

## **Curtis Atkinson**

The Atlanta Constitution Journal; Friday 4 July 2014; Legacy.com

The Honorable Curtis Lee Atkinson, former Georgia Assistant Secretary of State, and beloved husband of Dr. Melvis Evans Atkinson, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, June 26, 2014.

Mr. Atkinson was born on September 12, 1930, in Brunswick, GA to the late Mr. and Mrs. Israel (Irene Maxwell) Atkinson. He was predeceased by his brothers Russell Atkinson, Aaron Atkinson, S. Gerald Atkinson and his sister Clara Atkinson Bennett.

In 1969, he met the love of his life, the former Melvis Theodora Evans, a native of Augusta, GA. They married in 1969 and settled in Albany, GA and later moved to Atlanta. In Atlanta, he joined Butler Street C.M.E. Church where he served for over 40 years.

Mr. Atkinson's primary and secondary education took place in the public schools of Glynn County. He graduated from Fort Valley State College (Fort Valley State University) with a Bachelor of Arts degree and earned a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University. In 1969, Mr. Atkinson became the first black to serve on a U.S. Senator's staff when he was hired by Senator Herman E. Talmadge. Twelve years later, Atkinson was appointed Georgia Assistant Secretary of State by Secretary of State Max Cleland. Upon the successful election of Cleland to the U.S. Senate in 1996, Cleland appointed Atkinson Deputy State Director where he retired from service to the federal government in 2001.

Mr. Atkinson is survived by his wife Melvis; his brother Rev. Dr. F. Michael (Theresa) Atkinson and his aunt, Carrie Robinson of Brunswick, GA; sisters-in-law Warrenie E. Hall of Morris Plain, N.J.; Agnes E. (Y.N., Jr.) Myers of Augusta, GA; and a host of caring nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The Omega Services of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. will be Friday, July 4th from 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Butler Street C.M.E. Church, 23 Jesse Hill Avenue, S.W. Atlanta, GA. This will be followed by Visitation Period with the family from 7:00PM - 8:30PM. At this time Reflections will be given.

Funeral services will be conducted on Saturday, July 5, 2014, at 11:00 AM at West Mitchell C.M.E. Church, 560 Martin Luther King Dr., SW (Pastor Manuel Henderson) with Rev. Christopher Waller as officiant. Interment will be in Brunswick, GA.

Family and friends will assemble at church at 10:45AM. In lieu of flowers make contributions and checks to: The Curtis L. Atkinson Scholarship. FVSU Foundation, Inc., 1005 State University Dr., Fort Valley, GA 30130-4313