



Brother Henry C. Freeman

July 17, 1935 - January 17, 2026

DOUGLASVILLE, GA/UTICA, NY – Brother Henry C. Freeman, age 90, went home to be with the Lord early Saturday morning, January 17, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on July 17, 1935, in Abbeville, Alabama, to the late Freddie and Ruby Jewel (Carter) Freeman, and was the second oldest of eleven children.

Bro. Henry Freeman was educated in the public schools of Abbeville, Alabama and was an apprentice barber at Four Way Barber Shop in Abbeville, Alabama. In 1960, he relocated to Utica, New York, where he continued his apprenticeship under Elder James Griffin at Griffin's Barber Shop, located at 130 Washington Street.

In 1961, he met the love of his life, Barbara Jean (Cunningham) Freeman, and the two were united in marriage in 1963. He became a member of St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ in 1963 and earned his New York State barber license in the same year. In 1978, he established the legendary Freeman's Barber Shop at 200 Liberty Street in Utica, New York – a place that grew into a treasured cornerstone of the community.

Bro. Freeman was deeply devoted to his church and to his pastor, Superintendent Rev. J. L. Griffin and First Lady Missionary Eva Griffin. His

commitment was evident in every role he held—Chairman of the Board of Trustees, member of the Usher Board, and member of the Senior and Men’s Choirs. He also took great pride in caring for the sanctuary and church grounds, tending to them daily with the same pride and dedication he gave to his own home. Upon relocating to Douglasville, GA he and Barbara joined Greater True Vine Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Elder Morgan W. Green. He, along with his wife, Evangelist Geri Green lovingly watched over them, checking on them with calls or stopping by for a visit. Bro. Freeman was unwaveringly loving, patient, kind, generous with his time, steady in spirit, and disciplined in character. A true family man, he remained steadfast in his faith, devoted to God, and grounded in the values that shaped his life. He carried a gentle sense of humor and a tender heart, often moved to tears when surrounded by the love of his family—a trait fondly known among the Freemans. He cherished life’s simple joys: resting beneath the pecan tree with his siblings, spending time at Freeman’s Barber Shop which his late wife affectionately called “his second love,” barbecuing and perfecting his well-known barbecue sauce and enjoying the peace of the outdoors.

He inspired many young people, helping several begin careers in barbering and proudly watching them open their own businesses. He also shared practical life skills, teaching many how to manage their finances and build a secure foundation for their future.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted children: daughter, Alyce Yvonne Freeman Samuel (Donald); his sons, Mark Henry Freeman (Anesiha) and Jeffery Coleman; his nephews, whom he loved and regarded as sons Christopher Freeman (Laconduas) and Keenan Freeman (Marie); Judy Brooks, who he lovingly referred to as his daughter.

His memory will be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Justine M. Samuel (Kelvin Ampofo) and Christine A. Samuel, whom he referred to as “his

two frogs” too many times to count. As well as by his grandchildren who came to him later in life to love Denajhae Clyde, Rod Jackson, Merv Smith, Danielle Brooks, Jonathan Jackson and Raymond Brooks. And great-granddaughter Frankie Ampofo. When visiting, Frankie and Poppie could be found outside just puttering around or heading to go listen to the frogs sing.

He will also be remembered by his sisters-in-law, Joyce Reese, Lillie Franklin, Deborah Freeman, and Mary Freeman; and brothers-in-law, Zelmon Crenshaw and Timothy Cade (Laverne). Goddaughters, Michelle Williams and Tamika Blair; godsons, Todd Crenshaw (Shannon), Charles Roshon Braddock, Al Henderson Jr., Kyle Lamar Jones, and Theodore “Michael” Watson; Spiritual Children, Gwendolyn Jones, Derrick Brooks, and Pamela Martin. Spiritual Grandchildren, Vanessa Tucker, Emma Monroe, Jia Mack, Cynthia Monroe, Stasha Dunkley, Nigel Dunkley, D’sean Mack, and JiQuel Dunkley; special friends, Superintend Rev. J.L. Griffin and Ernest “Bub” Brown; He further leaves to his memory a host of beloved nieces, nephews, great nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws; and dear friends and customers of a lifetime.

