



Deacon Ritchard Bland

July 3, 1940 - August 30, 2022

Ritchard Bland was born July 3, 1940, in Greenwood, Mississippi to Willie Bland and Willie Edwards-Bland. He was the youngest of 12 children: seven brothers and four sisters. He passed away on Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at the age of 82 years.

Ritchard arrived in Saginaw, Michigan in 1953. He attended Saginaw High School and later joined the U.S. Air Force in April 1961 and served four years. He married Jean Banks on August 13, 1961. He worked at Saginaw Steering Gear Div. General Motors Corp. as a Senior Lab Tester for 33 years, retiring in 1997. He was a faithful member of Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw, Michigan where he served under Pastor Rodrick A. Smith. He devoted his time by visiting many nursing homes, and hospitals praying and teaching the Word of Jesus Christ. Ritchard was also dedicated and helpful to those around him and in the community.

Deacon Bland was a devoted husband and father to three children: Terence Bland, Tracie Collins, and Thomas Bland (Domenique). He was a cherished grandfather to Brittany McCaleb (Passion), Bryson Collins, Ashaunti Collins, Makyley Bland and Jada Bland and great-grandfather to one boy and six girls. He leaves behind many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, a host of cousins and many friends. Ritchard is also survived by several brothers-in-law including a special brother-in-law, Theodore R. Banks and sisters-in-law.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Bland; siblings, and a son-in-law, Robert Collins and a special sister-in-law, Alfreda Henry.

Rest on faithful servant. You will be missed by all.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to Pastor Rodrick A. Smith and the Zion Missionary Baptist Church family, William and Jackie Carstens, Dale and LouAnn Gerst, Fermer and Jackie Lewis, Dr. Rama Mulpuri & Staff, Dr. Ifikhar A. Khan & Staff and the Shelby Health and Rehabilitation Center & Staff.

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 9, 2022 at Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 N. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607, with funeral service commencing at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Rodrick A. Smith will officiate with interment in Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Rd., Holly, MI 48442. Visitation will take place 9:00 AM until the time of service.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 9. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 N. Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-0481
evansbrownes@gmail.com
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

Family Hour

SEP 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 North Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607

Funeral Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 North Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607

Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Browne's Mortuary - September 09, 2022 at 10:40 AM

JR

“ *Jerrold Rance lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Jerrold Rance - September 11, 2022 at 07:59 PM

AA

“ *I had the opportunity to meet Ritchard Bland briefly at the beginning of my career in 1997 but he was one of the most kind and respectful to me creating an impression that last decades, he will be missed.*

Avissai Alcantara - September 09, 2022 at 08:59 AM

JL

“ *I am deeply saddened by Mr. Bland's passing. I worked with him for many years. He was a man full of faith, kindness, thoughtfulness and also humor. I will miss him forever.*

Jim Lu - September 08, 2022 at 09:31 PM

SC

“ *Silva Ann Casey lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Silva Ann Casey - September 08, 2022 at 07:14 PM

LF

“ *LILY M DIXON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



LILY M DIXON FAMILY - September 08, 2022 at 06:16 PM

RD

“ *Ritchard Bland was a great man to know and work with. I was in Engineering at Saginaw Steering Gear and Ritchard worked in the Engineering Lab. He was a very skillful and helpful to me and many other engineers. Ritchard was very friendly and he could take good joke. I pray that he will rest in peace in heaven.*

Dick Devers

Richard Devers - September 08, 2022 at 02:08 PM

KD

“ *Karyn Dixon lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Karyn Dixon - September 08, 2022 at 11:52 AM



“ *"On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral Or Memorial was purchased for the family of Deacon Ritchard Bland.*



September 08, 2022 at 11:23 AM



“ *Ethel Lindsay lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Ethel Lindsay - September 08, 2022 at 09:51 AM



“ *Bro. Ritchard Bland was a Gentle Giant among men. At Saginaw Steering, Ritchard set the standard of a true professional and a supportive friend for new young employees like me. A soft manner of encouragement, wrapped in a warm smile each day. Heaven has a new welcoming Gatekeeper to usher in God's family. Rest in Peace my "Friend"! – Jim Bernard Graham*



James Graham - September 08, 2022 at 01:09 AM

TD

“ *Todd Doxon lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Todd Doxon - September 07, 2022 at 06:50 PM

RB

“ *Rose White Chandler & Gwen White Bowman lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Rose White Chandler & Gwen White Bowman - September 07, 2022 at 02:45 PM



