



Mr. George Edward Ward Sr.

November 6, 1930 - August 6, 2023

Our beloved, George Edward Ward Sr., of Peoria, IL passed away Sunday, August 6, 2023, in his family home surrounded by his family. George was born November 6, 1930, in Jackson, Mississippi to the late Earlean Willie Thomas and Lawrence Dunbar Ward. He was 92 years old.

George was born in Jackson, Mississippi, but left at the age of 12 years old one night with a 'gunny sack' on his back heading for a better life in the North. As a teenager, while attending Central High School, he fell in love with a pretty, young girl named Adlean Sledge. After courting her, he asked for her hand in marriage. Since she was only 14 years old, Grandfather Sledge wouldn't approve of their marriage until she turned 16. On November 6, 1948, on his 18th birthday, he married his 16-year-old sweetheart. From that union, they had had 13 children in total.

While being one of the original 'Peoria Heights' dads, he was a dedicated craftsman at Caterpillar Tractor in East Peoria for over 36 years. A 'Master' of all trades, George was self-taught and had a laundry list of machinery that he learned to operate over the years, 'Bobcats, Forklifts, Tandem trucks, Backhoes, and Dump trucks. Due to his extensive skill-base, he was promoted into a Sr. Foreman position at Caterpillar.

During this same time, he and his childhood sweetheart and wife of 35 years,

Adlean Ward, created and operated a successful landscaping company called Big Al's Landscaping for more than 25 years. The company was lovingly named after her by their kids. Together, they were able to bid and acquire some of the largest minority landscaping contracts in Peoria.

After retiring from Caterpillar and closing his landscaping business, he devoted his full time to maintaining a select few customers. One of those being Simons Mortuary. His knowledge of flowers, grass, greenery and design always provided a beautiful view when approaching Simons. Their long-lasting friendship spans over 30 years. Even after retiring from landscaping altogether, he still provided his expertise when training the new landscaping staff.

His passion for spending time in nature and loving the outdoors included activities like camping, fishing, hunting and growing large vegetable gardens. George always took such pride in maintaining one of the best yards in the neighborhood, with endless flowers and flowerbeds to ensure it made his wife smile.

He was dearly loved and respected throughout Peoria and Peoria Heights. Those who knew him were very familiar with his fun-loving sense of humor. Having everyone laughing and bringing humor was his main goal. Over the years, George gained notoriety wherever he went. Whether he was at the grocery store, Peoria Heights Bank or showing everyone a great time at the Paradise casino, he was filling the place with laughter and jokes.

Those left to cherish his memory are two daughters Diane Irving of Lewisville, TX, Robin (Clifford) Lindsay of Charlotte, NC, three sons George Ward, Jr., Brian (Denaria)Ward both of Peoria and Gregory Ward of Charlotte, NC. He was blessed with 10 grandchildren (Katrice Briggs, Laraba Lintz, John Irving Jr., Brandon Parker, Tenesha Farmer, Jason Ward, Dominique (Brandon)

Highsmith, Gabrielle Lindsay, Nakeia Bennett and Samantha Ward as well as a host of great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, other relatives, and friends. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife Adlean, parents, brother Eugene Powell, one sister Mary Emma Powell, seven daughters Donna Ward, Jacqueline Ward, Crystal Ward, Beth Ann Ward, Deborah Cunningham, Paula Ward, and Suzane Parker and one son Lawrence.

Funeral services will be held at 10 am on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at Simons Mortuary with a visitation one hour prior beginning at 9 am. Overseeing Elder Richard Sommer will bring words of comfort to the family. George will be laid to rest at the Historic Springdale Cemetery, next to his beloved wife, Adlean.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at SimonsMortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Historic Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 12. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Celebration of Life

AUG 12. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. George Edward Ward Sr.*



Simons Mortuary - August 14, 2023 at 11:24 AM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. George Edward Ward Sr.*



Simons Mortuary - August 11, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ *My Condolences to the Ward Family*



Denise Burns Green - August 27, 2023 at 04:00 PM

RH

“ Rena Horton lit a candle in memory of George Ward



Rena Webster Horton - August 23, 2023 at 01:26 AM



“ 7 files added to the album George Ward, Sr. Funeral Program



Simons Mortuary - August 17, 2023 at 03:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album George Ward, Sr. Burial at Springdale Cemetery



Simons Mortuary - August 14, 2023 at 11:24 AM



“ *No Tears Tribute Blanket was purchased for the family of Mr. George Edward Ward Sr..*



August 11, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *Mattie Risby lit a candle in memory of George Ward*



Mattie Risby - August 11, 2023 at 02:28 PM

GC

“ To The Family of the Late George Ward Sr.:

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eye; And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, Neither shall there be any more pain. For the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4

*God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flowers-strewn pathways all our lives through.
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Unfailing and undying Love.*

We the Pastor and members of Grace Baptist Church, Peoria, Illinois wants the family to know that our hearts are with you in the passing of your loved one. You have our sincere prayers.

“Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen you heart.”

Psalm 27:14

Humbly Submitted

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

405 N. Richard Pryor Pl

Peoria, Illinois 61605

ALNEIDA FORD, CHURCH SECRETARY

PASTOR C.L. WHITE JR.

Grace Church - August 11, 2023 at 11:55 AM



“ *Red Rose Reverence Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. George Edward Ward Sr..*



August 10, 2023 at 11:41 AM



“ *Yvette Washington lit a candle in memory of Mr. George Edward Ward Sr.*



Yvette Washington - August 10, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of George Ward*



Barbara Vinson - August 09, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ *Annette Irby lit a candle in memory of George Ward*



Annette Irby - August 09, 2023 at 08:05 AM

RS

“ Robin Sledge lit a candle in memory of George Ward



Robin Sledge - August 08, 2023 at 01:24 PM

PW

“ Praying God's comfort and peace for the family.



Patricia Ward - August 07, 2023 at 10:12 PM