



Robert Parish

January 29, 1936 - May 21, 2009

ROBERT LEE PARISH, JANUARY 29, 1936 – MAY 21, 2009

Robert (Bob) Parish, passed away quietly in his sleep Thursday morning, May 21, 2009, at his home of natural causes. He was born January 29, 1936 in Meridian, MS to Cora and Enoch Parish. He grew up in and attended Jacksonville, NC Public Schools.

Bob moved to Michigan in the 1950s where he met his wife, Harriet Jo-Ann Carter. Bob was active in the Labor Union Movement in the 60s, 70s, and 80s – he began his janitorial business in the 1950s/1960s, then moved on to work construction late 60s and early 70s and then onto GM where he remained until retirement in the 1990s.

Bob is best known for his work and leadership in the community with such projects as the “East Side Project”, East Side Basketball Camp and one of the founders of “The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen”. He served as President of United Way Lenawee County for many years. He was a strong leader and president in the labor union movement. He fought hard for the rights of his fellow workers and wanted the best for his community.

He is survived by the four children he raised with his wife, Debra (Parish) Spann of Chicago, IL; Gregory Parish of Adrian; Scott Parish of Adrian; and Robin Parish of Adrian. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren: Dawn Spann-Pierre of Ft Lauderdale, FL; Rosalynn (Nikky) Parish of Adrian, MI; Lamar Parish of Adrian, MI; Jennifer Parish of Cleveland, OH; Ashley (Parish) Mirelez of South Carolina; Joshua Donald of Adrian, MI; Misha (Donald)

Walker of Adrian, MI; DeShawn Parish of Adrian, MI; Ryleigh Parish of Adrian, MI; Tyler Scott Parish of Jackson, MI; Michael Anthony Powell of Austin, TX; Scott Torres Parish of Onsted, MI; Nyashia Torres of Onsted, MI ; Chris Torres of Onsted, MI; Joshua Torres of Adrian, MI. Robert Parish is also survived by 22 great-grandchildren: Denise Cayard-Spann, Daishon Spann-Shabazz, Dominique Spann-Shabazz, Destyni Spann-Shabazz, Qyrah Spann-Pierre – all of Ft Lauderdale, FL; Jurell Parish, Laci Sager, Lexi Sager – all of Adrian, MI; Dorian Bakewell , Simone Bakewell, Ethan Stewart – all of Cleveland, OH; Adriana Mirelez of South Carolina; Iverson Rojo of Arizona, Braden Donald; Marcel Parish, Tyra Parish, Nevaeh Parish, Jada Parish, Ashante Tindall, Javen Carr, Lyric Walker – all of Adrian, MI. He is survived by five sisters, Dorothy (Dudley) Marsh of Greenville, NC, Margaret Ann (Parish) Semmons of Jacksonville, NC, Clara (Parish) Brown of Okinawa City, Japan, Cora Dell Parish of New York, NY, Betty (Parish) Goings of Memphis, Tennessee and two brothers, James (Cooter) Parish and Bobby (Sonny) Parish of Jacksonville, NC - along with a host of nieces/great nieces and nephews/great-nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Harriet Jo-Ann Carter Parish, his mother Cora Lee Collins Parish; his father Enoch Parish, sister, Mildred (Parish) Chapman, two sons Jeffrey Lee Parish and Troy Enoch Parish; grandson Raji Rochad Parish.

Robert Parish loved his family, friends and community very much. He was adored and admired by all of those who met him. There is nothing he would not do for his neighbor.

The service celebrating the life of Robert will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at Ogden Church with Rev. Michael Dudley officiating. Friends may visit the family at the Wagley Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 26th from 2 to 8 p.m. You may also send condolences to the family at www.wagleyfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Robert may be made to Lenawee United Way or The Daily Bread.