“ *Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Deacon Ritchard Bland.*



September 07, 2022 at 11:36 AM

NH

“ *Noland & Karen Heath lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Noland & Karen Heath - September 07, 2022 at 11:10 AM

JK

“ *Janice Kemp-Anderson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Janice Kemp-Anderson - September 07, 2022 at 10:39 AM

CH

“ *Cassandra Holmes lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Cassandra Holmes - September 07, 2022 at 01:31 AM

TJ

“ *John and Tracey Jones lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland.*



Tracey Jones - September 06, 2022 at 10:42 PM

LL

“ I am so sorry on your loss Jean and family. I worked with Dick at Delphi and owe him for what I am today at Nexteer. His wisdom and willingness to always find the answer for others was two of his many traits. God welcomed home an incredible man. Mr. Bland, rest my friend and thank you for all you taught me in life. Until we meet again.

Your friend,

Louis Lovasco

Louis Lovasco - September 06, 2022 at 09:43 PM

RR

“ Rev.Ernest Reef lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland



Rev.Ernest Reef - September 06, 2022 at 06:08 PM

SA

“ Tracie... You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I'm so sorry for your loss and may God truly bless your father's memory.

Steve Archer - September 06, 2022 at 04:45 PM

JW

“ To the Bland family - Please accept our deepest heartfelt sympathy on the loss of Richard. We both worked with him for many many years at SSG . He was a fine upstanding gentleman, worker and friend to many. He will be greatly missed on earth but Heaven has accepted a Grand Gentleman. RIP dear friend Richard.

Joanne & Jim Willis - Frankenmuth

Joanne Willis - September 06, 2022 at 01:10 PM

KB

“ So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you all during this time.

Kelly Breimayer - September 06, 2022 at 12:47 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Deacon Ritchard Bland.



September 06, 2022 at 08:56 AM

ME

“ The members of the Saginaw Genealogical Society send our sincere condolences to the Bland family.

Members - September 05, 2022 at 07:31 PM

ME

“ *Members lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Members - September 05, 2022 at 07:29 PM

DT

“ *I remember the first time, i met Uncle Ritchard, when I was a child. I was around 5 or 6 years old. He was in military uniform and brought me and my 2 brothers toys. That experience led to years of uncle Ritchard's "lectures of instruction". He wanted everyone "to be their best selves". The army had broadened his horizons and he did what he could to better himself, every person he encountered, and his environment. He was a kind, gentle soul. who ministered to people in hospitals, nursing facilities, jails and anywhere and everywhere you met him or he met you.*

He lived the principles of what a true "Christian" should aspire to be which is more like our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Rest in peace uncle Ritchard. God has blessed you and family. Look Forward to seeing and fellowshiping with you again. Love, Deborah Tucker (niece).

Deborah Tucker - September 05, 2022 at 04:58 PM

KM

“ *Richard is a cousin I was blessed to connect with late in life. He was very instrumental in finding and connecting with the Bland side of my family and I will be forever grateful. My love and condolences to Jean and my family .*



Karen Martin-Brodnex - September 05, 2022 at 10:41 AM

CP

“ *To Auntie Jean and Family-So Very Sorry to hear about the passing of Uncle Richard. He has completed his God Given Task here on Earth and Now He can Rest Comfortably in The Arms of The Lord!!!
You are in Our Prayers!!💕
Love, Johnathan, Chan, Sydney, and Savannah Pope and Chon Jones 🌹*



Chandra Pope - September 04, 2022 at 07:51 PM

BL

“ *Barbara Land-Jones lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Barbara Land-Jones - September 04, 2022 at 01:29 PM

DG

“ *David Bland & Family Macon GA purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Deacon Ritchard Bland.*



David Bland & Family Macon GA - September 04, 2022 at 08:24 AM

CJ

“ Chondeleea S Jones lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland



Chondeleea S Jones - September 04, 2022 at 08:10 AM

SS

“ Sandra Smith lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland



Sandra Smith - September 03, 2022 at 08:13 PM

CP

“ Clarence & Patfrazier lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland



Clarence & Patfrazier - September 03, 2022 at 04:08 PM

TF

“ The Reese Family lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland



The Reese Family - September 03, 2022 at 03:26 PM

WS

“ *Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. - September 03, 2022 at 01:54 AM

JR

“ *Janice Ruffin sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Janice Ruffin - September 02, 2022 at 09:29 PM

