The Cotton family would like to express their appreciation for the many acts of love and kindness shown to us during our bereavement. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. God Bless You All.

A special thank you to Dr. Kohen, Dr. Meyers, Monique Farr-LPN, the VA Hospital staff, and Hospice of the Twin Cities.

Our Heartfelt Appreciation is extended to Father Kevin McDonough, Rev. Thomas Van Leer, the St. Peter Clever Family, Lanise Watson and friends, Gordy Kirk, and the Attucks Brooks Legion Post 606.

Thank you to Delores Mathews-Zeno, Mary Wells, Deja Gill, Brooks Cavin, Laura Van Schoyck.

Our deepest appreciation is extended to all those who made a special effort in supporting us during this difficult time.

Home Going Celebration for
JOHN E. COTTON

Sunrise April 5, 1925 Sunset March 22, 2010

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Visitation: 10-11:00 a.m.
Service: 11:00 a.m.

St. Peter Claver Church
Saint Paul, MN 55104
Father Kevin McDonough, Sr. Father

Internment at
Fort Snelling Cemetery, Bloomington, MN

Funeral services provided by:
Spielman Mortuary
344 W. University Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55103
Don't Grieve for me, for 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 work or play
Tasks left undone, must stay that way
I found that peace at 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 times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored all to brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me
GOD wanted me now:

HE SET ME FREE!
Obituary

JOHN E. COTTON was born on April 5, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska, the youngest of three children to Elbert and Pleasetta (Rawls) Cotton.

While the children, Zelma, Elbert Jr., and John were still young, the family moved to Dallas, Texas for a few years before heading north to settle in St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Rondo Community. John attended Neal School and McKinley School. He graduated from Marshall High School and continued his education at University of Louisville before being drafted to the United States Army. He served in World War II where he traveled to the Philippians and was stationed in various posts around Asia.

After returning home, John married his lifetime LOVE, Nellie Lopez. From this union came Neil, Edward, and Christina (Tina). John’s passion was working with the youth in the Rondo Community, coaching various sports, to include his favorites, basketball, football and softball at the Oxford playground. He also coached boys and girls basketball for Hallie Q. Brown. John’s experience came from playing sports and traveling since the age of 12. He played on the Ted Bies Liquors’ basketball and baseball teams, and most recently, he was recognized nationally for playing with the “Twin Cities Gophers” a Minnesota Negro League in the 40’s, 50’s and 60’s.

John began working in the early 50’s for the John Wood Company as a welder. In the 70’s John accepted a position with US Steel, where he traveled extensively throughout major cities on the east coast.

After the death of his mother, John returned to Minnesota, re-establishing himself in the Rondo Community. John led a very active life serving his family, his community, and his country.

John is preceded in death by his parents Elbert Cotton and Pleasetta (Rawls-Cotton) Bradley; Sister-Zelma (Cotton) Hanison; Brother-Elbert Cotton Jr. and Grandson, Robert Cotton.

John is survived by his wife, Nellie Lopez Cotton of 65 years; sons – Neil Cotton and Edward Cotton; daughter-Christina (Joseph) Cotton - Phipps; Grandsons – Mark, Damon, Jahmai, Joseph, Jr., Julian; Granddaughter – Sasha; 9 Great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and a host of family and friends.