

Celebration of Life

Clarence Parker, Sr.

Sunrise: August 14, 1921

Sunset: February 5, 2017

Service

Saturday, February 11, 2017 - 12:00 Noon

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

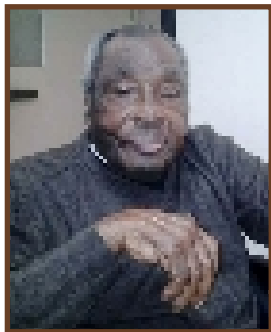
Officiating: Rev. Franklin D. R. Chandler, Pastor

Carolina Baptist Church

Bronx, NY 10463

Organist: Sis. Lorraine B. Moses

Obituary



Clarence Parker, Sr. was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina on August 14, 1921. He worked in the fields at a very young age to help his family make ends meet, so there was little time for schooling. Mr. Parker was a very vibrant and strong willed person who lived life to the fullest until the Lord called him from labor to rest early Sunday morning on February 5, 2017.

Mr. Parker worked with a traveling fair that started in Lynchburg, Virginia and made stops between there and Boston from spring to fall. He stayed with the fair driving and operating a ride called the whip and playing the piano for a few years.

In 1939, he left the traveling fair and started working at the navy yard as a maintenance worker and boiler tender. After a few years, he started taking welding lessons just before World War II started. After the war, Clarence was instructed to assist the navy ship builders and it was his supervisors who noticed he was working faster than the experienced welders on the naval ships near him.

Clarence came to New York in 1943. Shortly after moving to New York he started working for Arrow Building Maintenance Company as a custodial worker. He worked there for fifteen years. He later partnered with some friends and opened an automotive repair garage on West 124th Street. He worked there as an automotive repair mechanic. A few months later Clarence moved to another garage on the same block a few doors up the street. He soon became the owner of the shop and had his own successful business.

Clarence met and later married, Mary Ann Whitt in 1964. From this union three children were born. Clarence lived a very productive life. He went into politics and worked as a campaign manager to Charles B. Rangel, David Dinkins, Herman D. Farrell, Assembly Woman, Inez Dickens and many other political dignitaries.

Clarence also worked as a talent scout for the famous Showtime at the Apollo. Clarence was a great checker player who played in many checker tournaments all over the United States. Clarence worked for HPD as a superintendent for 33 years and retired in the fall of 2005.

Clarence was preceded in death by his parents, Eula and Willie Boise Parker; son, Alphonso Bunn; brother, John Henry Parker.

Clarence, affectionately known to his grandchildren as "Papa", leaves to cherish: his wife, Mary Parker of Hamilton, Ohio; sons, Clarence Parker, Jr. and Cornelius Parker; daughter, Vanessa Parker-Gentilhomme; one son-in-law, Pierre-Jeannot Gentilhomme of NYC; daughter-in-law, Sherry Parker of NYC; two sisters-in-law, Linda J. Harding (Martin) of Hamilton, Ohio and Brenda J. Shields (Thaddeus) of Hamilton, Ohio; sixteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and relatives.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional.....Clergy

Invocation

Opening Hymn.....“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

Scriptures

Old Testament - Psalms 27

New Testament - Revelation 14:1-13

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Ernest L. Morell, Sr. Pastor, Earnest Praise Worship Ministries

Selection.....Sis. Lorraine B. Moses

Remarks.....Family - Sis. Vanessa Gentilhomme, Daughter
Friend - Rev. James Morrison, Pastor, Jesus Christ Gospel Ministries
Deacon John Carter, Carolina BC

Remarks (2 minutes please)

Acknowledgements and Condolences.....Rosemary Whetstone

Obituary (All read silently)

Selection.....Carolina Baptist Church Mass Choir

Eulogy.....Rev. Franklin D. R. Chandler, Pastor

Benediction.....Rev. Franklin D. R. Chandler, Pastor

Final Viewing

Final Disposition

Rosehill Crematory
Linden, New Jersey

Letting Go

*The angels gathered near your side,
so very close to you,
For they knew the pain and suffering
That you were going through,*

*I thought about so many things,
As I held tightly to your hand,
Oh, how I wished that you were strong,
And happy once again*

*But your eyes were looking homeward,
To that place beyond the sky,
Where Jesus held his outstretched arms,
It was time to say goodbye,*

*I struggled with my selfish thoughts,
For I wanted you to stay,
So we could walk and talk again,
Like we did just yesterday,*

*But Jesus knew the answer,
And I knew you loved Him so,
So I gave to you life's greatest gift,
The gift of letting go.*

He Only Takes The Best

*God saw you getting tired,
A cure was not to be,
So he put his arms around you,
And whispered "Come with Me"*

*With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you fade away,
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay*

*A golden heart stopped beating,
Your tender hands at rest,
God took you home to prove to us
He only takes the best*

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of
kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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