

ALMA JACKSON was born on November 13, 1938, to the parents of the late Roy Jackson and the late Gussie Ross Jackson in Plains, Georgia. He attended the Sumter County School in Plains, GA. He was baptized at an early age at Cedar Spring Baptist Church. Later, he became a member of Union Tabernacle Baptist Church where he served as a member and Deacon. Alma, as he was affectionately known, was employed at Ayers Welding, Albany, GA and Superior Welding, Americus, GA as a Welder until he retired. He was a big fan of the Atlanta Braves baseball team.

Alma was member of the Koinonia Farm family. Bren Dubay, Koinonia Director, noted, "Koinonia Farm mourns the loss of its dear friend Alma Jackson. As a young man, Alma lived and worked at the farm. He was with us during the turbulent 1950s and 1960s when Koinonia faced physical attacks for its belief in the brotherhood and sisterhood of all, regardless of race. Though he eventually left the farm, he was never far away. He visited regularly, offering support and encouragement. Alma also made it a point to speak with every new group of interns beginning their internship at Koinonia. They loved him. Visitors were drawn to his warmth and wisdom."

Nearly twenty years ago, one of the Koinonia houses was named the Alma Jackson House in honor of this beautiful soul. A central character in *The Glory Man*, a play about Clarence and Koinonia, was inspired by Alma. One powerful scene depicted his testimony before the Sumter County Grand Jury as a young man. When Alma referred to Florence Jordan as "Florence" instead of "Mrs. Jordan," the prosecuting attorney became incensed. Challenged to explain why he would call a white woman by her first name, Alma calmly replied, "Because she asked me to. Everyone calls each other by their first name at Koinonia. It's a place that taught me that we're all brothers and sisters." Alma was our brother. He is our brother.

On February 25, 2009, at the James Earl Carter Library on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, GA, Alma Jackson participated in a panel discussion with Faith Fuller of the Fuller House and the Koinonia program director, Bren Dubay, along with Amanda Moore and Ellie Castle. The program, a collaboration with Koinonia Farm and Faith Fuller of the Fuller Center for Housing, featured an introduction to the documentary *Briars in the Cotton Patch*. The documentary highlighted Alma's significant contributions to the Koinonia Farm community, marked by his courage, strength of character, and unwavering commitment to unity.

He was the youngest son of his siblings: Roy Jackson, Jr., Rosa Laster, Lillian Pickett, Arquilla Hall and Leann Gardner, all whom precede him in death. He was married to the late Willie Maude Jackson.

He is survived by his five children: Susie Jackson Ingram, Xavier (Chaka) Jackson, Kelvin (Trynesa) Jackson, Helen Jackson and Linda Jackson; his brother, Chester Jackson of Canton, Ohio; grandchildren: Minquel Jackson, Tavoris Jackson, Kristal Cooper, Ebony Cooper, Kierra Jackson (Jaylon) Harris, Sonica Nicole Burton, Tavithia Jackson, Daimian Jackson and Jasmine Jackson; great grandchildren: Quatesha, Joielle, Jayce, Jurnee, Nala, and Taylor; sisters-in-law: Elizabeth Jackson of Canton, Ohio and Georgia Fields of Ashburn, GA; devoted nephews, Henry Polk and Freeman Pickett; a devoted niece, Alice Muff and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Alma's legacy extends through his children, grandchildren, and the countless lives he touched with his humor, wisdom, and kindness. May his memory be a source of inspiration and comfort to all who knew and loved him.