



Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr.

March 21, 1932 - March 14, 2025

Apostle Paul S. Commodore, a devoted servant of God, dedicated family man, and respected community leader, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2025.

Born on March 21, 1932, in Charleston, SC, to the late Helen Gathers and James Commodore, Apostle Paul S. Commodore was the epitome of faith, hard work, and commitment. At an early age, his family relocated to the Bronx, NY, where he attended PS 63 Elementary School, PS51 Jr. High School, and Samuel Gompers Industrial High School. He later graduated from George Westinghouse Vocational High School, where he learned the plumbing trade. Afterward, he proudly served in the U.S. Army, training as a medic and attending Valley Forge Army Hospital in Phoenixville, PA for nursing. He was honorably discharged after two years of service.

In the early years of his life, Apostle Commodore met and married the late Mother Ellen Emily Smith Commodore. Together, they raised a family in Brooklyn, NY, and were blessed with five children. After his military service, he established a thriving plumbing business in Brooklyn, securing his Master Plumber's license in 1975. He became the fourth African American male to earn this distinction, and his business flourished throughout his career until he retired at 85.

Apostle Commodore's faith journey began in 1948 when he joined Refuge Temple Church in New York City, where he sang in the radio choir for four years. In 1953, he attended Bible College and was ordained as a member of the clergy. That same year, he transferred to Refuge Church on Green Avenue in Brooklyn, NY, where he served as Deacon and Young Peoples President for four years.

In 1957, Apostle Commodore helped establish Redemption Church under the late Bishop Arthur Pearson. Over the years, he held numerous leadership roles, including Deacon, Young Peoples President, Choir Director, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and eventually Assistant Pastor and General Director of the church.

His calling continued to unfold as he became a Minister in 1958 and was elevated to Elder in 1962. In 1975, he moved his family to Neptune, NJ, where he became the Pastor of Bibleway Church of Neptune. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed District Elder for the New Jersey Southern District of Bibleway Churches Worldwide, serving under the late Bishop Showell for three years.

Apostle Commodore's pursuit of knowledge and spiritual growth led him to graduate with a Doctor of Divinity degree from Eastern American University on May 30, 1981. He furthered his education with a degree from the Christian and Education Foundation for Pastoral Studies in June of 1983.

In 1987, he was appointed Overseer of the Denver, Colorado Dioceses under the leadership of the late Bishop Bernard Battle. The following year, in 1988, he succeeded Bishop Battle as Bishop and Overseer of the Tennessee Dioceses, where he founded four churches that continue to thrive today.

Throughout his ministry, Apostle Commodore's influence extended beyond his local congregation. In 1995, he was appointed Bishop of the Bibleway Men's Ministry, and in late 1996, he was appointed Executive Bishop of Bibleway Churches Worldwide. His appointment as Apostle in 2007 marked a pinnacle in his lifelong ministry.

Apostle Commodore's first marriage to Mother Ellen Emily Smith Commodore ended with her passing in 1996. He later met and married Mother Loretta Coleman, who lovingly supported him throughout his ministry until his passing.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his beloved wife, Mother Loretta Commodore; his children, Paulette Carter (Rosedale, Queens, NY), Keith Commodore (Queens, NY), Andrew Commodore (Columbia, SC), Paul S. Commodore Jr. (Tinton Falls, NJ), and Mark Commodore (Brooklyn, NY); 21 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Alethia Johnson, and brothers, Theodore Wilson and Willie Wilson.

Apostle Paul S. Commodore's legacy of faith, leadership, and love for his family will continue to inspire all who knew him. He was a man of vision, purpose, and unwavering dedication to his calling. His influence will never be forgotten, and his memory will live on in the hearts of many.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Cemetery Details

Monmouth Memorial Park

4201 Hwy 33
Tinton Falls, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 28. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Neptune Bibleway Apostolic Church
1928 Greenwood Avenue
Neptune City, NJ 07753

Visitation

MAR 29. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Triumphant Life Church
500 Malterer Avenue
Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703

Funeral Service

MAR 29. 10:00 AM (ET)

Triumphant Life Church
500 Malterer Avenue
Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703

Tribute Wall

AB

“ *Apostle John & Lady Alice Bennett purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..*



Apostle John & Lady Alice Bennett - March 28, 2025 at 01:32 PM

AB

“ *Apostle John & Lady Alice Bennett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..*

Apostle John & Lady Alice Bennett - March 28, 2025 at 01:32 PM

JG

“ *John Graziano planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..*

John Graziano - March 27, 2025 at 11:06 PM

JG

“ *John Graziano purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..*



John Graziano - March 27, 2025 at 11:06 PM



“ *Rest In Peace Apostle Commodore, I Learned a lot under your leadership that I still carry till this day .Again Rest on in Eternal Peace. The Eggleston Family*



Vlone Drip - March 27, 2025 at 03:18 PM

HF

“ Harvey Bryson & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..



