



## Mr. Jimmie Lee Mays Sr.

March 3, 1949 - October 1, 2018

UTICA - Mr. Jimmie Lee Mays, Sr., age 69, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, October 1, 2018 at MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center. At the time of his passing, he was in the hearts of those he loved most.

Born in Tennessee on March 3, 1949, Jimmie was the son of Bernice (McDonald) Mays and the late Bubba Parker. He was raised and educated in Rome area. It was a date on Valentine's Day that sparked a 37-year relationship with Sherry Lee Russell who he married in 1991. The values that they shared kept them in check with one another. In his youth, Jimmie worked as a lifeguard in Rome where he taught young children how to swim. He was employed by Sturgess Manufacturing Company for over 30 years as an assembler. He was blessed with an outgoing personality, and he kept it real. He was, by nature, a happy man, unless you crossed a line. Jimmie and Sherry sometimes traveled diverse, challenging roads, but they always made their way back to one another. As a father, when he saw any mistakes his children made, he kept them in line by teaching and reaching each of them in ways that addressed their weak points, strong points, and individual personalities. He knew that each child was unique. As the years rolled by, he knew a different love, ...and he was the happiest grandpa in the world! He was a big Teddy Bear and his grandbabies owned a piece of his heart. He did not tolerate prejudices, and he wished for peace between his family and the community. He was a giver and he helped people expecting nothing in return. As a son, he respected, honored, and loved his mom. Christmas was the best, especially when the kids were young and the excitement of opening gifts on Christmas morning was so magical. Although Sherry was the keeper of the kitchen, Jimmie made a mean deep-fried chicken! In his younger years, he was recognized as a high-rated boxer, was fond of fishing with his grandpa, and was a pool shark on the weekends. Jimmie will be remembered for his protective nature as a good dad with strict rules, a legacy of love that now makes sense.

Jimmie is survived by his wife, Sherry; his mother, Bernice; his children and their loved ones, Amy L. Russell, Bernice Mays, Joyce and Chris Lonerio, Jimmie L. Mays Jr., and Georgia Lozado; grandchildren, Alicia, Mya, Damion, Tia, Nioami, Christian, George, James, the memory of his granddaughter, Nevaeh Russell who passed on December 26, 2003; Temperance, Christopher Jr. "CJ", Linda, and Ethan; and his only great-

granddaughter, Ireland. Jimmie was born to a family of 11 children, some of whom are with us, and many others who have gone before him. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws. He is now reunited with his faithful friends who preceded him: Harry, Brownie, Sylvester, and Pauline.

The family extends their appreciation to the EMTs, the staff at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center/Cardiac ICU, and Nurse Manager Christine, for their care and compassion during a difficult time.

Visitation will be held Saturday, October 13th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Jimmie's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will be held on Saturday afternoon at 4:00 at the funeral home immediately upon conclusion of visitation with Pastor David Ossenfort officiating the ceremony. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery

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## **Forest Hill Cemetery**

2201 Oneida Street

Utica, NY,

# Comments

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“ My dear Brother, How well do I remember all the special time we had as we were growing up whenever i think of you and how things used to be I wish so much if I could turn back the time. How you use to always protect me even though you knew I could protect myself, but that's what big brothers do. The special times we shared the good and the bad are truly unforgettable and I will always hold these memories close to my heart , I am going to miss my birthdays calls that's one thing you made sure of is that we called each other on our special day. My heart is so heavy right now so I am going to say I think God He made you my brother. So Rest In Peace and I will always love you. your Sister Joyce

Joyce Fox - October 10, 2018 at 09:11 AM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Joyce Mays Fox - October 07, 2018 at 05:36 PM



“ Sherry sorry to hear about this, always wondered if you where still together. RIP  
D Parry - June 22 at 07:03 PM

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“ Daddy I'm going to miss you so much I remember how we would on Christmas ND joke ND laugh ND the look on your face when we saw the tree. I'll never forget all the laughter we shared ND the fun times ND love you gave to us. R. I. P Daddy never forgotten



**Amy Russell** - October 04, 2018 at 02:37 PM



“ I will miss you dearly. You were always like a dad to me. You an sherry took me under your wing. RIP pops fly high in the sky with the other angels above. Gone but never forgotten

**Amber** - October 04, 2018 at 05:46 PM



“ What I remember most about Jimmie was his gentle soul. I was too young to even know what a “gentle soul” WAS back in those days, as I was a kid and 9 years younger. Jimmy used to hang out with my older brother, Greg Moore. I'd listen as he and my brother would describe one adventure/conquest after another, laughing and joking. He had a way of moving his mouth to the side when he talked. That was his signature. Always upbeat, always kind, he made a little kid like me feel like I mattered. Kids don't forget that. Who knew THEN that he'd eventually become my bother-in-law? Life takes us in many directions and I haven't seen Jimmy in decades, but we never forget when a person makes you feel special. Jimmie had that quality.

My deepest heart-felt condolences go out to our extended family members and ALL of those whose lives i KNOW he continued to touch! Heaven was missing an Angel and now he's home. Peace be with us all.

Butchie Morehand

**Jim (Butch) Morehand** - October 05, 2018 at 07:04 AM



“ Jimmie I'm gonna miss all our laughs and jokes and all the times I brought amy home when she ran away and assured you she was in good hands. Fly high

**Vicky** - October 05, 2018 at 03:59 PM