



**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**Honorary Street Marker Application:**

Date: 7/3/25	
Applicant's Name / Organization: Damascus Missionary Baptist Church	
Email Address: damascus.houston@att.net or dallenz663@sbccglobal.net	
Phone Number: 832-776-2411	
Mailing Address: 3122 Center Street Houston, TX 77007	
Current Street Name:	Center Street
Location Address:	3122 Center Street
Cross Streets:	1000 Court St.
Proposed Street Name / Location:	Rev. Dr. L.F. Chaney Sr.
Proposed Block Address: (Maximum 1 Block)	3122 Center St.
<b>Attachments:</b>	
Area Photo	
Photo of Individual	
Copy of Obituary / News Article	News stories (local, national, international) about events, editorials expressing info to the public, feature articles on the honoree.
Support Letter(s)	Community Stakeholders, Residents, District City Council Member
One Page Description:	The individual's name, contribution(s) to the community; significance of the name installation.

**Honorary Street Marker:** Dr. L.F. Chaney, Sr.  
1000 block of Court Street at Center Street.

**Planning and Development Department**  
August 14, 2025



**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

### Honorary Street Marker for Dr. L.F. Chaney, Sr.

Planning Director:

Satisfies	Does Not Satisfy	Criteria
X		<i>Applicant must submit a written request for an honorary street marker to the Planning Department.</i> <b>A written request was initially submitted on June 2, 2025.</b>
X		<i>Honorary Street Marker are for local streets only</i> <b>The proposed street marker will be located at the intersection of Center Street and Court Street.</b>
X		<i>Honorary street marker is limited to one block;</i> <b>The proposed honorary street marker will be located on the 1000 block of Court Street at Center Street.</b>
X		<i>Honorary street marker requires a proper name for the designation</i> <b>Dr. L. F. Chaney is the proper name for the honorary street marker.</b>
X		<i>A standardized street marker will be used</i> <b>Houston Public Works Department is responsible for the installation of the street marker.</b>
X		<i>Honorary street marker request must be approved by City Council</i> <b>Honorary Street Marker for Dr. L.F.Chaney, meets the administrative criteria, allowing the application to be forwarded to City Council as outlined in Motion 93-1455.</b> <b>The Planning Department recommends approval from City Council to pass a resolution to establish a marker.</b>

*Based on the satisfied criteria above, the proposed honorary street marker will be forwarded to city council for consideration.*

Signed by:

