



## Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard

December 6, 1950 - December 30, 2022

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On the 30th Day of December 2022; Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard, peacefully transitioned from time into eternity; to forever rest in the presence of Almighty God. "For we are assured that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." (II Cor. 5:8)

Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard was a loving husband, dedicated son, beloved brother, proud father, respected uncle and cousin, devoted grandfather and elated newly inducted great grandfather. He was an ordained elder, author, entrepreneur, engineer, educator, administrator, counselor, mentor, and U.S. Navy veteran. Phillip affectionally known as "Coach Ballard" was born to Evelyn Louise Valdez on December 6, 1950, in Port Tampa, Florida. He was the eldest of Four siblings, Walter A. Flagler (deceased), Frank A. Flagler (deceased), and Keith A. Flagler. He was later officially adopted by his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Frank and Essie Mae Ballard.

Phillip was baptized and became a member of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church of Port Tampa, Florida at 8 years of age. In 1973 he acknowledged his

calling to the ministry and was ordained at the age of 22. He was a pioneer in his own right as he was a graduate of the first integrated "Class of 1968" of Robinson High School of Hillsborough County, Tampa, Florida. He then attended college at Clearwater Christian College, in Clearwater, Florida.

Phillip relocated to Los Angeles, California where he served as a youth minister. He then enlisted in the United States Navy in 1977 and served as a meteorologist and religious specialist until 1990. On December 1, 1979, he was united in holy matrimony to the love of his life, Rose Marie Dixon-Gatewood (Stennis). During their union, they built an extraordinary life and raised a blended family of 10 children; and provided temporary sanctuary for over 150 others, that still refer to him as "Dad."

Phillip was an advocate for education and always encouraged young people, including his children and grandchildren to pursue higher academia. Phillip was a graduate of LaVerne University, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious Studies. As an ordained Elder and member, he served as the Chief Administrator Officer of the St. Stephens Cathedral COGIC, of San Diego, California under the leadership of the Late Bishop George D. and Jean C. McKinney. Phillip was a man of diversity, and one who embraced his talents; he explored different opportunities to serve his community. Phillip was an intake counselor at a local boys' home and was a maintenance engineer for the San Diego Trolley Authority, in San Diego, CA.

In 1997, he and his family relocated to Forrest City, AR, where they became members of Christian Fellowship Church, of Wynne, AR, serving on the elders' council, under the leadership of Pastor John G. and Sandra Smith. He continued his quest for education and received another bachelors' degree in Education from Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. He then pursued a career in teaching his favorite subject of History and all accompanying subjects to junior high, and high school students in Elaine, Helena/ West

Helena, and Forrest City School Districts within the state of Arkansas. As a teacher, Phillip was always looking to impart knowledge into the next generation through engaging conversations and sports competitions. Phillip, as a coach and former semi-pro baseball athlete himself, trained athletes in football, baseball, weight training, and track and field, encouraging athletes to use their talents as a gateway to higher education. Phillip was afforded the opportunity to retire from the education field in 2015 from the Forrest City Public School District. He continued to share his smile, wisdom and life experiences with his children, grand-children, great grandchild, and countless others as he journeyed through to the end of his life.

Elder Phillip Ballard leaves to cherish his memory; his loving wife; Rose Marie, his mother; Evelyn L. Flagler-Shank, his brother, Keith A. Flagler (Helen); Ten wonderful Children: Deborah L. (George-Mark) McCorley, Sharon M. Rowe, Major JayCee Stennis Jr. (U.S. Airforce) (Nikhole), Nicola L. (John K.) Vincent, Melissa A. (Lawrence) McCorvey, Carleen J. Ballard, Walter A. (Tiffany) Ballard, Jesse "Dez" V. Ballard, Chawntay A. (Allen) Woods, and Joya E. (Theo) Johnson. His twenty-six intelligent grandchildren: Caleb, Kaleel, George Jr., Jordon, Nicholas, Jonathan, Gianni, Lauren, Phillip, Nasyia, Matthew, Kaden, Aleasia, Treasure, Anika, Donald, Lorenzo, Jordon B. Antonio, Aiyanna, Jalisa, Taleeya, Teighlor, Alaia, Drake and one precious great-grandson; Malachi; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. He was proceeded in death by his grandparents/parents Jesse Frank and Essie Mae Ballard, Louis Valdez Jr. (uncle), Walter A. Flagler (brother), Rodney Milligan (cousin), and Justus McCovey (grandson).

# Cemetery Details

## Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery - Birdeye

3600 AR-163  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324

# Previous Events

## Visitation with a requirement of a face covering

JAN 6. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation  
1900 South Washington Street  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-1914  
mjkimble@yahoo.com  
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

## Service with a requirement of a face covering

JAN 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Riverside M.B. Church  
628 SFC 419  
Widener , AR 72394

## Graveside

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JAN 9. 12:00 PM (CT)

Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery - Birdeye  
3600 AR-163  
Cherry Valley, AR 72324

# Tribute Wall

NB

“*Rose, still have you and your family in our prayers. The Burgess Family/Ceder Grove Church*”



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**Nancy Burto** - January 12, 2023 at 02:47 PM

IM

“*Irene Hardrick Moore lit a candle in memory of Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard*”



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**Irene Hardrick Moore** - January 05, 2023 at 08:55 PM

DM

“*Mrs Rose and family, you're all in my thoughts and prayers during, through and after this painful season of your lives. Coach was a good teacher and showed genuine concern and compassion for his students. May God strengthen you now and always.*”



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**Donna McShan** - January 05, 2023 at 08:38 AM

SH

“ Shirley Haggins sent a virtual gift in memory of Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard



Shirley Haggins - January 04, 2023 at 11:38 AM

SH

May God continue to give you the strength Ms. Rose to carry on. he will an always be missed by so many. Just keep holding on to God's unchanging hand an he will carry you through. Amen!

Shirley Haggins - January 04, 2023 at 11:45 AM

ST

“ Shirley Thorn sent a virtual gift in memory of Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard



shirley thorn - January 04, 2023 at 10:50 AM

RF

“ Rev Vernon And Dorothy Faulkner lit a candle in memory of Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard



Rev Vernon and Dorothy Faulkner - January 03, 2023 at 09:44 PM

MG

“ *Sending condolences to the family of Elder Phillip Ballard on behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI). Forrest City, Arkansas”*

*Delores Farr Morelon  
MGNAAI President*



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**MGNAAI** - January 03, 2023 at 06:43 PM

RW

“ *Rene' Ward sent a virtual gift in memory of Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard*



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**Rene' Ward** - January 03, 2023 at 01:22 PM

RW

*To the Ballard Family know that you are in my Prayers.*

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**Rene' Ward** - January 03, 2023 at 01:28 PM

KL

“ *Katherine Lyons lit a candle in memory of Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard*



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**Katherine Lyons** - January 02, 2023 at 08:08 PM

SH

“ *Stella Hill-Winfrey lit a candle in memory of Elder Phillip Maxwell Sanders Ballard*



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**Stella Hill-Winfrey** - January 02, 2023 at 07:56 PM

SH

*He will be missed by all of us who worked with him at Forrest City Junior High School. No more pain, rest on Coach Ballard.*

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**Stella Hill-Winfrey** - January 02, 2023 at 07:58 PM

LL

*My condolences to Mrs. Ballard and family  
May the comfort and peace of God be with you now and in the days to come.*

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**Lillie Lane** - January 03, 2023 at 10:40 AM