Harvey Bryson & Family - March 27, 2025 at 02:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..

March 27, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..



March 27, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..



March 25, 2025 at 06:10 PM

FO

“ Freddie, Dulce, Ethan & Olivia purchased the Written in the Stars for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..



Freddie, Dulce, Ethan & Olivia - March 25, 2025 at 05:46 PM

DA

“ Sending the families our deepest condolences, we are close friends of Paul and Michele, Paul always speaks so highly of his beloved dad. A truly great man of God! Much love from The Arce Family



Dulce Arce - March 25, 2025 at 05:38 PM

TE

“ Tonya Everett lit a candle in memory of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr.



Tonya Everett - March 24, 2025 at 09:44 AM

AS

“ Rest in Power Bishop and know you will be missed. My heart is hurting right now knowing the last time I saw you was at my mother's home going when you spoke. I love you and will miss you dearly.

Alexis (love) Suter - March 23, 2025 at 11:23 AM

RJ

“ This Man of God helped The Real Life Church in Brooklyn with the required plumbing so we can open up. Always ready to help anyone doing Gods work. Will miss his smile and excellent spirit ... Pastor Rafael Lantigua Jr

Rafael Lantigua Jr - March 22, 2025 at 08:26 PM

CF

“ Crespo Families purchased the Rays of Light Spray for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..



Crespo Families - March 22, 2025 at 07:42 PM

LN

“ Paul my sincerest sympathy with you and family at this difficult time

Len Nass - March 22, 2025 at 01:25 PM

NH

Naty & Tom Hanson Paul our most sincere sympathy at this moment to you and your family

Natividad Hanson - March 23, 2025 at 11:03 AM

LN

“ Leonard N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..

Leonard N. - March 22, 2025 at 01:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..

March 22, 2025 at 12:35 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..



March 22, 2025 at 12:35 PM

RC

“ LOVE THIS FAMILY. ❤️
YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS 🙏
WELL DONE APOSTLE 🙌

Renee Clay - March 22, 2025 at 12:23 PM

AP

“ Alexander & Stella Perry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..

Alexander & Stella Perry - March 22, 2025 at 12:21 PM

AP

“ Alexander & Stella Perry purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr..



Alexander & Stella Perry - March 22, 2025 at 12:21 PM

AE

“ Sending our deepest condolences to Keith and family. You are in our prayers.
Alicia Evans and Nat Croskey.

Alicia Evans - March 22, 2025 at 12:00 PM

VB

“ Everyone knew him as Apostle Commodore, but I knew him as Grandpa who loved ALL his Grands ❤️ Im grateful to have so many precious memories that I will forever cherish. Rest in heavenly peace Grandpa and give Grandma a kiss for me ❤️❤️



Victoria Bracey - March 22, 2025 at 08:58 AM

DP

“ MY BUDDY, REST IN PEACE ! Rev. David J. Parreott, Jr.

DAVID PARREOTT - March 21, 2025 at 12:05 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of
Apostle Paul S. Commodore Sr.



Bongarzone Funeral Home - March 20, 2025 at 12:16 PM

JR

My sincere condolences to ur family my friend

Joseph Rubino - March 25, 2025 at 09:38 AM

FC

It is with profound sorrow we grieve with the family and friends and we yet rejoice, knowing that Apostle's labor has ended and he has received the most earnest triumph; to be in the eternal presence of the Lord.

First Antioch Church - March 27, 2025 at 01:50 PM

KA

The Kevin Daniels' family offers its sincerest condolences for the loss of Apostle Paul S. Commodore.

KayKay - March 28, 2025 at 11:17 AM

AS

Your life and present within the Bible Way Church World Wide, was greatly appreciated and will equally be missed. I will miss our random talks over the phone which were filled wisdom and practical insights. The younger Apostles on the Executive Board of Bishops respected you very much. Thank You Sir.

Apostle T. Allen Stringer - March 30, 2025 at 09:55 PM