Interment

MANSFIELD CEMETERY

389 Altamont Aveue • Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Pallbearers

Nephews & Friends

Arthur Brooks • Brendan Bonham • Antonio "TJ" Moton • Jeffery Payton
Anthony Sanders • Christopher Smith • Darrell Smith • Deonte Weatherspoon

Flower Bearers - Family and Friends

Light Refreshments will follow the Interment at

DAN LEW EXCHANGE - KOBACKER ROOM

28 North Main Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44902 • 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Heartfelt Thanks

THE FAMILY OF JUDGE JEFF PAYTON thanks everyone for their many expressions of kindness and sympathy during our bereavement. Your prayers, visits, cards, and flowers will serve to lighten the difficult days ahead. We remain grateful from the depths of our hearts. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**

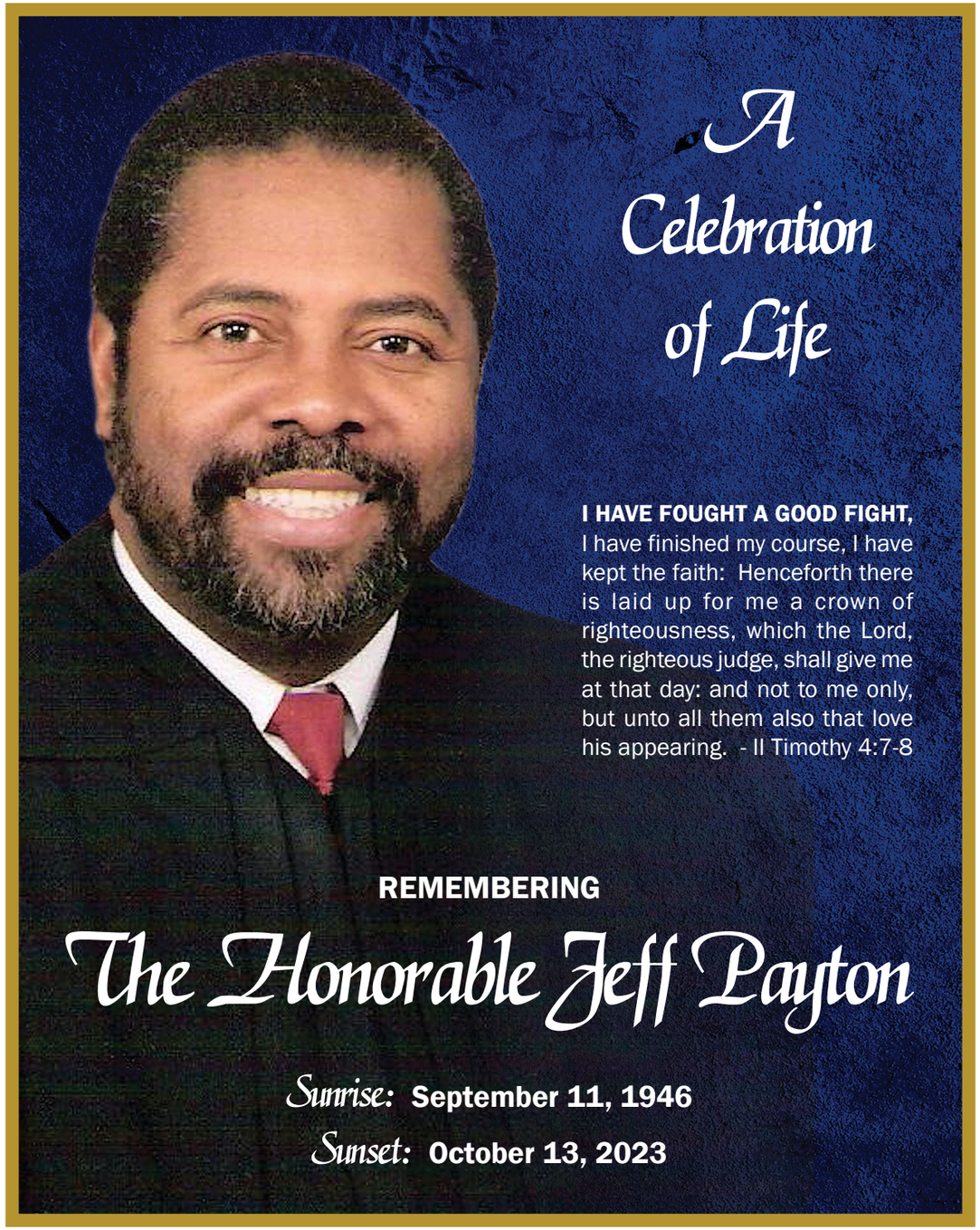
Arrangements Entrusted To

MARLAN J. GARY FUNERAL HOME

753 McPherson Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44903
(419) 524-6999 • www.TheChapelofPeace.com

Programs By

WINSTON W. WHITE • (614) 475-1799 • 3W PRINTING • Email: winston3w@aol.com



A Celebration of Life

I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. - II Timothy 4:7-8

REMEMBERING

The Honorable Jeff Payton

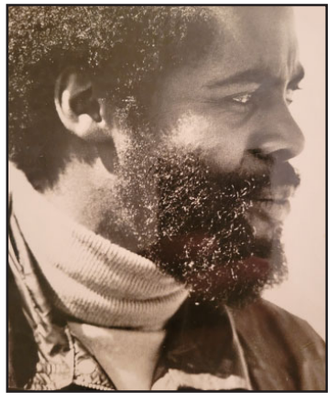
Sunrise: **September 11, 1946**

Sunset: **October 13, 2023**

A Legacy of Excellence

The Honorable Jeff Payton

BELOVED JUDGE, DEVOTED FAMILY MAN, AND PILLAR OF MANSFIELD



THE HONORABLE JEFF PAYTON, one of Mansfield's most notable leaders and a beloved pillar of the community, passed away on Friday, October 13, 2023, following a brave fight against cancer. He was surrounded by family and friends.

Judge Payton was more than a respected legal figure. As the first Black elected official in Richland County, he was a beacon of integrity and fairness in the local judicial system for more than 30 years. Throughout his esteemed career, he tirelessly upheld the principles of justice and equality, touching countless lives with his wisdom and compassion.

Born on Wednesday, September 11, 1946, to Cornelius Payton and Gertrude Cosby Payton in Canton, Mississippi, his family moved to Mansfield, Ohio, when he was two years old. Judge Payton grew up on the north end of town and enjoyed an active childhood playing with the neighborhood kids, swimming in Toby's Run, and making bicycles out of junkyard parts.

A proud product of Mansfield City Schools, Judge Payton was heavily involved in sports, specifically football, basketball, and track. He graduated from Malabar High School in 1964, and earned his bachelor of science degree in biology from Ashland University in 1969, where he later received the alumni association's Special Achievement Award and was inducted into the African American Hall of Fame in 1990.

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 also a longtime champion and supporter of the Rehabilitation Services of North Central Ohio and Mansfield Memorial Homes, a member of Prince Hall Lodge

CHERISHED MEMORIES