



Richard Jackson, Sr

March 23, 1934 - February 27, 2016

To say that Richard Jackson, Sr. was a great man would be an understatement. How does one immortalize the life of a man that meant so much to all of those who he came in contact with? In life, there are people who are above what is considered normal and exceptional in character. To have known him was a pleasure and to be loved by him an honor. Let us take a look at the extraordinary life of Mr. Richard Jackson, Sr...AKA "Black Jack Shalak"...AKA "Shimmy"...AKA "Dickey Boy."

The mold was broken on Friday, March 23, 1934 when Richard Jackson, Sr. was born to the union of John and Maude Edna (Stewart) Jackson (both deceased) in Cleveland, Ohio. Richard was the youngest of six children: Dorothy Mae (Jackson) Williams, Hattie Mae Smith (deceased), John Jackson, Jr. (deceased), Marie (Jackson) Howell (deceased), and Carl Moses Jackson (deceased). In 1940, at the tender age of 6, Richard suffered the loss of his mother. Thereafter, he would always give credit to his eldest sister Dorothy for raising him and being a mother figure for him growing up. Richard's father John Jackson AKA "Hop Scobba" lived to the age of 94 1/2 and was also a driving force in Richard's life until his passing in 1984.

As Richard grew up he began to cultivate his own family. In June of 1953 he married his childhood sweetheart, Rutilia Brooks when he was 19 years old. From their union came his first daughter Patricia (who preceded him in death in 1999), Richard Jr. "Ricky" (who preceded him in death in 2004), Vernita, and Johnny. Richard and Rutilia were married for several years before their union ended. From there Richard met Betty Jean Graves and from their union Diane, Cathy, and Wayne were born. Life changed for Richard on July 30, 1972 when he married his current wife of 43 years - Barbara Jean Jackson. From their union the births of Richard M. and Dawntae would complete Richard's legacy. In addition, Richard raised Ernest Graves, Sherman Clark, Linda F. Graves and Diane Marie Jackson as his very own.

For most of his life Richard worked many years with the Cleveland Department of Sanitation, as well as the Department of Water. Many would heckle Richard during his stint with the Sanitation Department for his love of the "City Shopping Center". Richard also served as a member of the Auxiliary Police, and did security for both The Dove Lounge and Drug World. An interesting fact that people may not know is that once upon a

time, Richard attended Case Western Reserve for police academy training. It was through his shining example that encouraged his sons Ernest, Rickey, Johnny and Lil Richard to pursue careers in law enforcement.

Throughout Richard's life there were constant themes that played true: the art of love, friendship, family and laughter. Richard was always the life of the party. He had the power to light up a room and loved everyone within his presence. Richard was a king of comedy in his own right. He had some of the most off-the-wall one-liners that no one could ever forget. If you had a Richard-created nickname that meant that you were someone special in his life. Regardless of how embarrassing those names were you knew that it came from a place of love.

As we sit and reflect on the life and Legacy of Richard Jackson, Sr. it is important that we remember that he had a love for Christ and for service within the church. Richard accepted Christ into his life at an early age and was instrumental in the ministry. He served as a Deacon for Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church, as well as New Joshua Baptist Church.

One thing that cannot be said about Richard Jackson, Sr. is that he was a one dimensional individual. Richard had a love for videography and was a man of style! Who can remember all of the flashy suits worn by this man? Richard's "suit game" was on point and he made sure that he had shoes and hats to match each set. You couldn't tell him that he didn't look good.

God called Richard home on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the blessed age of 81. His passing has left a void in the hearts of everyone that knew and loved him. As mentioned before, the mold was broken when Richard was born and there will never be another like him.

Richard leaves to cherish his memories: his wife, Barbara Jean Jackson; his sister, Dorothy Mae Williams; his sons, Ernest Graves, Sherman Clark, John Jackson (Robin), Richard M. Jackson and Wayne Graves (Dorothy); his daughters, Vernita M. Reeves (Leroy), Linda F. Graves, Diane K. Graves, Cathy J. Graves, Diane M. Jackson and Dawntae L. Jackson; his grandchildren, Anthony Jackson, Sr. (Barbara), Terrence Jackson, Sr. (Charisse), Anquinette Whitsett (Gilbert), John Jackson, Jr. (Sasshay), Joshua Jackson (Trinacia), Kiara Dixon, Cigornai Sapp, Gabriel Jackson, Josiea Townsell (Willie), Richard M. Jackson, Jr., Brayden Jackson and Brenna Jackson; as well as a host of great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and the Cleveland community at large.

Cemetery

Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery

5505 Northfield Road

Bedford Heights, OH, 44146

Events

MAR **Visitation** 12:00PM - 07:00PM

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Strawbridge Memorial Chapel

3934 Lee Road, Cleveland, OH, US, 44128

MAR **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:00AM

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Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church

3630 East 116th Street, Cleveland, OH, US,
44105

MAR **Service** 10:00AM

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Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church

3630 East 116th Street, Cleveland, OH, US,
44105

Comments



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Jackson, Sr.



March 03, 2016 at 02:40 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Memories Album



Strawbridge Memorial Chapel - March 03, 2016 at 01:33 PM