



Hereford, James Eric

NOV 29, 1949 - AUG 29, 2024



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Hereford, James Eric

NOV 29, 1949 - AUG 29, 2024

James “Eric” Hereford, born on November 29, 1949 in Cleveland, Ohio, passed on August 29, 2024. He was a cherished husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend, mentor, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Life Member Brother, and dedicated political activist and public servant.

Eric attended Howard University and graduated from Ohio University before serving over four years honorably as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Coast Guard.

A 50-year resident of San Diego, Eric was a mentor to many. His community service and political participation included Neighborhood House Association, Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC), BAPAC San Diego Chapter, San Diego County Democratic Party, California Democratic State Central Committee, and California State Assembly Speaker’s Office.

Active with the San Diego County Democratic Party for more than 35 years, he served for seven years as the County Party’s East Area Vice Chair and, before that, as Political Director.

Eric was the Vice Chair and Secretary of the California Democratic Party’s African-American Caucus and twice a California Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He chaired two CDP Assembly District Committees 77th/79th and held leadership roles with the La Mesa-Foothills and Martin Luther King Democratic Clubs.

For over 30 years, Eric worked with the California State Assembly Speaker’s Office. He served the late Assemblyman Peter Chacon, ten Assembly Democratic Speakers from Speaker Willie Brown to Speaker Anthony Rendon, and the California Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Toni Atkins.

At the time of his passing, Eric was an appointed delegate to Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber, representing the 79th Assembly District with the California Democratic Party and Chair of its Senior Advisory Council. Additionally, he was an active San Diego County Democratic Party



Obituary

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Central Committee member and Co-Chair of the Candidate Recruitment, Evaluations, and Development Committee. Eric was also a founding and active Board Member of the San Diego Chapter of the Black American Political Association of California.

For 43 years, Eric embodied the true spirit of companionship and love with his wife, Patricia. Together, raising three children, they built a life centered on honesty, loyalty, and compassion. Eric loved his family dearly and he was a guiding light, always encouraging them to follow their dreams and live true to their hearts.

Eric leaves behind his wife, Patricia, his children and their spouses — Kristina Hereford Watkins and Dr. Lavar Watkins, James Eric Hereford II and Zoë Adams Hereford, and Natalie Ann Hereford — his brother Michael, four grandchildren, a large extended family, and a vast network of friends and colleagues who will deeply miss him.



Events

Hereford, James Eric

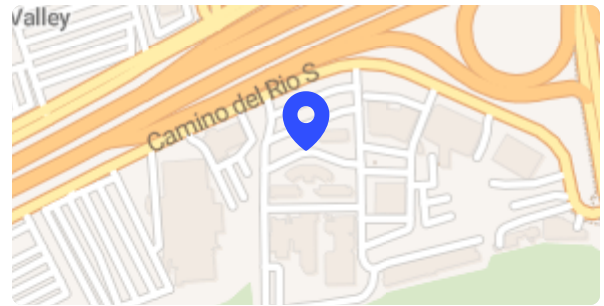
NOV 29, 1949 - AUG 29, 2024

Public Viewing

Thursday, September 26, 2024

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM PT

First United Methodist Church of San Diego
2111 Camino del Rio S. , San Diego CA 92108



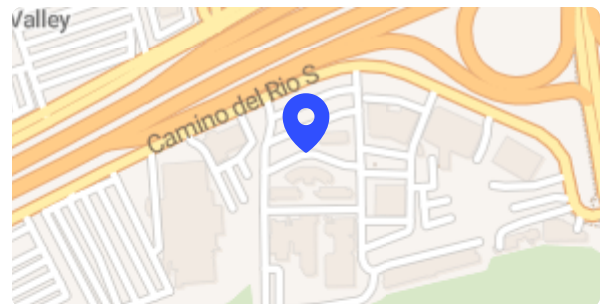
Church Service

Thursday, September 26, 2024

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM PT

First United Methodist Church of San Diego
2111 Camino del Rio S. , San Diego CA 92108

PER THE REQUEST OF THE HEREFORD FAMILY,
PLEASE WEAR HAWAIIAN ATTIRE OR ALL WHITE
FOR THE SERVICE.

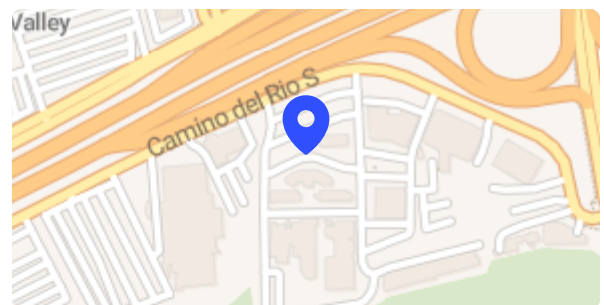


Reception

Thursday, September 26, 2024

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM PT

First United Methodist Church of San Diego
2111 Camino del Rio S. , San Diego CA 92108







