



Herman Nelson

Pastor, Business Executive; United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)

Herman is a 1960 honor graduate of Peake High School, earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR, in 1964. In addition, he earned his MBA in Financial/Systems Engineering Management from Western New England College, Springfield, MA, in 1978. Concurrently and later, he earned three master's equivalents (ME) from The MITRE Corporation HQ in Bedford, MA, The United States Air Force, and The Pentagon, between 1974-1979. After graduating from UAPB, Mr. Nelson joined The United States Air Force and completed the Officer Training School (OTS) in 1964. Upon completing OTS, Mr. Nelson was commissioned as an officer in 1964 at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

He was one of the first African-American Titan Missile Combat Crew Commanders at Little Rock Air Force Base, AR. His expertise in nuclear weapons system, mathematics, and leadership as a commander, earned him the honor of "Highly Qualified" Strategic Air Command (SAC) combat crew of the month and Command Instructor Status. Also, during this assignment, Nelson was recruited by NASA to serve in a position as an Orbital Analyst. NASA was so new that Nelson had not heard of the organization, and he had no idea why NASA was interested in him. Nelson was the first Black Air Force Officer to Serve in the NASA Rendezvous Trajectory Analysis Unit. Besides, Orbital Analyst, Nelson also served in Space Defense Operations overseas. He concluded his Military career as a Systems Engineer, Systems Analyst, Systems Development Acquisition, Operational Systems Programs, from August 1964 to July 1984 at Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) as a LT. Col.

Arkadelphia, AR has its Hidden Figure in Herman Nelson. While serving as Orbital Analyst at NASA, Houston, TX, he supported Apollo space missions 12 through 16, performing rendezvous-trajectory dispersions analysis studies for Mission Spaceflights. Nelson has served as vice president and chief operating officer with over twenty-five years of combined military and private-industry professional experience with his IT firm 1 st JMG & Associates, LLC and other IT companies. He has expertise in domestic and international business developments. Mr. Nelson's resume is extensive and diverse. He is a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the oldest intercollegiate historically African American fraternity. He received his CALL to The Gospel Ministry while at The Pentagon and began attending graduate classes at Howard Divinity School. In 1986 he was called to serve as Pastor at the historic and landmark Shiloh Baptist Church in Middleburg, VA, for 36 years. During his Pastorate, he was fortunate to lead the church and local community in obtaining National Historical Registry status!

Herman Nelson and his late wife of almost 50 years, Wanda F. Taylor Nelson, were united in marriage by Dr. W. T. Keaton. From this union are two professional sons: Sales and Hospitality Executive Rev. Dietrich A Nelson (Yvette) and Global Business Executive Chadwich A. Nelson (Ayumi) For these blessings, Nelson is rejoiceful and thankful. His wife Wanda, an elementary school educator, gifted vocalist, and musician was the daughter of the late Rev. Everett E. Taylor the late Mrs. Omera Williams Taylor (after death), the late Mrs. Jessie E. Taylor continued to provide motherly love for Wanda. All Parents were from Ashdown, AR. Nelson is the son of the late Sherman Nelson, Sr. and Lubertha (Doll) M. Nelson Bell (Howard) of Arkadelphia.