



Melvin Leverett

December 24, 1946 - October 31, 2010

Melvin T. Leverett, 63, a native of Mobile, AL and a resident of Hammond, LA went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, October 31, 2010. A loving and devoted husband, father, son and friend, Melvin was a mentor to numerous entrepreneurs. A successful business man and real estate professional, Melvin was a graduate of the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa where he received a B.S. in Management and Marketing. Early in his career as an employee of IBM, Melvin was the first minority office manager in Atlanta. He helped establish the first minority real estate school in Atlanta where he was also awarded Young Entrepreneur of the Year. He founded Century 21 Action Realty in Mobile, AL which became the city's first minority owned Real Estate Company. In Louisiana, Melvin was a former owner/operator of 10 McDonald's restaurants on the North Shore as well as 2 Sonic restaurants on the South Shore and he owned 2 Ace Cash Express franchises. He was a founding member of the Hammond/Ponchatoula Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was on the St. Tammany Leadership Board and a founding member of Leadership Tangipahoa. He served on many advisory boards including the National Association Board of Realtors, The Boys and Girls Club, Hammond Chamber of Commerce, Ginger Ford Habitat for Humanity, Lallie Kemp Hospital, Southeastern Louisiana University, AmSouth Bank, Deposit Guaranty Bank and Regions Bank. During his career, Melvin was recognized as Minority Business Person of the Year for the State of Louisiana and he was named the Hammond, Louisiana Citizen of the Year. To cherish his memory,

he leaves behind his loving wife of 18 years, Renetta Raby Leverett and daughters, Christina Alexis Leverett and Courtney Alana Leverett of Hammond, LA; mother, Ernestine W. Leverett, son Justin Wesley Leverett, granddaughter, Paris Leverett, and sisters, Patricia White and husband Clyde of Mobile AL and Angela Leverett of Slidell LA. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Bernice Raby of Hammond, LA; nieces, Amelia and Maggie, nephew Lee and beloved family pet, Diamond Ciarra. Preceding Melvin in death was his father, Wesley Leverett. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation at Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home, west of Hammond, on Friday, November 5, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The visitation will continue at Word of Life Christian Center in Darrow, Louisiana on Saturday, November 6th from 10:00 a.m. until the Celebration of Life Service at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Leroy Thompson will officiate the services and interment will follow in Rose Memorial Cemetery in Hammond. The family would like to say a special thanks to their devoted friends, Drs. Peter and Leslie Bostick of Baton Rouge and the transplant staff of Ochsner Medical Center, especially Dr. Hector Ventura and Dr. Humang Patel. Condolences and other information are available online at www.thompsoncares.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home of Hammond.