

**HOMEGOING CELEBRATION
IN LOVING MEMORY**

of

Sgt. John James Phoenix

Sunrise

September 20, 1929

Sunset

March 26, 2014



Monday, March 31, 2014
12:00 Noon

First Baptist Church
508 Apple Street
Burlington, North Carolina



Reverend Dr. Dray Bland, Senior Pastor
Reverend Dr. Raymond Lawing, Eulogist

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

(Family Visitation: 11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)

- Musical Prelude.....The Musicians
- The Processional (With Scriptural Collect)
- The Hymn of Adoration.....The Choir and Congregation
“Battle Hymn of the Republic”
- The Sacred Scriptures
- The Old Testament.....Rev. Gary Williams
- The New Testament.....Rev. Dray Bland
- The Prayer for Comfort.....Rev. Dr. R.W. Styles
- The Solo.....Sis. Mary Peterson
- The Tributes and Resolutions
- Tributes from U.S.M.C.
- Tributes from Friend.....Mr. Jack Reagan
- The Obituary.....(Read Silently with Meditative Music)
- The Hymn of Affirmation.....The Choir and Congregation
“One Day at a Time”
- The Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Raymond Lawing
 Pastor of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church
 Appomattox, VA
- Mortician’s Brief.....Bob Dunn, Jr.
- The Postlude.....The Musicians
 “*It is Well*”



AT THE CEMETERY

- The Gathering of the Christian Community
- The Ritual of Consignment
- The Prayer of Commitment
- The Benediction
- The Final Departure



SGT. JOHN JAMES PHOENIX

Reflections

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

SGT. JOHN JAMES PHOENIX was born September 20, 1929, to the late Mr. Walter Phoenix and the late Mrs. Letha Young Phoenix, in Cleveland, Ohio. Eighty-four years later, Sgt. Phoenix departed this life on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at Alamance Regional Medical Center, Burlington, North Carolina.

Sgt. Phoenix served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II. He was one of the prestigious Montford Point Marines who was trained in 1949. During his military career, he was stationed in many countries, including Korea and Vietnam. For his untiring service to his country, Sgt. Phoenix was a recipient of many medals. Although he received many military honor awards, his greatest reward was in 2012, in Washington, DC, when he was presented the Gold Congressional Medal for being one of the Montford Point Marines. Sgt. Phoenix proudly served his country for many years.

At an early age, John was baptized and joined Temple Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio. Upon moving to this area, he joined First Baptist Church, Burlington, North Carolina. Sgt. Phoenix continuously praised and thanked the Lord for all his mercy and goodness.

Sgt. Phoenix is survived by his wife of 46 ½ years, Luella Keith Phoenix, of the home; a son, Thomas L. Keith of Mebane, NC; four lovely granddaughters, Sabrina, Deanna, Sharon and Lisa; seven great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Eugene Phoenix of Cleveland, OH; two nephews, Herman Thomas and Andrew Phoenix, both of Cleveland, OH; four great-nieces: Angelia, Erica, Tonya and Lynette; three great-nephews: Ve'Angelo, Levelle, and Devonte; a brother-in-law, Earnest Keith of Currie, NC; and a host of other nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, other relatives and friends.

Sgt. Phoenix has now been reunited with his parents, Walter and Letha Young Phoenix; a granddaughter, Eleanor Dixon; and siblings: Marion Thomas, Richard Phoenix and Andrew Phoenix, Sr., who entered their mansions before him.



MONTFORD POINT

Marine





MISS ME – BUT LET ME GO

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 too long

And not with your head bowed low.

Remember the love that we once shared.

Miss me – but let me go.

For this is a journey that we all must take

And each must go alone. It's all a part of the plan

A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart

Go to the friends we know

And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds



Miss Me – But Let me Go?

~Author Unknown