He was predeceased in death by his loving wife Barbara Jean Freeman and all of his siblings, whom he lovingly remembered, sisters Mamie Dell Martin, Mary Dean Freeman Butler, Everee McKay, Betty Freeman; brothers Quincy Freeman, Willie “Billy” Freeman, Charles “Bubba” Freeman, George Freeman, Bobby Freeman and Raymond Freeman; father-in-law and mother-in-law, McKinley and Alberta M. (Charles) Cunningham.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to consider a donation to the Junior Frontiers of the Mohawk Valley (<https://www.mvfrontiers.com/junior-frontiers/donations-dues-fees/>), an organization that held a special place in Bro. Freeman’s heart. Donations can also be mailed to: Mohawk Valley Junior Frontiers, PO Box 712, Utica, NY 13503. The Junior Frontiers support local

youth through internships, career shadowing, and an annual HBCU College Tour.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's Temple COGIC, 110 Washington Street. Brother Henry's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 12:00 p.m. at the church. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

This obituary was lovingly written by Brother Henry's family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ
110 Washington Street
utica, NY 13502

Home Going Service

JAN 31. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ
110 Washington Street
utica, NY 13502

Tribute Wall

EM

“ *My condolences and prayers to the family
Rest in heavenly peace Mr freeman 🙏*



Ernesto montanez - February 01 at 03:18 PM

DC

“ *A very kind, polite & no-nonsense Man. The best & most professional Barber I ever had. Rest in peace Mr. Freeman. Much ❤️ & respect Sir. Thank you for your service. 🌟❤️*

Donald Curry - February 01 at 01:33 PM

RE

“ *What a GIANT, he will be greatly missed, I have nothing but great memories of being in his presence, my entire life, RIP*

Rev Robert Enoch - January 31 at 08:00 PM

DG

“ *I will miss Brother Freeman 😞. When I was about four years old my father took me to the Barber shop with him. I remember the books on the table the Jets and Ebony. I called myself fixing them bro. Freeman said stop messing with the books and I said to him, I'm just trying to fix it up. He and my Dad started laughing. I have always loved him like my second dad. I'm sending prayers and condolences to the family 💔😭. Keeping you lifted up in prayer 🙏
🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️. DeAnna Gibbs and Family*

Deanna Gibbs - January 31 at 12:10 PM



“ Dear Heavenly Father,

Our hearts are full of love and also full of sorrow as we come to You today. We thank You for Pop, Poppie, Boot, Cousin, Uncle, Son, Mentor, and Friend to all—for his life, his presence, and the love he poured into his family and all of us who were blessed to know him. He was more than a father; he was a source of strength, wisdom, laughter, and steady love.

Lord, please hold our amazing cousin close right now. Let them feel just how deeply loved they are, not only by family but by You. When the weight of grief feels heavy, remind them that they do not carry it alone. Wrap them in comfort on the hard days, in peace during quiet moments, and in strength when the tears come unexpectedly.

We ask that You surround this family with warmth, patience, and grace as they walk through this loss together. Let memories of Henry C bring smiles even through the pain—stories shared, lessons learned, and love that will never fade. May his spirit live on in the way we care for one another, show up for family, and love without reservation.

Thank You for safely guiding him home and for watching over every step along the way. We trust that he is now resting in perfect peace, reunited with loved ones, and wrapped in Your eternal love.

Until we meet again, help us honor his legacy by loving big, holding family close, and leaning on You and each other.

*With grateful hearts and everlasting love,
Amen.*

Love First Cousin Dee Dee (Aunt Alberta's Baby Girl)

Denise Wall - January 31 at 10:47 AM

CP

So sorry for your loss, Sissy. 🙏

Chiquita Ponds - January 31 at 12:13 PM

JS

“ I can still remember Mr. Freeman running after and waving down the school bus to bring me my lunch bag that I forgot on the side of the road. My tears as a 1st grader quickly turned to joy seeing my best friend's father and very kind neighbor climb aboard the bus to deliver my lunch with his usual great smile and the thoughtfulness and care he naturally extended to everyone around him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mark and Alyce as they remember and celebrate their father's amazing life.

John Shumlansky - January 30 at 02:45 PM

LL

“ Uncle Henry was a kind and gentle soul. He loved his family dearly. His spirit will linger in our hearts forever. Gone but not forgotten. May God give his family comfort and strength during this difficult time. Blessings and Love!
Linda Luckie



Linda Luckie - January 30 at 12:38 PM

MB

To the freeman and Samuel Family's, May God comfort you in the loss of your love one, Our prayers are with you. Deacon and Sister T Brooks

Marguerite Brooks - January 30 at 07:12 PM

EP

“ My heartfelt condolences to Alyce and all the Freeman Family,

Mr Freeman was my son's barber for many years beginning at childhood. His peaceful, pleasant and professional manner was truly welcoming in his Barber shop.

May keep you all during this trying time.

Elizabeth Patterson-Moyer



Elizabeth Patterson-Moyer - January 29 at 08:16 PM

MH

“ What an amazing gentleMAN! He gave my oldest son his first haircut. The lessons from that first cut not only taught my son a life lesson, but, taught me as well. Rest well Mr. Freeman.

