



*The United States of America
honors the memory of
Leon E. Lofton, Jr.*

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful
nation in recognition of devoted and
selfless consecration to the service
of our country in the Armed Forces
of the United States.*

J. W. Bush
President of the United States



U.S. ARMY
Freedom Team
S A L U T E™

Certificate of Appreciation

Leon E. Lofton

For outstanding service to the Nation as a United States Army Soldier. You are being recognized for your patriotism and continued support of the Army family. Your legacy is today's Army and the values Soldiers exhibit while fighting the Global War on Terrorism. Their efforts are a direct reflection of your service, and the United States Army and a grateful Nation thank you.

George W. Casey, Jr.
George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Pete Geren
Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army



Leon E. Lofton
[REDACTED]
Los Angeles, CA [REDACTED]



Dear Leon E. Lofton:

America has always called upon the Army to do the hard jobs, and its Soldiers have always answered the call. We are a free Nation, a Nation looked upon by millions of people around the world as the standard-bearer of freedoms – freedoms guaranteed by our outstanding Soldiers and by the Veterans who have served our great Country in the Regular Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.

We are an Army of tradition. Our greatest tradition is service to our Country, and in that service we ask our Soldiers to carry out tough missions all around the world. Today answering the Nation's call may take them into harm's way as we fight the Global War on Terrorism, a war that touches us all and one that we must win.

As today's Soldiers serve, the traditions and legacy passed on by Army Veterans in previous conflicts sustain them so they can do what must be done to protect our freedoms. Our Army would not be the best in the world without the service of its Veterans who continue to provide support and exhibit patriotism. You make a difference to today's Army and to our Country.

As a tribute to your service in the U.S. Army, **The American Legion Department of California** has recognized you for this special Freedom Team Salute Commendation. It is our honor to bestow it and the enclosed Army lapel pin to you. The Commendation symbolizes the partnership between our Army, her Soldiers, their Families, and Veterans -- a partnership as old as the Nation itself. It is a partnership America has always been able to depend on. As our partner, we hope that you will display this Commendation and wear this pin with pride, as a statement of our shared commitment to support America's Soldiers.

We thank you for the honor of your past service with our Army and for your continued support of our Soldiers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George W. Casey, Jr.".

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Geren".

Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army



Active Pallbearers

Michael [REDACTED] Lofton

Steven [REDACTED] Lofton

Kevin [REDACTED]

Aaron [REDACTED]

Michael [REDACTED]

Interment

Riverside National Cemetery

22495 Van Buren Boulevard, Riverside, California 92508

Acknowledgment

The family of Leon Lofton, Jr.

thanks you for the many acts of loving
kindness shown to us during our bereavement.

Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated
and will always be remembered.

Services Entrusted To:



Harrison Ross
Mortuaries

"The People Who Care"

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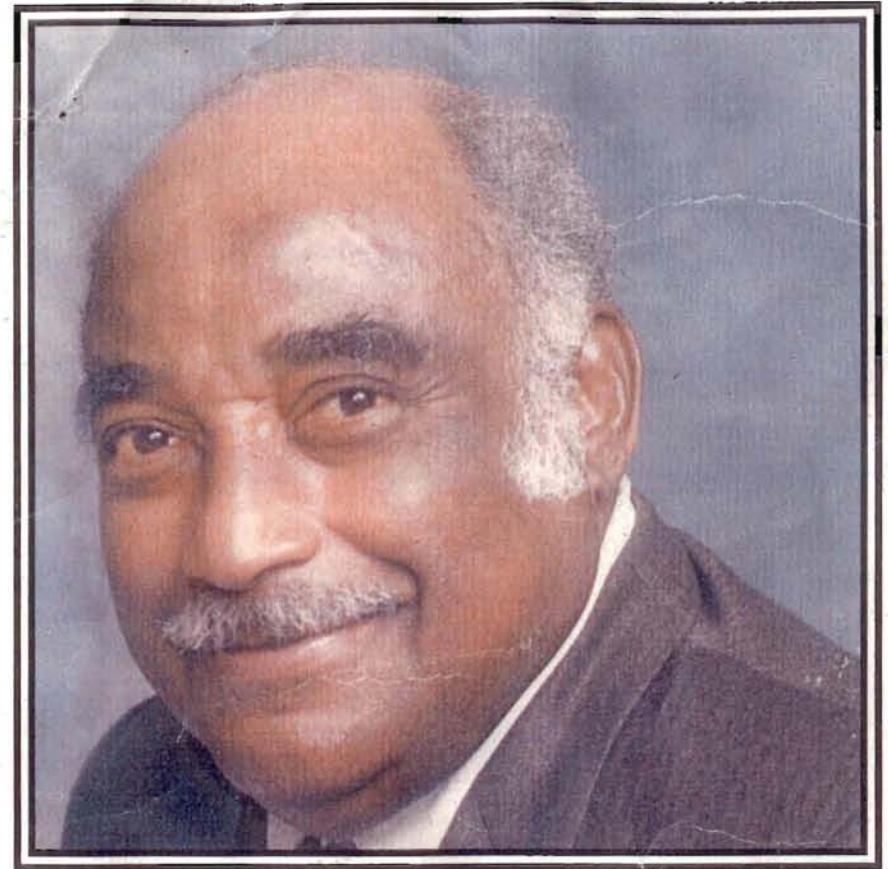
(323) 584-1200