*Vonn Tran*

8/18/2025

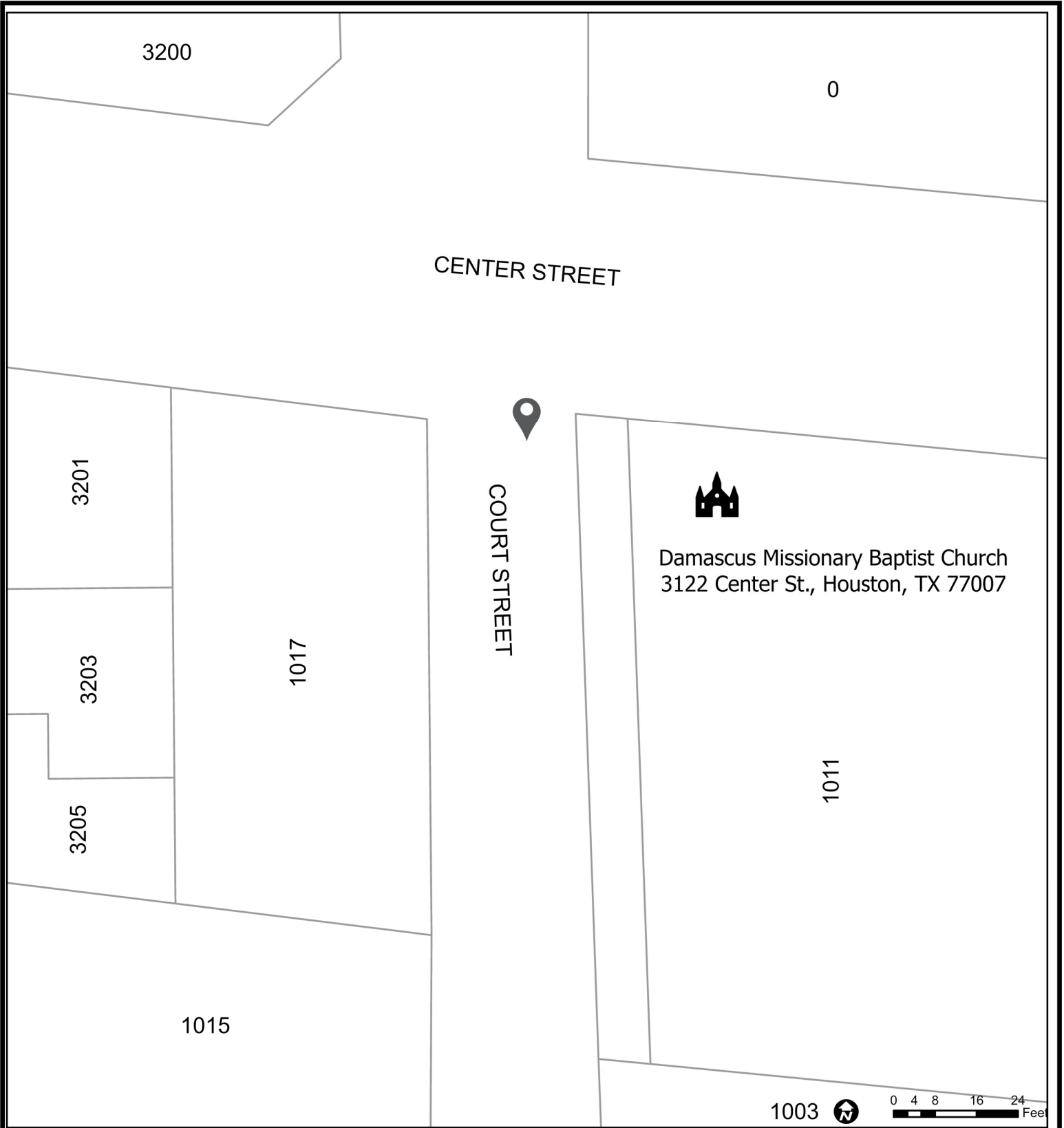
Vonn Tran  
Director

Date

## Honorary Street Marker for - Dr. L.F. Chaney Sr.

**Marker Location: At the intersection of Court Street and Center Street.**





## Honorary Street Marker

**Dr. L.F. Chaney, Sr.**  
**1000 block of Court Street at Center Street**

● Honorary Street Marker

Source: Harris County Appraisal District  
 Date: August 21, 2025  
 Reference: HSM 202506

This map is made available for reference purposes only and should not be substituted for a survey product. The City of Houston will not accept liability of any kind in conjunction with its use.



**PLANNING &  
 DEVELOPMENT  
 DEPARTMENT**

Greetings, City of Houston.

I'm writing on the behalf of historical Damascus Missionary Baptist Church, a religious organization that has been in served the community for 159 years. Damascus is located at 3122 Center Street, Houston, Texas, 77007. I'm requesting a street marker for the corner of Center Street and Court Street in the honor of the late great pastor Dr. Lafayette Fernandez Chaney, Sr.

