



Mr. Michael Edward Banks Sr.

June 4, 1945 - August 25, 2015

Michael Edward Banks, 70, formerly of Peoria, Illinois, passed away at 9:30 pm on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at his Chicago, Illinois home surrounded by his loving family.

Michael was the first child born into the union of Edward Caldwell Banks and Pauline Pruitt Banks. Michael entered this world during a cold 43 degree Chicago thunderstorm on a summer day, June 4 1945. The weather condition, according to his mother, was a sign that her son would be a special person. Michael attended Chicago Public Schools distinguishing himself as an athlete and a scholar, graduating two years early from Harlan High School and receiving accolades and awards in basketball and track. He set a city of Chicago record in the long jump, a record that remained untouched for decades. His prowess in track earned him a dinner with Olympian Jessie Owens, an evening he never forgot.

Michael attended Bradley University on an athletic scholarship where he joined Epsilon Kappa Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He graduated with a B. S. Degree in Business and Education and joined the professional staff of Bradley University. During his tenure at Bradley, Michael served in several capacities. He was responsible for the Men's Residence Halls, Fraternity Affairs and Minority Student Affairs. He served as Assistant Dean of Men and Assistant to the Dean of Students. Michael was founder of the Black Studies and Cultural Arts Center, while serving as Assistant Dean of Students. He founded Music with A Message, Peoria's 1st minority news and

information and entertainment radio broadcast. (1968-1993).

It was at Bradley University that Michael's passion for social and economic justice took wings. While a student at Bradley, he led a group of students on a march down Main Street to call attention to discrimination in housing.

Michael traveled extensively on the African Continent, in Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda and Liberia, as a fundraiser for African Independence Groups associated with Nelson Mandela.

He served as Executive Director of Peoria's Citizen's Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc., a position he held for nearly 20 years. Under his leadership, the following programs were initiated: Webster Head Start, day care services, kindergarten, before and after school latch-key programming, alcohol rehabilitation services, a Senior Drop In Center, neighborhood outreach centers, information and referral services, radio and television programming, weatherization and housing rehabilitation services and a food service operation. He initiated Community Economic Development projects for PCCEO,, Inc. and formed Peoria Economic Development Association, a local SBA development Corporation. During his tenure as Executive Director of PCCEO, Inc., Michael also started a 40 acre farm co-op that once served 100 families.

Michael served as President at the National Center for Community Action and as president of the Illinois Community Action Association. He was recognized by his peers for his strong leadership skills and effective management style.

Michael played an integral role in establishing the first black owned and operated radio station in Peoria, IL, WBGE 92.3 FM. He served as General Manager of B&G Broadcasting until the sale of the station in 2000. B&G Broadcasting was one of 250 Black owned and operated broadcasting companies in the country.

Michael relocated to Chicago, his home town in 2001 He founded and served as President/CEO of MEBA LLC., a consultant firm for non-profit organizations. It is in this capacity that Michael served as a consultant to the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.'s

(CEDA) planning department until his retirement in 2012. CEDA is one of the largest private, non-profit Community Action Agencies in the country and serves more than 500,000 Cook County residents annually. He started an Internet radio broadcast, Mr. B's Showcase, once again using the theme Music with a Message.

Michael married Stephanie Jones Banks, to that union was born Michael, Jr. He later married Joyce King Banks and to that union was born Ebony Chaka. Michael married Noel Stewart Banks on April 19, 2013. In addition to his devoted wife, Michael leaves to forever cherish his memory a son, Michael Banks, Jr. of Covington, Ga., a daughter, Ebony Banks (Emorej) Henderson and a precious grandson, Elisha A. Henderson of Chicago, IL, a brother, Phillip Banks of Miami, FL., three sisters, Rita Jackson, Patricia Hodges and Lori Jackson all of Chicago, IL., an uncle, Wilfred (Betty) Banks of Chicago, IL and a host of nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, loving cousins and very special friends. His mother and father preceded him in death.

Visitation will be held August 31, 2015 at A.R. Leaks and Sons Funeral Home from 6-9 pm, 7838 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago, IL. Funeral services will be held at 12 Noon on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at Calvary Baptist Church, 16341 South Park Avenue, South Holland, IL. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at 11am. Burial will be at Mt. Vernon, IL.

The Peoria Memorial Service will be Saturday, September 5, 2015 from 11am – 1pm at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church located at 511 N. Richard Allen Drive, Peoria, IL.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to PCCEO, INC. corporate fund, 711 McBean, Peoria, IL. 61605. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with local arrangements. Online condolences may be made at simonsmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Vernon

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 31. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Leak & Sons Funeral Homes
7838 S Cottage Grove Ave
Chicago, IL 60619
(773) 846-6567
<http://www.leakandsonsfuneralhomes.com>

Visitation

SEP 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church
16341 South Park Avenue
South Holland, IL 60473
(708) 339-1133

Funeral Service

SEP 1. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church
16341 South Park Avenue
South Holland, IL 60473
(708) 339-1133

Memorial Service

SEP 5. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church
511 N Richard Allen Dr.,
Peoria, IL 61605
<http://www.wardchapelame.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Michael Edward Banks Sr.*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Michael Edward Banks Sr.*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Michael and I met at CEDA Headquarters in 2000 whe my company NCG Associates LLC was hired to run their MIS Department. We bonded immediately due to our passion for Entertainment, Music and Technology. Needless to say we were very close. I had the pleasure of witnessing the unique talents of this remarkable man and the pleasure of creating his mother's obituary when she passed away. Michael was a force with relationships that reached deep into the funding portals in the Federal Government and even deeper into disenfranchised communities that secured millions of dollars of funding for the agencies he managed and consulted.*

Our friendship extended years beyond the end of my engagement at CEDA as I turned my focused from Information Technology to Broadcasting and Streaming as StepNorth Media. I sorely miss my friend and think of him often. "Mr. B." was one of a kind and we list a diamond the day God gained one.

RIP my friend as we carry the torch forward with your memory in our hearts.

John Nance - December 14, 2022 at 03:44 PM

ED

“Peace and blessings to the family; I fondly remember Michael as a fighter for justice, fairness, positiveinformative dialogue and developing programs for black people. His vision, leadership will truly be missed.

Lyle Smith

N. Las Vegas, NV

Edward - September 10, 2015 at 05:36 PM

RS

“Rev. John H Lee Sr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Edward Banks Sr.



Rev. John H Lee Sr - September 03, 2015 at 05:13 PM

RS

“To Mr. Michael E. Banks and Family and Friends:

To our Eternal and Faithful God, our help and our hope. At a time of sorrow and loss, we turn to you with thanksgiving for your gift of life and for the life of Mr. Michael E. Banks.

We thank You, Father, for Mr. Banks family, friends who worked with him on the road map of his life. Who from his childhood and youth along ago. Who gave him love and hard love, to grow up to become the man, we grew to love.

Gracious Father, we are grateful that Mr. Banks is no more suffering. We pray for the family and for all the love ones and friends who are grieving because they are missing him. We pray that one day we all will be with You, Father.

Rev. John H Lee Sr - September 03, 2015 at 05:08 PM