



## Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton

March 23, 1954 - April 26, 2021

UTICA - Alfred "Fig" Newton, age 67, was called home to take his rest on Monday, April 26, 2021.

He was born on March 23, 1954 in Utica to the late Virgil Johnson and Ruby Newton Minor. Alfred attended Utica City schools and graduated from Utica Free Academy/Class of 1972 where he excelled in academics, basketball, and football. He would then attend Vermont Academy Prep School for a year, where he dominated in football and basketball and would later be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He then attended Alfred University where he played football for four years and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. One of his records remains intact for having the most interceptions in a single game with 5! His skills on the field would also lead to him receiving an invite to try out for the Dallas Cowboys.

On June 11, 1983, Alfred was united in Holy Matrimony with Gladys "Cookie" Williams. Alfred and Gladys shared almost 40 years together and from this union God blessed them with three children. Fig, as he was affectionately called by his family and friends, cherished his union with Cookie and celebrated every milestone that his children accomplished.

Fig was a dedicated worker in Customer Service for 35 years at Niagara Mohawk (National Grid), the position from which he would later retire. Alfred was a well-rounded and well-balanced son, brother, husband, and father. As a dad, he was supportive, understanding, and comforting, ...no matter what the problem. He shared the wisdom of his years to shed light on a solution for any

situation. He also shared a smile and a sense of humor to soften sadness and uplift spirits. His pastimes included watching his beloved sci-fi classics, Star Trek and Star Wars, and he never missed a movie or a comic book version, in both series! He was knowledgeable and up-to-date on current events. CNN was his go-to channel and he engaged in great debates about politics, national and international, followed by Fantasy/Sci-Fi, History, Conspiracy Theory, and to top off his knowledge and keen mind, he spoke Russian! He had a strong passion for sports that he shared with his son and he stood by him as he transitioned through the different levels of their common passion. He also coached basketball at the Boys & Girls Club local site, and at the Cosmopolitan Center. That was A.J. and Fig's connection. He drove to tournaments and never missed a game. They also enjoyed many memorable family trips. Al was a great blueprint for his children to follow. He took care of business, but he was also a great jokester, spot-on for many, but corny at some. But, at the end of the day, he really made you laugh. He was a good family man and an awesome dad, and he leaves a legacy of practical and professional wisdom for his children to follow. He was an active member of St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ where he served in many capacities for over 40 years. With the Lord's guidance, Alfred was a good neighbor, a friend to many, and a godfather who surpassed expectations for the honor. Saturday night was together with family, followed by Church on Sunday. Those who knew and loved him will remember that Fig's smile was real, and when he spoke, it was the truth. He never made promises he couldn't keep, and he always had humor to light the path along the way. A big part of this family is now gone, and those who remain will rely on their faith and the lessons of love and life Fig taught them. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Gladys "Cookie" Newton, who was truly his best friend; his son, Alfred "A. J." Newton (Linda, the only one who truly understood his humor and laughed at all his repeats); and two daughters, Nashuna, and Nakiesha Newton. In addition, Fig also leaves behind three brothers and two sisters with whom he shared special times that nurtured their

relationships: Randolph Newton (Shirley Robinson-Newton), Jan Newton (Cynthia), L’Roy Newton, Dorothy Newton Haynes, and Shirley Roundtree. He also leaves a host of nieces, including special niece, Brittany Roundtree who was one of his great debaters and will cherish his memory; nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; special godchildren: Melissa Brown, Qiaja Evans, Jonea Hymes, Bri Springer, Kimora Lucas, Tordell Garrett, and Cashae Jackson; mother-in-law, Queen A. (March) Williams; in-laws, William Hamilton, Carrie Johnson, Sarah Akins, and Amos Williams; and just to name a few lifelong friends, gentlemen who shared so much: Ernest Brown, Jim Winston, Harold Barnes, Frankie Shackelford, Julius Blackshear, Stanley Winston, Jim Cummings; and a friendship treasured with Walter Copeland who never let miles keep them apart. Alfred was preceded in death by his brother, John Newton; aunt, Ruth Lasane; father-in-law, Oscar Williams; and brother-in-law, David Williams.

The family is grateful to the personnel of the Neurology Department at MVHS at Faxton-St. Luke’s and their doctors, nurses, and staff for the comfort and kindness they shared with Al and his family.