Dr. Chaney was born the second child out of three in Waco, Texas. He was educated in the public schools of Waco and Le Vega Independent School District. He graduated from Moore High School in Waco, Texas. Dr. Chaney received both his Bachelor of Arts and his Bachelor of Divinity Degrees from Paul Quinn College. He received his Master of Arts Degree from Texas Southern University and studied in the doctorate program at Baylor University from 1968 to 1975. In August 1982, he received his Doctorate Degree in Higher Education from Texas Southern University. He taught mathematics and science at Moore High School in Waco, Texas for twelve years and was principal of Oakwood Elementary School in Waco, Texas for eleven years. From 1972 to 1986, he taught mathematics and psychology at Waltrip Senior High School in Houston, Texas. During the same period, he was adjunct professor of mathematics and psychology at Houston Community College. Dr. Chaney's professional memberships and honors include past president of Waco Classroom Teachers Association, Waco Administrators Association and the Central District Teacher's Association. In 1965 he was nominated for "Who's Who" amongst professional men in Texas. He was a member of the American Association of University Professors, Phi Delta kappa and Phi Alpha Fraternities. Dr. Chaney was pastor of the following churches: Little Tehuacana Baptist Church in rural Waco, Texas; Sweet Home Baptist Church in Mexia, Texas; First Baptist Church in Thornton, Texas; Second Baptist Church in Itasca, Texas and Shiloh Baptist Church in Madisonville, Texas. He served Damascus Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas as the senior pastor for 51 years. He served the following positions: Senior Advisor of the Youth Convention of the General Baptist Convention of America; Director of Ushers and Nurses of the Independent General Association of Texas; Member of the Evangelical Board of the General Baptist Convention of Texas and President of Union Bible College in Houston. His crowning glory was to complete his life as Senior Pastor of Damascus Missionary Baptist Church. During his pastorage, he successfully held the congregation together during their homeless years from May 25, 2003, through September 2, 2007, while the church was being reconstructed. As of today, his son Lafayette Chaney Jr. still attends. It would be great honor for him to see his father's name as a marker on the corner of Center and Court where his father labored for years.

Thanks

Chairman of the Deacon Board

His crowning glory was to complete his life as Senior Pastor of Damascus Missionary Baptist Church. During his pastorage, he successfully held the congregation together during their homeless years from May 25, 2003 through September 2, 2007, while the new church current location was being constructed. Dr. Chaney was well qualified to his calling both religiously and academically. He was an outstanding leader and has influenced the lives of many through his teachings. Under his leadership, Damascus Missionary Baptist Church has grown spiritually and financially

If you have any questions, contact David Allen, Chairman of the Deacon Board @ 832-776-2411 or Terry Scott, Church Secretary @ 281-813-7312.



# Abbie Kamin

Houston City Council Member, District C

July 10, 2025

Planning & Development Department  
611 Walker Street, 6th Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

**Re: Support for Pastor Dr. L. F. Chaney Sr. Honorary Street Marker**

Dear Planning & Development Department,

Please allow this letter to serve as my respectful request and recommendation for an Honorary Street Marker in honor of Pastor Dr. L. F. Chaney Sr. In my role as Council Member for District C, I have had the privilege of seeing the impact Pastor Chaney has had on the Damascus Missionary Baptist Church community, the surrounding neighborhood, and our City.

Damascus Church was first founded in 1866. Pastor L. F. Chaney has served as Senior Pastor at Damascus Church for over half a century, spearheading several critical community programs, including a Boy Scout Troop, a boy's basketball team, food and clothing pantries for those in need, and a ministry dedicated to feeding those experiencing homelessness during the holidays. During his tenure, he kept the congregation together from 2003-2007 while the new church was constructed. He continued to serve until his passing in 2014.

The impact he had on so many is still felt to this day.

Pastor Chaney's contributions go far beyond the families of his own church. For example, he simultaneously taught mathematics and psychology at both Waltrip Senior High School and Houston Community College.

Pastor L. F. Chaney stands out as community-driven, passionate leader whose commitment to the neighborhood and to Houston knew no bounds. I offer my wholehearted endorsement of this request and honor. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let my office know. Thank you for your careful consideration.

With respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Abbie Kamin'.