Envelopes are available at Wagley Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **26**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI

Service

MAY **27**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ogden Church
3201 E. US-223
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Robert Parish

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ I don't know if you remember but I went to school with your brother in Brooklyn East New York Voc tech High School he was one of my best friends. On our last day of school you came to pick him up in your black Mercedes Benz and you both offered me a ride home and I didn't take the offer. Me and your Brother had Mr Dick Gershick our electrical shop teacher always asked us in class how's my both Parish doing in school all the time. I just wanted to say sorry about death of your family member and share my memory of briefly meeting and being a friend of your brother he only went to our school one year I guess he moved when your career really took off with the Celtics you were Good Guys I'll never forget you Dennis Givens Jr I included of what your brother would remember me looking like before you guys moved away. 828 513 3384



Dennis Givens Jr - May 28, 2020 at 06:31 PM



“ i miss you everyday grandpa . but i knwo your in a better place (: i loveee youu and grandma soo much ! r.i.p###imported-begin###nyasha ###imported-end##

November 01, 2011 at 09:39 PM



“ We am so sorry to hear about your father passing on. I just found out and am so sorry we weren't there for you. Now your mother and father are once again reunited forever and no longer suffering.
Cathy,Bud, Albert###imported-begin##Cathy Smith
(Wilson)###imported-end##

July 29, 2009 at 01:01 PM



“ I'm so glad I got to see you the last time I was home. Say hi to Grandpa... I love you very much..###imported-begin##Kelly Carter
Scott###imported-end##

June 04, 2009 at 10:54 PM



“ I'm sorry about your loss and your in my prays. May God bless you all.###imported-begin##Verna Weathers###imported-end##

May 28, 2009 at 02:17 PM



“ Deborah, Greg, Scott and Robin! Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. We will never forget your parents. They are wonderful people.

Linda, Susan and Patty###imported-begin##Linda, Susan and Patty
North###imported-end##

May 27, 2009 at 09:12 PM



“ We are very sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Patty North

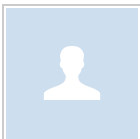
Mark Witt##imported-begin##Patricia North/Mark Witt##imported-end##

May 27, 2009 at 08:57 PM



“ I worked with Bob over the years on many United Way projects. He was the best, and very instrumental making the United Way what it is today. He also did a great job getting the union membership to rally behind so many community projects. I love your family and all the wonderful things you've done for this area. I haven't seen Bob for sometime...I wish now I would have been able to have a few last words. Bob will certainly be remembered for all his contributions. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Garry Clift and family.##imported-begin##Garry Clift##imported-end##

May 27, 2009 at 04:33 PM



“ Dear Greg, My daughter Alicia Eberhard and I are sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad and Mom. I know they are both rejoicing in Heaven. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family. I remember how nice you were to my mom(Ruth Sallows)and Grandma (Esther Deming) while they were at Linwood Manor. Your Friends, Sherri and Alicia##imported-begin##sherri lynn lauffer##imported-end##

May 27, 2009 at 10:02 AM



“ To the family,
Sending my condolences to you all.
God Bless you. My Prayers go out to you. Brenda Reed###imported-
begin###Brenda Reed###imported-end##

May 26, 2009 at 11:46 PM



“ I love you uncle Main. May you and Aunt Harriet Rest in Peace...

I will always love you.###imported-begin##Prentice
Parish###imported-end##

May 26, 2009 at 07:36 PM



“ to the family of BOB, I am so sorry for your loss. You have my
PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES at this very hard time in your lives.
Now Brother Bob is at home with his lord and his family that has
journeyed before him !! I knew and worked with Bob for many years
and he was a GREAT MAN and would help with anything he could!!
He will be missed GREATLY by his loved ones and his community!!
God Bless you and your family!!###imported-begin##Joseph
Bryan###imported-end##

May 26, 2009 at 06:02 PM



“ The thought of our town without Bob Parish makes me very sad. My son, Dan Lipp, and my mother, Lucille (Lucy) Smith who was a nurse, worked with Bob at the General Motors plant. Whenever I would be out and about and see Bob, the first question out of his mouth would be, "How's your Mother?" I would always tell him she is doing just fine and he would always say, "She's a wonderful woman; just a wonderful woman." I shall never forget him and my sympathy goes out to his family and friends.##imported-begin##Judy Rose##imported-end##

May 26, 2009 at 05:58 PM



“ This is not good-bye my friend, but until we meet again.

