

Obituary

In Loving Memory Lloyd Noble

Aug. 6, 1935 – Jan. 28, 2020

Lloyd Noble was born Aug. 6, 1935 in Seminole, Okla. to Stephen Noble and Estella Jackson. On Jan. 28, 2020, the Lord called him home after being ill for a number of years. His mother passed at an early age, and he was raised in Bakersfield, Calif. He also lived in Spokane with his oldest brother Everett and wife Violet. Later on he moved to Portland and stayed with his sister Frances Odom and Olene Rosemon.

He was active in life and was president of the AARP Chapter 5264 for many years. He worked many jobs, such as a longshoreman and as an assistant chef at a Bohemian restaurant. Later on he joined the Merchant Marines and worked as a cook on a ship. He also joined the electricians union and became an electrician on the vessels he worked on. He was very proud of that. He carried ammunition for three years and never shot a bullet. He travelled around the world for 27 years, countries as Africa, Japan, Egypt, Korea, and many states in the USA

He was sharp dresser and very outgoing. He married Louise Kinsey on April 7, 1960 and adopted Linda, Tanya and Malcolm and raised them from an early age. He joined the Church of Living God in 2006 as a deacon under Pastor Maxie. Later on in 2016 he joined the Bethesda Church under pastor Jointer.

He leaves his beloved wife Louise, his adopted children, many family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Feb. 13 at 1 p.m. at Bethesda Baptist Church, 1730 S.E. 117th Ave.

Clarence Thomas in His Own Words

New film on the one black justice

BY DWIGHT BROWN

To many, he is an enigma. Or that controversial 1990s political/judicial figure who faded into a quiet corner of the Supreme Court of the United States. RBG gets all the press. Clarence Thomas does not. Rarely interviewed, rarely in front of a camera.

If political junkies, students of history, the African American community and others want to delve deep into the psyche of the one black SCOTUS judge, they will have to do their own research. What's on view in the new film 'Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in his Own Words,' is a one-sided scrapbook, with no dissenting points of view. No friends, colleagues or rivals to pose a counterpoint—the kind of good friction that makes a documentary a documentary and not a promo reel.

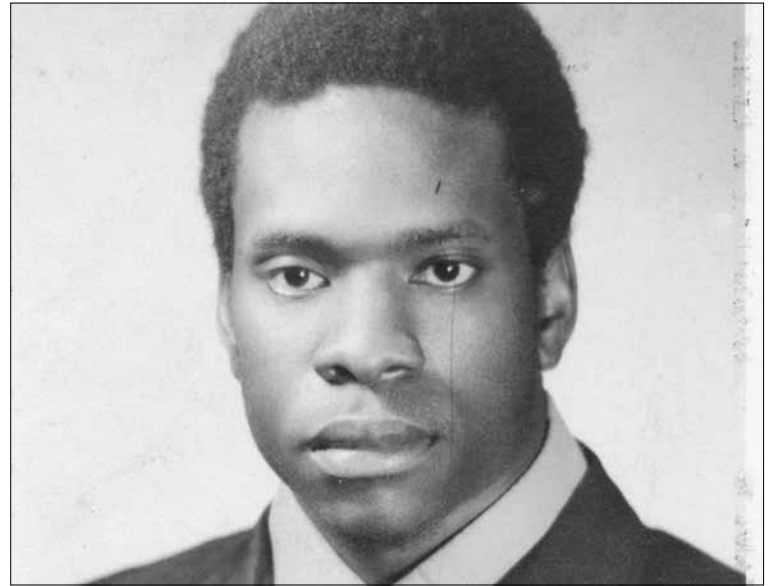
However, this non-fiction film does shed light on certain historical aspects of Thomas' life. Born in the very segregated Pin Point, Georgia in 1948, he was raised initially by a single mother in abject poverty with virtually no interaction with his father. His brother and he were taken in by his middle-class maternal grandparents. A stern granddad became his father figure, applying strict discipline and telling his two young grandsons that the door swings in and out. They came in with it, and will go out with it if they don't behave.

Thomas was sent to a Catholic elementary school. His teenage years were spent in an all-white, all-male Catholic seminary, where he was often the target of racial taunts, especially during the tumultuous civil rights movement. Somehow he attended the College of the Holy Cross, a private Jesuit school in Worcester, Mass. in 1968 even though his grandfather refused to pay for college. He fell in with some black radical students, embraced the Black Panther movement and was disowned

by his grandfather for being a revolutionary. Thomas eventually graduated from Yale Law School, and no family members came to his graduation. That affected him greatly.

Fast forward to 1980, and something changed his social opinions, politics and viewpoint on the fight for equality. This is where the footage feels like it skates over a crucial part of his life. What makes a black man go from a poor kid, to a bright student, a militant, a counterculture "lazy Libertarian," to a Republican? It's like he walked through a door, left his blackness outside and embraced a party that caters to whites with no reasonable explanation (only 8% of black voters identify in some way with the Republican Party). How did this conversion occur? What was the trigger?

"In the fall of 1980, I had decided to vote for Ronald Reagan," Thomas says. "It was a giant step for a black man. Then license is given to others, to attack you in whatever way they want to. You're not really black because you're not doing what you expect black people to do. You weren't supposed to



As young black man, future Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas had more opportunities than other poor kids in his neighborhood and took them.

oppose busing; you weren't supposed to oppose welfare."

Director/writer Michael Pack's inability to ask a tough question becomes egregious here. Thomas is known as the Supreme Court judge who consistently votes against measures that will even the playing field for African Americans. Affirmative action, college admissions, quotas —his opinions

are notoriously against them. Unlike his predecessor Thurgood Marshall, who the black community could look to as someone who understood their challenges, Thomas has been resolutely the opposite. Why?

As Thomas sits in a dark room recollecting, cinematographer James Callanan shoots him from unflattering angles, with horrendous lighting that makes him look like he's in a low-budget sci-fi movie. Photos and footage from the 1950s, 60s and 70s detail poverty in the south and black life under the oppression of Jim Crow laws. They also reveal a young black man who had more opportunities than other poor kids in his neighborhood, and took them.

Thomas attended Yale Law School at the time when its policies, involving race-conscious admissions programs embracing diversity, opened the doors for people like him. Yet he dissented from the court's landmark 2003 decision in Grutter v. Bollinger, which upheld the use of race as a factor in state university admissions decisions. It's that hypocrisy that made him an outcast in the African American community, and particularly to the black intel-

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Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas pictured with his second and current wife, Virginia, who gets plenty of airtime in a new one-sided bio about his life.

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