



Mr. Roy Lee Ward Sr.

September 17, 1972 - March 10, 2025

Mr. Roy Lee Selvey Ward, Sr. was born on September 17, 1972, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Manthia Noble Ward and Roy Lee Selvey. From the very beginning, he carried the strength and resilience of his family, shaped by love, loyalty, and an unshakable spirit.

Affectionately known as Papi or Prep, Roy was a man whose presence left a lasting impact on those who knew him. He was a father, a brother, a son, and a friend - someone who carried the weight of his experiences with both quiet strength and undeniable charisma. Through life's trials and triumphs, he remained steadfast in his love for his family, especially his children: Jamiya L. White, Roy Ward Jr., Diamond Ward, and Ravante Latavion Ward. Though he endured the heartbreaking loss of his beloved sons, Roy Jr. and Ravante, his love for them never wavered, and their memory remained deeply etched in his heart.

Roy was a proud graduate of Centennial High School in Champaign, Illinois. He later pursued his passion and talent for barbering, attending barber school in Peoria, Illinois, where he honed his craft and became an exemplary barber. His skill, precision, and dedication to his clients made him not only a master of his trade but also a trusted and respected figure in his community. Through his work, Roy didn't just cut hair - he built relationships, shared wisdom, and created a space where people felt

valued and heard.

Beyond his career, Roy had a deep love for dancing and having fun. The rhythm of the music spoke to him, and he could light up any room with his moves. Whether it was at a family gathering, a celebration, or just a moment when the right song played, Roy never hesitated to hit the dance floor. His energy was infectious - he danced with joy, with confidence, and with a rhythm that made others want to join in. He had a way of making any moment feel lighter, more joyful, and full of life. Roy didn't just live—he celebrated life.

Roy was preceded in death by his father, Roy Lee Selvey, and his beloved sons, Roy Ward Jr. and Ravante Latavion Ward. He is survived by his devoted mother, Manthia Noble Ward, who loved and nurtured him throughout his life. His legacy also continues through his siblings—James, Dorlita (Kent), Xatonya, Prodion, Stephanie, Stephon, Curtis and Robina (Willie)—who will carry his memory forward with love and honor. He was also the proud grandfather of Royell Ward, Khalil Brown Jr., and Boy L. Ward LS3. He leaves behind a lifetime of moments that will be cherished, laughter that will be remembered, and a spirit that will never fade.

Though his time here was not as long as we would have hoped, his impact was immeasurable. We honor him today and always, knowing that love does not end with loss—it lives on in the hearts of those who remember.

Rest in peace, Roy! Keep dancing!

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at Simons Mortuary Chapel with a gathering beginning at 10:30 am. Ms. Dorlita Adams will officiate.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences

may be made at SimonsMortuary.com.

Previous Events

Gathering

APR 5. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

APR 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (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



“ *John H Lee lit a candle in memory of Roy Ward*



John H Lee - March 27, 2025 at 08:52 PM



“ *Gonna miss you bro, I will never forget you & all the good time we've had kicking it. You keep on dancing up there, I know you got a big smile on your face being with your kids again. Give uncle Al a hug for me.* 🕊️🕊️



Melissa Price-Young - March 19, 2025 at 07:57 PM



“ *Our family sends our heartfelt deepest sympathy to the family of the late Mr Roy Ward. Gone but never forgotten. Truly a shock that you slipped away so suddenly. Josh, Tish, Mama Rena, Pops & Family.*



Rena Webster Horton - March 19, 2025 at 06:51 PM



“ *Rena Webster Horton lit a candle in memory of Roy Ward*



Rena Webster Horton - March 19, 2025 at 06:47 PM

SH

“ See ya later, Prep, 🙄🙄🙄🙄❤️❤️❤️



Shirley R Hughes - March 19, 2025 at 06:23 PM