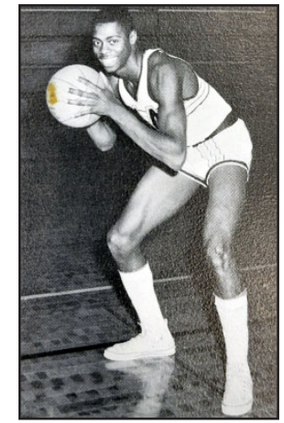
Jeff . . . **WE WILL MISS YOU IMMENSELY.** It's hard to put into words the impact you've had on us all. You were the one we turned to for advice, our comfort when we needed clarity — someone we knew we could always count on no matter what. You taught us the importance of faith, family, and friendship, as well as the value of hard work. There is now a void in our hearts, but we know it will be filled with memories of your smile, your laugh, and your generous spirit for years to come. Thank you for loving us, for holding us close, and lifting us up. We promise to make you proud and honor you by living our lives with the love and light that you so wonderfully demonstrated throughout yours. We love you and we find solace in knowing that we will see you again. Until then, rest easy.

Pride of Ohio No. 80, and a lifetime member of the NAACP. He also served Mt. Calvary Baptist Church faithfully as a trustee and treasurer for several decades.



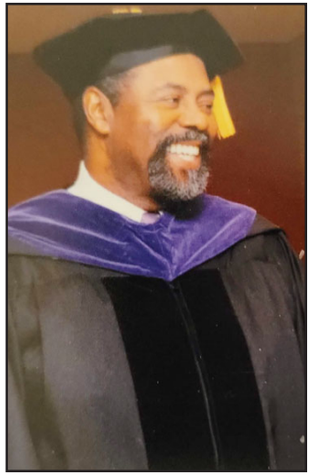
Judge Payton's high school athleticism continued throughout his life; he enjoyed being a part of the Ebony Sportsmans Club and Park Lanes Bowling Team, was an avid golfer and former member of the Shelby and Westbrook Country clubs. He was also a lifelong fan of the Cleveland Browns and Ohio State Buckeyes.

A loving husband, devoted father, and cherished friend, Judge Payton leaves behind a profound legacy of love and service. The birth of his grandchildren, Jahi and Violet, was a bright spot during his challenging health battle. He is survived by his loving wife, Carol, with whom he recently celebrated 50 years of marriage; their children, daughter, Erin (Jonathan) Hamilton of St. Paul, Minnesota, and son, Jeffrey (L'Oreal) of Evanston, Illinois; sisters, Herscine Adkison of Mansfield, Ohio, and Kay (Randy) Williams of Brandon, Mississippi; brothers, Claude (Robin) of San Diego, California, and Cornelius Payton of Jackson, Mississippi; and a host of family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Lucy Woodruff; and three brothers, Hercules Payton, Sr., Cornelius Payton "Jr.," and Earl Spencer Payton.

Judge Payton considered going to medical school, but had a change of heart after attending an intensive study program at Harvard University during the summer of 1967. His passion for justice eventually led him to the Cleveland Marshall College of Law, from which he graduated in 1975.

Before becoming a lawyer, Judge Payton touched lives as a teacher and coach at John Simpson Junior High and Cleveland Heights High School. It was in the halls of these institutions that he first demonstrated his unique blend of discipline, compassion, and commitment.

His rich legal career saw him wear many hats, from earning an internship with the United States Department of Justice to serving as the first director of the Richland County Legal Services Association. His tenure as a Juvenile Court Magistrate further showcased his dedication to the community's youth.



As a municipal court judge, his heart for reform was evident. Judge Payton was instrumental in implementing numerous programs, including Victim's Assistance, Intensive Probation Supervision, and the Driver Intervention Program. These initiatives are testaments to his commitment to both justice and rehabilitation.

Judge Payton's passion for service extended beyond the courtroom. Whether serving on the Board of Directors for MedCentral Health System or as the past president of the Ohio Municipal Judges Association, his leadership and influence were felt deeply.

He was a longtime champion and supporter of the Rehabilitation Services of North Central Ohio and Mansfield Memorial Homes, a member of Prince Hall Lodge Pride of Ohio No. 80, and a lifetime member of the NAACP. He also served Mt. Calvary Baptist Church faithfully as a trustee and treasurer for several decades.

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A CELEBRATION REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF

The Honorable Judge Jeff Payton

THE OASIS OF LOVE
Rev. Raymond Cochran Jr., Host Pastor
Monday, October 23, 2023 • 11:00 A.M.
190 Chester Avenue • Mansfield, Ohio 44901

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Family Visitation and Viewing – 9:00 A.M. . . . . Video Tribute

MASONIC SERVICE - 9:30 A.M.

ORGAN PRELUDE . . . . . Garlan McCruter, Sr.

PROCESSIONAL . . . . . Members of The Clergy
Sister Shirley Jordan, Officiant

SCRIPTURE READING . . . . . Minister Barry Lawrence
The Old Testament † The New Testament

PRAYER OF COMFORT . . . . . Pastor Aaron Williams
SELECTION . . . . . Patricia Johnson
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . . Brenda Lawrence

REFLECTIONS
Growing Up . . . . . Sister Shirley Jordan
Lifetime Friendship . . . . . Arthur Brooks
Career and Community Impact . . . . . Deanna West-Torrence
Attorney Donald Teffner
Family . . . . . Dr. Carla Johnson
Clergy . . . . . Bishop William Morris Jr.

THE OBITUARY - "A Legacy of Excellence" . . . . . *Read Silently / Soft Music*
SELECTION . . . . . Joetta McCruter Polk

The Eulogy - PASTOR MARK COBB

BENEDICTION . . . . . Sister Shirley Jordan
RECESSIONAL . . . . . Clergy, Family, and Friends