May GOD grant strength & grace to Bob's family.##imported-begin##Rev. Phillip J. Downs##imported-end##

May 26, 2009 at 03:25 PM



“ to the family member our prayers are with you during the time of your love one we have lost one of the most highest man who were all way concerning about our young kids future of today bob we will true miss you smile love always the bonney& dillard##imported-begin##janice bonney##imported-end##

May 26, 2009 at 02:58 PM



“ It is a priviledge to have known Bob. I worked with Bob for many years. I shall remember him in my prayers and at Mass. My deepest condolences to his family.##imported-begin##Daniel Lipp##imported-end##

May 25, 2009 at 06:51 PM



“ Aunt Harriet and Uncle Robert, my God Parents, I Love you and save me a seat at the table.##imported-begin##Kevin Renee Carter Mosher##imported-end##

May 25, 2009 at 02:38 PM



“ Dear Family of Robert,
I am so sorry for your lost.
I have know Robert since I was a kid and he was a great man.
you are in my prayers

Joyce Adams##imported-begin##Joyce Adams##imported-end##

May 24, 2009 at 11:18 PM



“ Sorry for your loss.We will be praying for the family.We knew Robert for many years.Enjoy being around him.##imported-begin##Martha Correa & Delbert Taylor##imported-end##

May 24, 2009 at 10:58 PM



“ I am sorry to hear that such a wonderful man has left us. He will be greatly missed!!##imported-begin##Dawn Face##imported-end##

May 24, 2009 at 10:37 PM



“ I knew Bob when he was on the Board of Directors for Associated Charities. I also transported Harriet from dialysis. Bob and Harriet were wonderful caring people who helped many people in need. They set an amazing example for others in this community. I always felt better knowing they were here. They will be missed greatly. I know that they are now together well and happy in the Lord's presence. For those of you left behind I can truly say I share your grief. Only those who have also stood beside a parent's grave can fully understand your loss. As with the bittersweet bush I May the bitterness of loss soon turn into the sweetness of Memory.##imported-begin##Carol Lue Weaver##imported-end##

May 24, 2009 at 11:56 AM



“ Dear Robin and family: Your Dad did so much for so many and your parents were role models and much admired in our community. I am sorry for your loss but your Dad leaves quite a legacy. God Bless you all.##imported-begin##Patty Clark##imported-end##

May 23, 2009 at 08:37 PM



“ Bob was a great mentor, friend and community leader. I will miss his smile, laugh and hugs. I am glad he can be with Harriet in Heaven now without the cares of this world, but I will miss him greatly. Elisa Prichard##imported-begin##Daniel & Elisa Prichard##imported-end##

May 23, 2009 at 08:09 PM



“ Our condolences to the Parish family in the passing of Bob. He will be missed by all who knew him. He gave so much to the community and wanted nothing in return..... God speed
Bob..... Jerry&Marge.##imported-begin## Jerry&Marge
Browning##imported-end##

May 23, 2009 at 03:30 PM



“ It is a privilege to have known Bob. I consider him a gift from God to me. Many years I worked with him. We had several discussions through out the years. I am deeply saddened at this loss. I shall remember him in my prayers and at Mass. My deepest condolences to his family.##imported-begin## Dave Pawelec##imported-end##

May 22, 2009 at 11:06 PM



“ My condolences go out to the family of a man who gave to his community in so many ways. It seems as if a simple "thank you" would not begin to show the love and gratitude that we all have for this man and his life!

~Jerry Butler##imported-begin## Jerry Butler##imported-end##

May 22, 2009 at 12:02 PM