Abbie Kamin  
Houston City Council Member, District C



# DAMASCUS

## Missionary Baptist Church

3122 Center Houston, TX 77007 Phone: (713) 862-3539

E-mail: damascushouston@att.net Facebook: Damascus Baptist Church Houston

*Chairman of Deacons* David Allen  
*Chairman of Trustees* Marcus Owens

*Co-Chairman of Deacons* Eddie Cerf  
*Vice Chairman of Trustees* Herman Mac  
*Church Treasurer* Johnny Scott

June 2, 2025

TO: CITY OF HOUSTON PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HONORARY STREET

REQUEST FOR AN HONORARY STREET MARKER  
IN HONOR OF OUR FORMER PASTOR - DR. L. F. CHANEY

### PROPOSED NAME ON STREET MARKER

Dr. L. F. Chaney Sr

### PROPOSED LOCATION OF STREET MARKER

Northeast corner of Center and Court Streets (same corner of Damascus Church)

### DR. L. F. CHANEY SR

#### BACKGROUND

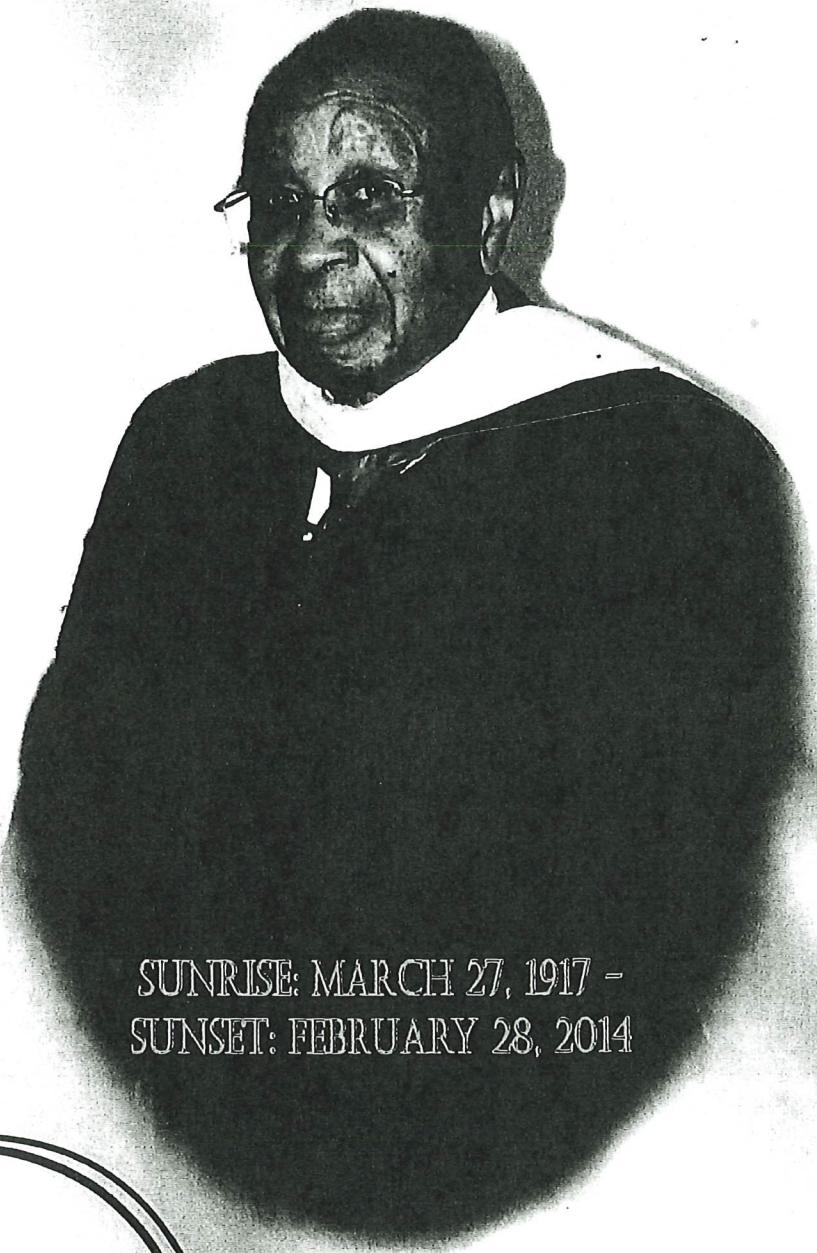
- ◆ 1917 – 2014 Born in Waco, Texas
- ◆ Received a Bachelor's of Arts and a Bachelors of Divinity Degree from Paul Quinn College
- ◆ Received his Master of Arts Degree from Texas Southern University
- ◆ Received his Doctorate Degree in Education from Texas Southern University
- ◆ Worked in the Waco ISD before moving to Houston in 1963
- ◆ Served as pastor to several churches in central Texas before moving to Houston