Events

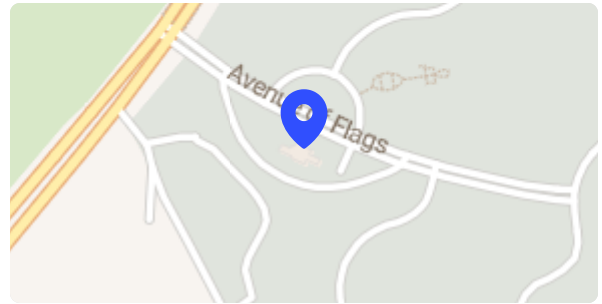
Hereford, James Eric

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Cemetery Details

 **Miramar National Cemetery**
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego CA 92121

 **858-658-7360**





Tribute Wall

Hereford, James Eric

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Cousin Margaret Summers sent an Arrive in Style to the Hereford family.

September 24 at 11:47 PM



Cousin Margaret Summers planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.

September 24 at 11:47 PM



Chris Pearson, Joyce Brody, Shana, sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Hereford family.

September 24 at 2:49 AM



Chris Pearson, Joyce Brody, Shana, planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.

September 24 at 2:49 AM



Senior Advisory Council. Office Of Assembly Member Akilah Weber, M.D. 79Th Assembly District planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.

September 23 at 10:32 AM



Lee And Lynne Saunders sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Hereford family.

September 20 at 2:19 AM





Tribute Wall

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Samuel Knight shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My Deepest Condolences to the Family of my Dear Kappa Brother!!! He was a true stalwart in the community and reflected the Best of Human Kind! Continue to 'Achieve' my Brother!!!

September 18 at 4:50 PM



Anonymous sent a Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses to the Hereford family.

September 18 at 4:44 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Hereford family.

September 9 at 11:38 AM



Ann Crosbie planted a Memorial Tree in honor of James.

September 9 at 11:38 AM



Yvette Moore shared 9 photos to the **Eric throughout the community** album.

September 6 at 5:36 AM





Tribute Wall

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Bernard Ashcraft posted:

Eric, my Kappa Brother. One of the best persons you could ever meet. Always helpful, and available to work with you. My condolences 🙏 to family and friends ☐ RIP

September 6 at 5:36 AM



Gaspar Luna Oliveira September 27 at 11:07 PM

Beverly and I had the pleasure of knowing Eric over the years. He represented the California State Legislature in an exemplary manner. He was always ready to listen to a constituent and if possible, to be of service to those in need. You lived a full life, my friend. Well done! We extend our condolences to the family.



Yvette Moore September 9 at 4:10 AM

There are no words for such a loss as this. Eric was a good friend and mentor. He showed me the political ropes when I became politically active on the Central Committee and working for S.O.M.S. He was always supportive of the things that mattered to the community. My father was one of his mentors, and he carried that torch to me, and became that. I have never met anyone as kind spirited as Eric. Prayers and Hugs to Patricia and his children, who he was so proud of. My only regret is that I didn't get your interview for the history records as you held so much of it. I will miss our genealogy talks about your family heritage. Carry on soldier! God is quite pleased with you. Rest in Love always! My big brother E!



Alyce Smith Cooper September 7 at 3:38 AM

Correction of spelling:Alyce Smith CooperJames Vernon Cooper



Alyce Smith Coopet September 7 at 3:34 AM

On behalf of the James Bernon Cooper family, I , Alyce Smith Cooper extend our deep condolences and prayers for comfort to the family of our beloved brother. So many memories go back so far . All are I embedded in his warmth and genuine loving spirit. James Cooper was a loving and proud mentor for this gentleman. For me he was a generous friend with an ever ready smile and hug. Rest in peace gentle soul 🙏 Well done !!



Delicia Meza September 6 at 10:01 AM

One of the most happy people I have ever known. The love he showed his wife Patrica, his children, his community, and the world will be long remembered. God bless and comfort The Herefords 🙏



Media

Hereford, James Eric

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Samuel Knight shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 18 at 4:50 PM





Media

Hereford, James Eric

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Yvette Moore shared 9 photos to the **Eric throughout the community** album.

September 9 at 4:03 AM



Helen Martin Hicks September 17 at 4:41 PM

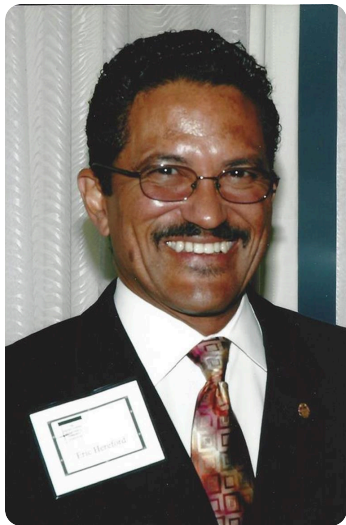
We served under Peter Chacon. I in 1992. Helen Martin Hicks



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Eric at Southeast Rotary Club



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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