



Roland Banks

East Alton | Saturday, November 9 2013

On Saturday, November 9, 2013, at age 79 with his family by his side, Jesus peacefully took Roland Banks with Him to his Eternal Home at V.I.P. Manor Nursing Facility. Roland was born in Alton on April 27, 1934. He was born to the union of the late Kenneth C. and Juanita B. Banks. He attended the Alton Public Schools and graduated from Alton Senior High School in 1953. He participated in several sports including basketball and cross country. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1956 and retired with an Honorable Discharge in 1964. On January 17, 1960, he took as his bride Phyllis Y. Young at St. James Baptist Church in Alton. To this union 4 children were born: three girls, Terry Lynn Banks, Kelly D. (Banks) Somlar and Tracey D. (Banks) Yost and a son, Matthew A. Banks. He retired from the Alton School District after 30 years of service in 1994. He was appreciated and loved by many that worked with him. He was also a member of The Coalition of Concerned Citizens of Alton and former board member for Challenge Unlimited, Inc. He is survived by: his wife, Phyllis of 53 years; daughters, Terry Lynn Banks and Tracey D. (Banks) Yost; and son, Matthew A. Banks; 4 grandsons, Jacob W. and Justin R. Ezell, Jarred Tucker, and Brian Yost II; 3 sisters, Marion Patterson, Francis Howard, and Mary Hearn; and a host very special nieces and nephews. He was blessed with many loving and special friends down through the years. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by: a daughter, Kelly (Banks) Somlar, a brother, William Banks; 2 sisters, Joyce Banks and Melva Jean Johnson; 2 nephews, Kenneth Banks and Jeffrey Banks. Visitation will convene Sunday, November 17, 2013 from 4 to 8pm with an open session for remarks from friends and family 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Visitation will resume Monday, November 18, 2013 from 9 until time of service at 10:00 a.m. Interment services will follow with full military honors at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Pastor Maurice Floyd, Sr. will officiate. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations be made in his honor to Challenge Unlimited, Inc. 4 Emmie L. Kaus Lane, Alton, IL 62002. Guest Signatures and condolences can be registered at www.harrisonfuneralchapel.com.