

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

OUR KING

RAY DOHN
DILLON



SUNRISE
SEPTEMBER 22, 1929

SUNSET
MAY 5, 2021



FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021 5:00 PM
OLD CENTRAL CULTURAL CENTER
2627 AVENUE M GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550
REV. MICHAEL DWYER, OFFICIATING

HIS JOURNEY

Ray Dohn Dillon was born September 22, 1929, in Tylertown, Mississippi to the late Velma Jordan Dillion and Dart Dillon. He moved to Galveston, Texas at a very young age and attended Shiloh A.M.E. Church and Galveston public schools.

He was a Central High School Bearcat where he was a member of the state championship football team, and Class of 1948. He attended Prairie View A&M College of Texas from 1948-1952 with a major in Physical Education. Affectionately known as "Tank" was the first to make All-American football player three years in a row, and in 1988 he was inducted into the PVAMU Hall of Fame for football and track.

He made history as the first black man to enter the National Football League (NFL) from Galveston Island and from Prairie View A&M College. He was drafted by the Detroit Lions in 1952. Although an excellent player, racial segregation was still prevalent and he, along with other blacks, were cut from the team. He was welcomed by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Ontario's Canadian Football League (CFL) where his team won the CFL's Grey Cup championship.

He returned home to Galveston and went to work for the City of Galveston's Wright Cuney Center as their Recreation Director. He eventually returned to his alma mater, Central High School, and began to coach football under Head Coach Ray Shepherd. There he met and married Irene C. Walker, a science teacher from Houston, Texas on July 11, 1954. They established their home near Central High School and dedicated their time and attention to their students and serving the community.

Integration combined all-black Central High School with all-white Ball High School into one high school. There he coached football alongside Kermit Courville and taught swimming to many students.

While still employed with Ball High School, he earned a master's degree in Guidance Counseling at Prairie View and became Chief of Human Relations and Attendance for Galveston I.S.D. He supervised the district's paraprofessionals and was a liaison for the school district with the Juvenile Division of the Galveston Police Department.

He owned and operated 29th & Ave. M Grocery Store from the mid-'70s to mid-'90s. There, he and his family provided a need in the neighborhood and served the community. Those whom he touched, he changed. He was "Ray Dohn," "Tank," "Coach," "Marshall Dillon," "Mr. Dillon"...He was loved!

Preceding his passing were his wife Dr. Irene Walker Dillon, mother Velma Dillon Prince, father Dart Dillon, and brothers Easley Dillon, Sr. (Mary), and Clifton Prince, Jr.

Ray Dohn departed peacefully at home on May 5, 2021 in the care of his devoted daughter Dealisa and son-in-law Kodel Frazier. He leaves to cherish his memories -- children Ray Don Dillon, Cynthia Strange, Dealisa Dillon-Frazier (Kodel), Irene Dillon, Elizabeth Coleman (Donald), Patricia Silva, Patty Allen (Marcus), Bobbye Baines, Kentrick Jones, Lisa Deyon, and Troyce Henry; siblings Clifford Prince (Celestine), Alex Joel Prince (Sharon), Delores Prince Anderson (James), and Audrey Sandifer Brown; Grandchildren Dennis Richardson, David Richardson, Dana Strange, Myka Ebone' Strange-Lundy (Ken), Shantel Dillon, Elaine Crawford, Chelsea Simmons, and Sean Dillon; God-children Cynthia Boone and Patricia Pink; He has a host of loving great-grandchildren, other family members, and an abundance of close friends that will miss him dearly.

ORDER OF SERVICE

RITUAL CEREMONY- GAMMA PI LAMBDA
CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA INC.

SCRIPTURE- REV. DIEDRA J.A. WALTERS

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

PRAYER OF COMFORT- DARIA A. J. WALTERS,
GREAT NIECE

PRAISE DANCE- KEYONA KITCHEN, GREAT
GRANDDAUGHTER

SPECIAL EXPRESSION- READ BY MARCELLUS
WALTERS OF BEHALF OF RAY DOHN AND
DEALISA FRAZIER

OBITUARY (READ SILENTLY)

EULOGY- REV. MICHAEL DWYER SR., GREATER
MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

EXPRESSIONS (LIMIT TWO MINUTES)

Final Remains Entrusted to:
Wynn Funeral Home
602 32nd St.
Galveston, TX 77550

A LETTER TO MY FATHER

DAD, I KNOW MAMA CALLED YOU HOME AND THE HARDEST THING FOR ME TO DO IS LET YOU GO. MY HEART HURTS, NOT BECAUSE OF GUILT OR REMORSE, IT HURTS BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT HERE WITH ME. AS EACH DAY PASSES, I WANT YOU HERE WITH ME MORE AND MORE, BUT I AM GOING TO DO WHAT YOU INSTILLED IN ME, "STAND PROUD, BE STRONG, BECAUSE YOUR LAST NAME IS DILLON." DADDY, YOU'RE GONE BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

LOVE ALWAYS,
DEALISA DILLON- FRAZIER

The Wicked One

By: Velma J. Prince - 1918

Oh, when I was a wicked one I taken the work of the Lord for fun. But when conversation played a part, it made a deep impression down in my heart.

Sometimes I would go out to church, the preacher would preach and say so much... One thing he said I remembered well... When a sinner dies they go to hell.

Sometimes when I would try to sleep, I would dream of falling down such mighty steeps. Such dreams as these gave me such a fright, I could not rest the balance of the night.

I decided I would try to pray, yet I did not know very much to say, but when so ever I would make a bow, I would ask the Lord to teach, me how.

A faithful prayer is the Heavenly Key. Now just let me tell you how it was with me. I could not get in although I tried, until this old flesh was well decide.

I went to Christ, He fixed me right . Unstopped my ears, he gave me sight. Now his spirit dwells in me, I once was blind but now I see.

For every seeker who walks this road, what a long journey and a heavy load.

When you get between bent and bound. How the dead will be risen, and the lost be found.

On the resurrection morning, the dead will rise. For the bible says, the trumpet of God will sound and awaken them all. The Saints will rise, but the sinner will fall.