

***The Celebration of Life
For
Isaac Franklin Coleman, Jr.***

Activist, Organizer, Leader



***Saturday, May 14, 2016
11:00 a.m.***

***St. James AME Church
44 Hildebrand St.***

Asheville, NC 28801

Rev. Brent LaPrince Edwards, Pastor

Obituary

Isaac Franklin Coleman, Jr.

November 6, 1943-May 10, 2016

Always the Activist. . .

This Lexington, Kentucky first son was born to Isaac F. Coleman, Sr. and Dorothy Robinson Coleman and joined by brother James (Noonie), now deceased and sisters, Mary, Audrey and Dorothy (Libby) soon after. This 1961 graduate of Dunbar High School early on bore the indelible imprint of an activist, participating in sit-ins and boycotts prior to his graduation and entry into Knoxville College. College is where he honed his activist acumen ultimately leaving school in his third year to join the burgeoning Civil Rights movement full time catapulted into involvement through the organizing of the Congress On Racial Equality (CORE). His organizing in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana carried with it stints in Parchman Prison, fire bombings, beatings and the deaths of comrades-in-arms--all emblematic of the peculiar brand of domestic terrorism of the times.

Forever the Freedom Fighter and Loving Leader. . .

Ike was an integral part of the young leadership of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and its ground breaking struggles for voters' rights, full citizenship, economic equity, and racial equality comprising the social justice platform undergirding his work for the remainder of his life. In the waning decade of the sixties he settled in New Orleans Louisiana with his wife Ama and daughter Imani Aisha. He also produced his first son, Latif (mother Judy). As the tour manager for the NOLA based Free Southern Theater he easily translated his organizing prowess into the arts as yet another critical tool for people's empowerment. After New Orleans he moved

to Asheville, North Carolina where he met and married Beverly Jones, joined the Nation of Islam and fathered three other sons, Jamal, Khalil and Raoof. Asheville, sourced and sustained his political leadership as he moved from Model Cities, to city housing authority inspector and then manager. After the dissolution of his marriage to Beverly he married Wanda Henry and fathered four more children: Walida, Isaac F. Coleman III, Zahra and Yasmina. He assuredly leaves a legacy of love among his wives, children, grandchildren, Rashad Coleman, Rashid Coleman and Dominic Coleman Valdez. This architect of people's power, leader and mentor leaves his shining light on social justice, and the authentic value of all lives. You need only take stock of his legacy: his children/grandchildren, Read to Success, Just Economics the Democratic Party to understand that death cannot ever dim the light of this living treasure. We who believe in freedom shall not, cannot rest. . .

