

*In loving*  
MEMORY

RAYMOND A.  
JORDAN JR

MAY 5, 1943 - FEBRUARY 5, 2022



# RAYMOND A. JORDAN JR OBITUARY

## THE FAMILY MAN - THE POLITICIAN - THE LEGEND

Raymond A. Jordan Jr., 78, of Springfield, went on to glory on February 5, 2022, after a brief illness.

Born May 5, 1943, to the late Raymond A. Jordan, Sr., and Emma (Norman), Ray Jordan was a lifelong resident of Springfield and a product of Springfield Public Schools. He was a graduate of Springfield Technical High School, a school that maintained a special place in Jordan's heart throughout his life. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's degree from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. In addition to those degrees, Jordan was conferred honorary degrees by American International College, Springfield College and Westfield State University.

Jordan's ferocious dedication for justice and civil rights stood out and eventually earned him the moniker "barracuda," a name he would live up throughout his career. From 1975 to 1994, Jordan served in the Legislature as the State Representative of the 11th Hampden District. During his tenure, he chaired the formidable Ways and Means Committee and the Committee on Housing and Urban Development. In 1994, President William Jefferson Clinton selected Jordan to serve as the New England States Liaison for Faith-Based for Community Initiatives for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Jordan held the position until his retirement in 2012.

Jordan's service continued long after his retirement, however. For many years, Jordan served as vice-chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party (MDP), coming into the distinction of longest serving vice-chairman. He was made Vice-Chairman Emeritus in 2019. Named a superdelegate, Jordan was granted freedom by the MDP to support any presidential candidate nomination at the party's national convention, a privilege and responsibility he took great pride and care in.

Jordan made history throughout his political career. He had the distinct honor of becoming the Commonwealth of Massachusetts first black state representative and was the first African American to serve as president of the Electoral College in Massachusetts. In that he role, Jordan presided over the casting of Massachusetts votes for President-elect Barack Obama.

His achievements in highbrow politics, however, cannot overshadow the impact Jordan's work had on the community in which he lived. In 1992, Jordan founded 5A football, a program that touched scores of youths, ultimately resulting in college football scholarships for many of them. In 1968, he was co-founder of the Harambee Holiday Incorporated, an annual cultural festival drawing crowds of thousands to the community's center.

In 2011 he founded the Brethren Community Foundation, an organization designed to support education and literacy programs for low-income youth as well as the health and welfare of seniors. In 2021, he was named President Emeritus of the Brethren Community Foundation.

Four years ago, the City of Springfield built and opened The Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center, an honor that cemented Jordan's more than 50 years of community service and activism, especially in the interest of seniors.

A man of faith, Jordan was a lifelong member and Trustee Emeritus of The Alden Baptist Church. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Masonic Temple Sumner #5.

As much as he fought for others, Jordan fought for himself and his family. Always putting family first and instilling the values of the social justice and advancement. He was a stalwart warrior when it came to his health and the entire Jordan family would like to thank the staff of Baystate Health and Fresenius Kidney Center of Pioneer Valley for the outstanding care they provided Ray Jordan and our family over the years.

To cherish his memory and legacy, Raymond A. Jordan leaves the love of his life for more than 57 years Donna (Harris) Jordan; two daughters: Denise Renee of Springfield and Darlene Michelle of Hanover, Maryland; three brothers: John (Trudy) Jordan of Springfield, Ralph (Vidra) Jordan of Methuen, MA, and Jeffrey Jordan of Jonesboro, Georgia; a brother-in-law: Reuben Harris of Savannah, Georgia; and a host of nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, colleagues and beloved friends.

In continuation of Jordan's legacy, donations may be made to the Raymond A. Jordan Scholarship Fund c/o any Springfield MA TD Bank.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiant Helen Caulton-Harris

## Readings

### Old Testament

Psalms 23

Monica Shaird

### New Testament

2 Corinthians 5: 1-17

Vidra Harris

## Prayer of Comfort

Rev. Willard Cofield

## Musical Selection

Rhonda Jacobs

## Reflections

Denise R. Jordan, Daughter

Ralph E. Jordan, Brother

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

U.S. Senator Edward Markey

Congressman Richard E. Neal

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno

State Representative Bud L. Williams

Kayla Wiggins and Aida Harris, Nieces

## Acknowledgements and Resolution

Carol Murchison

## The Obituary

Jayson Jordan

## Musical Selection

Vanessa Ford

## Eulogy

Bishop Curtis L. Shaird

## Closing Prayer

Rev. Gail Hill

## Pallbearers

Jayson Jordan

Bobby Pierce

Justin Jordan

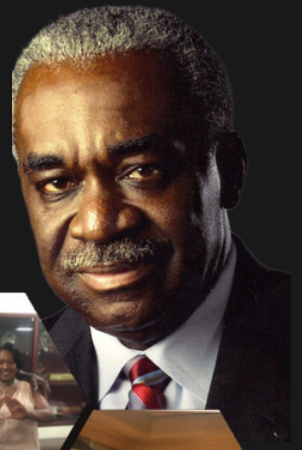
John H. Johnson, III

Emmett Jordan

Winston Lewis



# Cherishing the Memories



## Acknowledgements

The family of Raymond A. Jordan, Jr. would like to acknowledge all of the prayers, cards, calls and expressions of love during our time of mourning. Your thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated.

To his Caregivers who lovingly took care of Mr. J and followed up with all of his orders and meal demands ; Elaine Scott, Renee Wilson, Sheila Scott, Janet Weekes, James Lewis, and Marian Rodriguez, we thank you.

The Staff of Fresenius Kidney Center of Pioneer Valley, The Physicians, Nurses and Staff of Baystate Health, St. Johns Congregational Church, The Delta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., The Brethren Community Foundation, The Masonic Temple Sumner #5, Springfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., The Wrecking Crew, Sisters in Motion, The Sister Circle, Darryl E. Moss, Azell Murphy-Cavaan, Clarence and Brooklyn Jones, we thank you.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
ENTRUSTED TO  
SAMPSON FAMILY CHAPEL OF THE ACRES  
21 TINKHAM ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, MA