

# Obituary

Oliver Cromwell Carter was born in Cuero, Texas on March 6th, 1925. He was the eldest son of Bessie Ruth Adams and Allen Carter. Oliver was the last surviving sibling of five, which included; his sister Geraldine Hillyer, sister Geneva Jenkins, and his two brothers Herbert Carter and Henry Carter. Oliver is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ruth Stella Carter. Oliver is also survived by his five children that he and Ruth had together: Oliver Carter II, Pamela Bello (husband John Bello), Allen Carter (wife Cheryl Carter), Rod Carter and Fred Carter (wife Lynne Carter). Oliver has several grandchildren and great grandchildren in addition to countless nieces, nephews, godchildren, friends and neighbors.

Oliver Carter learned of sacrifice during his early teens, when he had to leave school during the 10th grade, and take a job. As the eldest male in the family, he worked on the family farm to ensure his siblings were taken care of. Oliver, at the age of 18, enlisted in the US Marine Corp. as a Montfort Point Marine. He was one of the first Black Marines to fight alongside White Marines in the Pacific during WWII. He managed fuel and ammunition barges from the ships in the Pacific. He participated in the Marianas Inland conflict, and battles at Saipan and Okinawa. He completed a successful career as a rifle marksman and ammunition technician with an honorable discharge in February 1946. Shortly after his honorable discharge, he met Ruth and they were married in November 8, 1947, in Pomona California.

Ever since that day as a teen, when he was asked to work and support his siblings, Oliver never really slowed down. He was an entrepreneur, business owner and somehow managed a full-time job. He would get up tirelessly at 5am (including weekends) to start his workday and later that evening would begin cleaning office buildings and also managed an eight-unit apartment complex. All of his efforts were to support the family he loved. Despite working three jobs, he still found time to attend sports and other events his children participated in to show his support. Oliver required that once each child was of age, that they would carry their weight and pitch in to work.

The entire family worked weekdays and weekends to support both the maintenance business and help with the apartment complex. We drove from building to building in Pomona, Claremont, Upland and Ontario to provide janitorial services.