

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

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To the family and friends of
Sylvester H. Baker

Dearest Friends,

The sudden and tragic passing of Sylvester H. Baker, a deeply devoted and longstanding Bahá'í, brought the National Spiritual Assembly much sadness. We join his family and the legion of his friends in mourning the passing of this dearly loved, much admired man, and in celebrating his remarkable life.

Musician, sports enthusiast, and world citizen, "Slam," as he was affectionately known to those who knew and loved him best, was all these. His long career in both the U.S. Army and Air Force – which began with World War II and continued through the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and beyond – took him to four continents, exposing him to a panoply of diverse cultures and deepening the belief in the oneness of the human family he had already affirmed through his embrace of the Bahá'í Faith. After his retirement from military service, his travels to India and throughout Europe with both the Voices of Bahá and Bahá'í Gospel Choir musical ensembles expanded Sylvester's impressive portfolio of world travels and augmented the services he would continue to the day of his departure from this life to render to the Cause to which he was wholeheartedly devoted. We remember fondly the great personal warmth, irrepressible enthusiasm, hearty laugh, and sense of good fun he brought to his indefatigable efforts to share the unifying Bahá'í teachings with virtually every soul whose path he crossed, leaving each one a little better for the experience. Unfailingly kind, he was never heard to utter a negative or reproachful word concerning another and would simply refuse to countenance gossip or foul language from others. As one neighbor put it, "When you cussed, he would tell you to watch your mouth." To other neighbors, he was the "PUSH man," the acronym bestowed in loving testimony to his admonitions in times of trouble or need to "pray until something happens!"

Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the loss you have sustained and share them with other family and friends. Be assured that beneath the lofty dome of the sacred and luminous Bahá'í House of Worship we will pray for eternal progress in the realms of Light for the *"pure, kindly and radiant"* soul of Sylvester H. Baker.

With deepest Bahá'í love,

Robert C. Henderson
Secretary-General