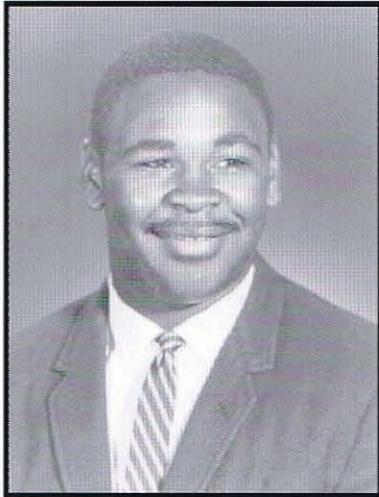


Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



FRED DOUGLAS LAWSON III

October 9, 1949 - April 16, 1993

Stillwater High School Class of 1968

Don't grieve for me now, I'm Free. I'm following the path God laid for me. I took His hand when I heard Him call. I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day. To laugh, to love, to play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that peace at the close of day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah yes, these things I too will miss. Be not burdened with time of sorrow, I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life's been full, I've savored much, Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief. Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me. God wanted me now, He set me free. - Author Unknown.

Fred Douglas Lawson III was born October 9, 1949, to Bishop F.D. Lawson, Jr. and Erma June Anderson Lawson in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He received his elementary education in Stillwater, Oklahoma, at Booker T. Washington School and Stillwater Junior High School. He graduated from C.E. Donart High School in 1968.

Fred was a avid athlete throughout his lifetime, participating in both football and baseball. He was a member of the high school football team in Stillwater that won the State championship in his senior year (Fred wore jersey no. "66"). He also played baseball for the American Legion in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Fred was always a supporter of the underdog team and a big brother to many of the youth in Stillwater. During his sojourn in Sacramento, he played semi-pro football for the Sacramento Valley Statesmans.

Fred relocated to Sacramento, California in 1968. He was first employed as a student postal worker and later employed by the Mercy American River Hospital where he worked until his death.

Fred found Christ at an early age, and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in July 1965 under his father's ministry at Lawson Temple Church of God in Christ in Stillwater. While in Sacramento, Fred placed his membership with the Northgate Church of God in Christ in 1082 and remained a member until his death.

In 1969 Fred married Elizabeth Columbus of Pueblo, Colorado, and from this union three children were born, Rhonda, Elizabeth, and Gwendolyn. After this union was broken, he married Gloria Lee of Sacramento, California in 1979, adding two children to the family, Terrell and Theresa.

Fred was very active in community sorts activities during his life in Sacramento, California. He became coach of the Grant Union Little League and Grant Union Rams, where he was affectionately nicknamed "Fat Rat". He was called "Bunny" by his family.

Fred met his untimely and tragic demise on April 16, 1993, at the hands of an unknown assailant while preparing his Little League baseball team for opening of the 1993 season.