. Church, Beaufort.

Frederick James Drake was born in Sunny South, Alabama on October 17, 1920. He was the oldest of five children born to the union of Mahlon and Tempie (Gildersleeves) Drake. In 1945, he married the former Daisy Stanton and to this union seven children were born. Two children, Boris Drake and Fredericka Drake, preceded them in death. Their love and strong faith carried them through 65 years of matrimony.



In 1943, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and completed Boot Camp at Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. While he was affectionately known as "Sergeant Drake", in reality he retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant, after 30 years of service. He served in the Republic of Vietnam and Okinawa, Japan and was awarded the Navy Accommodation Medal.

Upon retirement from the military, he longed for the smell of salt water and moved his family to Port Royal. Once back in the Low Country, he worked in the Department of Environmental Health with the Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. He described the fifteen years that he served the citizens of Beaufort and Jasper Counties as some of the most rewarding work that he had done.

Simultaneously, in 1972, he founded and managed Drake Vault Company where three generations of Drakes worked shoulder to shoulder under his guidance to build a company that has thrived for more than 30 years.

His greatest love was his commitment to Grace Chapel A.M.E. Church where he was appointed as Head Steward in 1960. He graciously retired to the position of Preacher Steward Emeritus in 2008.

In addition to his dedication to his church, he also served with Habitat for Humanity, Operation Good Neighbor, The Montford Point Marine Association, Beaufort County Democratic Party, Port Royal Community College, Port Royal Reunion Committee and served as Campaign Manager for several successful politicians in the Port Royal community.

He departed this mortal existence and entered into eternal rest on Monday, November 15. He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife Daisy; his children, Frederick J. Drake Jr. of Woodhaven, MI, Dr. Carolyn Hand(Bobby) of Albany, GA, Annette Drake-Smith(Dennis) of Port Royal, SC, Jeanelle Drake of Detroit, MI and Marcharob Drake of Port Royal, SC; 12 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; two





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brothers, Charles Drake Sr.(Josephine) of Los Angeles, CA and Robert Drake Sr.(Diane) of Birmingham, AL; one sister, Juanita Russaw of Fairfield, CA; Brother-in-law Charles Grizzard of Detroit, MI; two sisters-in-law Beatrice Johnson and Mary Stanton of Detroit, MI; a host of family and friends; devoted neighbors on "Sgt's Drive": Sgt. and Mrs. LaSalle Vaughn Sr. (Ret.), Sgt. and Mrs. Vernon Lights (Ret.) and Mrs. Arthurmae Alston as well as his longtime friend, Thomas Mouzon of Beaufort.