www.harrisonross.com

Wind Beneath Our Wings

Leon Lofton, Jr.

Sunrise: January 16, 1918 Sunset: July 16, 2003



Service

Thursday, July 24, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Harrison • Ross Mortuary ~ View Park Chapel
4601 South Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90043

Reverend Harold Webster, Jr., Officiant

Order of Service

ProcessionalThe Family

Musical Selection“Wind Beneath My Wings”

Scriptures & Prayer.....Reverend Harreld Webster, Jr.

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3:14

New Testament - Revelation 21:4

Musical Selection“Take My Hand, Precious Lord”

Acknowledgments.....Reverend Harreld Webster, Jr.

Remarks (2 mins. please).....Family & Friends

Obituary.....Gena [redacted]

“Amazing Grace”Nina [redacted]

Eulogy.....Reverend Harreld Webster, Jr.

Parting View

Recessional

Obituary

Leon E. Lofton, Jr. was born January 16, 1918 in Atlanta, Georgia, the older son and second child born to the Reverend Ely L. Lofton, Senior who was enrolled at Gammon Theological Seminary and Myrtle [redacted] Lofton. Like Methodist children of that era he moved with his family to different cities; such as Atlanta, Georgia; New Market, Cumberland, and Baltimore, Maryland; Wheeling, Clarksburg and Fairmount West Birginia; and McKeesport and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In June of 1941, he graduated from West Virginia State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He amassed hours exceeding those required for a master’s degree in the field of mathematics from Morgan State College, University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University. 1961-62, he was Principal-Teacher in the Aleutian Islands, King Cove, Alaska. He ran, unsuccessfully, for the 28th Congressional District for the State of California in 1974 and 1976.

November 1942 Leon was drafted into the United States Army, 92nd infantry Division that during the Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the only officially designated Buffalo Soldier. He was immediately promoted to platoon sergeant. His unit served in the 5th Army under General Mark Clark in North Africa, Southern Italy Campaigns. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Marksmanship Badge and Campaign Service Ribbons. Leon was medically separated from service to the United States Army, September of 1945. He was a life member in the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Leon married Esther [redacted] in Montgomery, Maryland on July 17, 1950. From this union came eight children: Michael [redacted] Steven Blane, Verna [redacted] Darryl [redacted] Tracy [redacted] Nina [redacted] Gena [redacted] and Heather [redacted]

Leon succumbed at West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital on July 16, 2003 after a critical illness and its complications. He is survived by his wife, Esther [redacted] Lofton; four sisters: Mrs. Verna [redacted] Mrs. Frances H. [redacted] Mrs. Rosemary [redacted] and Jo Ellen [redacted] Lofton; and one brother, Dr. Robert [redacted] Lofton; eight children: Michael, Steven, Verna [redacted] Darryl, Tracy [redacted] Nina [redacted] Gena Lofton, and Heather [redacted]; four sons-in-law: [redacted]; seven grandchildren: Kevin [redacted] Aaron [redacted] Sharmalee [redacted] Brittany [redacted] Amanti and Amari [redacted] and Leilani [redacted]; one great-granddaughter, Theresa [redacted] and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.