CS

“ *Cathie Stephens lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Cathie Stephens - September 02, 2022 at 07:36 PM

LD

“ *LILY M DIXON lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



LILY M DIXON - September 02, 2022 at 06:28 PM

PC

“ *Condolences to your family.*

Priscilla Cormier

Priscilla Cormier - September 02, 2022 at 01:14 PM

LV

“ *Deacon Bland was a very committed Christian with the work he did for the Lord. May he hear "Well Done, Thy Good and Faithful Servant". Jean, you and your family have my sincere condolences. Love you!*



Linda Veasley - September 02, 2022 at 09:45 AM

CC

“ *Carolyn Olivia Currie lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



carolyn olivia currie - September 02, 2022 at 09:18 AM

DP

“ *Dennis And Gail Porter sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Dennis and Gail Porter - September 01, 2022 at 08:37 PM

DP

“ Dennis And Gail Porter sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland



Dennis and Gail Porter - September 01, 2022 at 07:02 PM

SD

“ My condolences to entire family and friends. Rest in Peace



Sherry Davis - September 01, 2022 at 06:33 PM

JA

“ Sister Bland and Family, you all have my deepest condolences. May the God of all comfort keep His loving arms around your family. Deacon Bland will certainly be missed by his Zion Family. We Love Y'all. ❤️🙏❤️ JJ Akins and Family.



JJ Akins - September 01, 2022 at 05:41 PM

DR

“ Deacon Carl And Rosemary Ruth sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland



Deacon Carl and Rosemary Ruth - September 01, 2022 at 03:50 PM

LW

“ *Louis Weems sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Louis Weems - September 01, 2022 at 03:42 PM

JW

“ *Jimmie Westbrook sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Jimmie Westbrook - September 01, 2022 at 01:15 PM

CD

“ *Corliss Dawkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Corliss Dawkins - September 01, 2022 at 12:35 PM

HS

“ *Helen Scott lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Helen Scott - August 31, 2022 at 11:41 PM

SS

“ *Shelva J Veal Scott-Veal sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Shelva J Veal Scott-Veal - August 31, 2022 at 10:57 PM

BW

“ *Bro. Marvin and Sara Walker are extending our prayers and condolences to the Bland and all extended family members during this difficult time. Deacon Bland was known for ministering beyond the church walls by sharing a word from the Lord with people he came in contact with and providing them with A Daily Bread pamphlet. He really enjoyed sharing God's word with others. We will keep you all in our prayers*



Bro. Marvin and Sara Walker - August 31, 2022 at 08:46 PM



“ *Elizabeth Hudspeth lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Elizabeth Hudspeth - August 31, 2022 at 04:53 PM

MU

“ *Sending heartfelt condolences and prayers for comfort and strength to Jean and the entire Bland family. Deacon Ken and Karen Murphy*

Murphy - August 31, 2022 at 03:27 PM

CG

“ *The Goodman and Martin family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ritchard Bland.*



Catherine Goodman - August 31, 2022 at 01:41 PM

GM

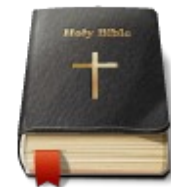
“ *My sincere condolences to the Bland family. Uncle Ritchard was a awesome man with so much wisdom that he shared with everyone he came in contact with. Praying for the everything the family will need at this difficult time.*



Gary Martin - August 31, 2022 at 01:37 PM

DT

“ *Our deepest and sincere condolences to the Bland family in their time of bereavement. Deacon Bland was a faithful and devoted servant who loved sharing the love of Christ to others. He will truly be missed.*



Deacon John and Sis. Lillian Thomas - August 31, 2022 at 12:39 PM

DT

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Bland Family. Deacon Bland was so faithful to his duties as a deacon and he truly loved serving and sharing his love for Christ to others. To God be the glory!!!*



Deacon John and Sis. Lillian Thomas - August 31, 2022 at 12:32 PM

DA

“ *Dona Austin-Bigby lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Dona Austin-Bigby - August 31, 2022 at 11:07 AM

AL

“ *Annie Lowery sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Annie Lowery - August 31, 2022 at 10:57 AM

DA

“ *Debra E Austin lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



Debra E Austin - August 31, 2022 at 10:30 AM

WD

“ *William/Geraldine Doxie lit a candle in memory of Deacon Ritchard Bland*



William/Geraldine Doxie - August 31, 2022 at 10:23 AM