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

- ◆ Taught mathematics and psychology from 1972 to 1986 at Waltrip Senior High School
- ◆ During the same period was an adjunct professor of mathematics and psychology for Houston Community College
- ◆ Professional memberships and honors include: Nomination to "Who's Who" amongst professional men in Texas, member of the American Association of University Professors, Phi Delta Kappa and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternities
- ◆ Served as Senior Pastor for 50 plus years at Damascus Missionary Baptist Church
- ◆ During his pastoral period at Damascus, he instituted community involved programs such as a Boy Scout Troop, a boys basketball team, a food pantry, a clothing pantry. and a ministry that feed the homeless for Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Evangelical Positions: Senior Advisor of the Youth Convention of the General Baptist Convention of Texas, Teacher of the Youth Department of the National Baptist Convention of America, Director of the Ushers and Nurses of the Independent General Association of Texas, member of the Evangelical Board of the General Baptist Convention of Texas and President of Union Bible College in Houston.

*In Loving Memory  
of*

**REV. DR. LAFAYETTE FERNANDEZ CHANEY, SR.**



**Service:**

Saturday,  
March 8, 2014  
10 am – 12 pm



Damascus  
Missionary  
Baptist Church  
3122 Center Street  
Houston, TX 77007

SUNRISE: MARCH 27, 1917 -  
SUNSET: FEBRUARY 28, 2014

**A few of the programs created by Dr. L.F. Chaney  
that are active today.**



**Gulf Coast Drill  
Team  
Association**

**The Star of Hope Toy  
Drive for Christmas  
and  
The L.F. Chaney  
Scholarship Fund**



## **Pastor L. F. Chaney Acknowledgements**

- **Proclamation for Kathy Whitmire mayor of Houston**
- **Proclamation for Annise Parker mayor of Houston.**
- **Proclamation for Sylvester Turner mayor of Houston.**
- **Flag from President Barak Obama.**
- **Flag from House Represented Shelia Jackson Lee.**

Dr. L. F. Chaney, Sr. was an integral part of the ongoing history of the Damascus Missionary Baptist Church. He served us as Senior Pastor for almost 50 years. Throughout the rich history of our church family, you will find that Dr. Chaney was an exceptional leader who loved, cared for and nurtured our church family and oversaw its spiritual growth for many, many years. He was directly responsible for the spiritual growth of families in this community for a very long time. During his tenure as our pastor, the Damascus Missionary Baptist Church was the bedrock of this community. Because of Dr. Chaney's leadership, our church was able to build a new edifice in recent years that will allow us to continue to serve the spiritual needs of the community. Because he was such a vital part of our church's history, I know that it is fitting and proper that the section of "Court Street" be renamed in his honor.

It is important that our young people learn to honor and revere those who laid the foundation for our church's continued existence. This section named in Dr. Chaney's honor will help them to appreciate the legacy that he has left in the great history of our church.

We highly recommend that the renaming of this street section be approved by the City of Houston Planning and Development Department.

Sincerely,

*Rosetta Cerf*

*Member of the Damascus Missionary Baptist Church for over 30 years*

July 13, 2025

Houston Planning and Development Department

Hello committee members, I write this letter to ask for a consideration of renaming the current location "Court Street, Houston, Texas 77007" to "L.F. Chaney Court, Houston, Texas 77007."