Condolences to the Freeman family, friends and the community he served.

Blessings,

Monique Heyward

Monique J. Heyward - January 29 at 07:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brother Henry C. Freeman.



January 29 at 05:54 PM

TC

“ *The Copeland's purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Brother Henry C. Freeman.*



The Copeland's - January 29 at 03:29 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brother Henry C. Freeman.*



January 29 at 12:00 PM

GS

“ *George Sadlet planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brother Henry C. Freeman.*

George Sadlet - January 29 at 12:00 PM

EJ

“ *Ernest Jones lit a candle in memory of Brother Henry C. Freeman*



Ernest Jones - January 29 at 10:21 AM

EJ

“ One of my most favored memories of my youthful days "in the hood," was my visits to the Barber Shop!! The atmosphere was always welcoming, very clean, and somewhat of a learning experience. Mr. Freeman always had something beneficial to say that made me think a little deeper, feel a little better, and leave grateful for the time spent. He shaped my very first Afro, which had me standing, very proudly, in front of a mirror for long periods of time. Not vanity...just a curious sense of belonging!! He was, for a log time, and without fan-fare, a wise and giving mentor for so many of us along the way. He occupies a well-earned happy place in my bank of memories!! May peace rest with you, and be a constant presence in the memories of your friends and loved ones. My sincere condolences to all 🙏.

Ernest Jones;
Syracuse, NY

Ernest Jones - January 29 at 10:16 AM

JD

“ Deepest Condolences and Sympathies to the Freeman Family . I will treasure the many Fond memories about this Distinguished Gentleman who took Pride in Serving the many Generations of this Community.
When our Dad Passed Brother Freeman went to Eannace Funeral Home and cut his hair, we will never forget that, and will forever be Grateful for his Kindness.
Sleep Well Brother Freeman
Mr. Jody Dorsey and Family

Jody Dorsey - January 29 at 09:50 AM

DR

“ *Darlene Robinson lit a candle in memory of Brother Henry C. Freeman*



Darlene Robinson - January 29 at 09:44 AM

KE

“ *My condolences to the family.*



Kendel - January 29 at 09:15 AM

DW

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Freeman family. May your faith comfort you all at this difficult time.*



Dawn Winston - January 28 at 08:37 PM

LJ

“ *Leola Turner Jones lit a candle in memory of Brother Henry C. Freeman*



Leola Turner Jones - January 28 at 08:34 PM

LJ

To the family look to the hills which cometh your strength 🙌 your strength cometh from the Lord

Leola Turner Jones - January 28 at 08:35 PM

VT

“ Pop Freeman was special, shared alot of wisdom, a pillar in our community, I remember every Easter all the little fellas would come to church with their Easter outfits, and fresh cuts, we all knew they had been to Freeman's Barber shop, he was a praying man and wonderful family man, he and Mom Freeman both were very instrumental in my life, especially as a young person, they opened their doors where they gave the best pool parties, always encouraged us to be the best we could be. Will miss Pop. To my good friend Alyce, my prayers for you and the entire family



Vivian Tucker - January 28 at 08:33 PM

ED

“ Elder Anthony and Doreen DeJean planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brother Henry C. Freeman.

Elder Anthony and Doreen DeJean - January 28 at 08:17 PM

ED

“ Elder Anthony and Doreen DeJean purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Brother Henry C. Freeman.



Elder Anthony and Doreen DeJean - January 28 at 08:17 PM

SB

“ *Susan Bynum lit a candle in memory of Brother Henry C. Freeman*



Susan Bynum - January 28 at 07:17 PM

AB

Dea.Freeman was one loving special person he made sure my daughter cherie was put in for schorship made sure she got them will be missed a lot

Annie mae brooks - January 28 at 10:42 PM

MP

“ *Melanie Pierce lit a candle in memory of Brother Henry C. Freeman*



Melanie Pierce - January 28 at 06:58 PM

RF

“ *My condolences to brother Freeman family.*



Rose Pearson-Simmons & family - January 28 at 06:15 PM

NP

“ *Nathaniel Price lit a candle in memory of Brother Henry C. Freeman*



Nathaniel Price - January 28 at 06:01 PM

KM

“ *Our deepest deepest condolences 🌸 to the family. May Gods comfort, peace and strength cover you during this difficult time ❤️*
🙏

Keith and Angela Webb. Southaven Ms - January 28 at 04:46 PM

RB

“ *Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of Brother Henry C. Freeman*



Rosemary Brown - January 28 at 02:52 PM