Mr. Chaney was the 11<sup>th</sup> pastor of Damascus Missionary Baptist Church at 3122 Center Street. Damascus Missionary Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in Houston, particularly serving the Sixth Ward and the West End of Houston for 161 years as of this year 2025. Dr. Chaney served as Damascus Missionary Baptist Church's pastor for 53 years.

From 1963-2016 his leadership and his vision for the congregation and the surrounding community have served as a location with not only with a State Historical Marker, but the corner of Center and Court streets continued to offer worship service even during the historical event of Covid-19 and the worldwide pandemic. Damascus took on the challenge as with many other churches by offering services through social media, and when applicable far-reaching effects of social distancing.

Dr. Chaney often referenced in his sermons Proverbs 29:18 in part ... "Where there is no vision, the people perish..."

To the Planning and Development Committee as the two additional write ups details other reflections of Dr. Chaney, it is with great vision that the current location of Court Street be renamed "L.F. Chaney Court."

Sincerely,

Kimberly Bunch  
Damascus MBC – Member

Attachment  
Dr. Lafayette Chaney Obituary - Houston, TX  
Voices: My pastor, Dr. L.F. Chaney, was a giant

7/14/25, 12:24 PM

AT&T Yahoo Mail - Rev. Dr. L. F. Chaney Marker Letter

Rev. Dr. L. F. Chaney Marker Letter

From: Johnny Scott (jscot6@sbcglobal.net)

To: dallen2663@sbcglobal.net

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 10:29 PM CDT

Rev. Dr. L. F. Chaney has been a pillar of the local community and a leader in the religious community locally and nationally. Rev. Chaney moved from Waco Texas to Houston after accepting a pastoral position at Damascus Missionary Baptist Church in the 1960's. Rev. L. F. Chaney served as pastor of Damascus for over 50 years. Pastor Chaney not only faithfully served his congregation through evangelism, but he created programs in the church to help serve the community. Under Pastor Chaney's leadership Thanksgiving dinners were distributed to senior citizens and the homeless. A Boy Scout troop and a neighborhood basketball team was also created to help develop and keep the youth in the community busy. Rev. Chaney was an educator and held positions as a teacher and principal in the Waco school district and Houston Independent School District. Rev. Chaney also held positions as teacher and president at Union Theological Seminary. Rev. Chaney was extremely active in the community as a pastor and showed compassion to everyone he met.

Johnny Scott

Damascus Missionary  
Baptist Church  
3122 Center Street  
Houston, Texas 77007

To Whom It May Concern

The reason I want to be someone  
Rev. L. J. Chaney

My name is Sheila Frazier a long  
time member of Damascus.  
I'm here to tell a short story about  
Rev. L. J. Chaney, he's a devoted father  
and husband; an fantastic Pastor  
Rev. L. J. Chaney has done a lot for  
some of his members, let me give  
you some examples:

- A. He sent two of his members to  
Mary Ellen College
- B. He organized a Basketball Team
- C. If some one needed help he  
proceed to take action right away
- D. Every Thanksgiving Day we cooked  
we feed some of the people in the  
community that ate at the Church  
we took dinner downtown and  
feed some of the people.

2

Damascus Missionary Baptist Church  
E. Organized our Drill Team

The doors of the Church was open  
to anyone no matter how they  
looked or what they had on.

If some one would come off the  
street asking a little change to  
eat he would give it to them

I could go on and on

Lets do this, If that happens  
I could just see him smiling  
and saying Thank you God Bless.

This is my thoughts and memories  
of Pastor L. H. Chaney of Damascus  
Missionary Baptist Church at 3172  
Center St. Houston, Texas 77007.

To me he was more than just  
a Pastor, a husband and Father.

He was a man who was all  
about helping others, by giving and  
teaching. He was a great leader of  
his community until his health  
failed him. Pastor Chaney did not  
brag or boast about things he did  
for others, unless that person told  
what he did for him. He, no one  
knew anything with exception of he  
and God. Pastor Chaney, Dr. Pastor  
L. J. Chaney was a strong man in his  
faith, in his church, his family and  
Gloria Henderson