Friends may pay their respects to Al “Fig” on Tuesday morning, May 4, 2021 from 11:00-12:30 at St. Paul’s Baptist Church, 219 Leah St., Utica, NY 13501. Alfred’s Home Going Service & Celebration of Life will commence at 12:30 at the church. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented. Interment will follow graveside in Forest Hill Cemetery. During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Alfred’s family through the “Memories” section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” - Timothy 4:7

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-2701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 4. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church  
219 Leah Street  
Utica, NY

## Home Going Service

MAY 4. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church  
219 Leah Street  
Utica, NY

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ I remember him as Peewee RIP my friend.



Dar - May 13 at 04:37 PM

DA

“ Dar lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton



Dar - October 17, 2024 at 02:01 PM

SA

“ I remember Mr. Newton better known as Fig from working at the North Utica Community Center with Miss Cookie! He has always been a nice person from the short period time I have known him and he was always there to give a helping hand. I know I may have been a couple months late, but I want to send prayers to the Newton family because I understand myself that the grieving process can be difficult and different for everyone. God bless and there will be another angel in heaven!

Santia - October 08, 2021 at 02:11 PM

KS

“ I worked with Al for years in customer service at National Grid, I have just heard of his passing and wanted to let you know I am so sorry for your loss. He was a great guy and he will definitely be missed. May your memories help you thru this most difficult time, RIP Al. God bless you and your family.

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**Kimberly Schofield** - May 18, 2021 at 02:15 AM

SJ

“ Sending sincere condolences to Cookie and family; Fig was one of a kind. He always had a smile, a kind word, and a helpful heart. May God keep you all during this challenging time.

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**Shirley Jackson-Avery** - May 10, 2021 at 12:40 AM

SS

“ Sending Prayers to the family at this difficult time.



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**Sheila Story** - May 07, 2021 at 04:38 PM

YS

“ My sincere condolences to Cookie and the family of Bro. Fig Newton. May God continue to strengthen you all in this time of bereavement is my prayer. Love Yours in Christ, Yvonne (Bonnie) Stubbs and family. Palm Coast, Florida

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**Yvonne Stubbs** - May 07, 2021 at 01:43 PM

SB

“ *Susan Greene Bynum lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



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**Susan Greene Bynum** - May 07, 2021 at 11:19 AM

RM

“ *Rosanna Morales lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



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**Rosanna Morales** - May 07, 2021 at 11:02 AM

RM

“ *Our condolences to the entire family of 'FIG'*  
*Rip dear brother*  
*You will be missed*  
*Love Donald duck harris and ROSANA Morales Reed* ❤️🙏❤️

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**Rosanna Morales** - May 07, 2021 at 11:01 AM

AL

“ *The Dingle Family extends our love and heartfelt condolences.*

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**alicia** - May 07, 2021 at 10:54 AM

PS

“ Prayers and thoughts to Al and his family.  
Rest in peace.



Peter Sumner - May 07, 2021 at 08:42 AM

TB

“ Therese Boehlert lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton



Therese Boehlert - May 06, 2021 at 09:01 PM

TB

Sincere condolences to the family,

Therese Boehlert - May 06, 2021 at 09:03 PM

CS

“ When i think of Fig i see a big smile! RIP my friend.

cindy sigbieny - May 05, 2021 at 12:30 PM

AB

“ FIG ALWAYS HAD A KIND WORD TO TELL ME AND MADE ME  
SMILE MY PRAYS ATE WITH YOU ANNIE MAE

ANNIE MAE BROOKS - May 05, 2021 at 11:58 AM

FJ

“ Fred J. Greer



Fred J. Greer - May 04, 2021 at 08:23 PM

FJ

*My condolences to the Newton family.*

Fred J. Greer - May 04, 2021 at 08:26 PM

SR

“ Sabrina Rice lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton



Sabrina Rice - May 04, 2021 at 03:55 PM

LB

“ Lonnie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton



Lonnie Brown - May 04, 2021 at 03:46 PM

PV

“ My deepest condolences to your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time. Patrice VanNortwick

PATRICE VANNORTWICK - May 04, 2021 at 10:19 AM

MP

“ *Mary A Pugh lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



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**Mary a pugh** - May 04, 2021 at 07:01 AM

MP

*very nice person that will be missed the smile that he had. Rest my friend.*

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**Mary a pugh** - May 04, 2021 at 07:04 AM

CF

“ *To Gladys (Cookie), your children (AJ, Nashuna, and Nakiesha) and the Newton brothers, sisters and family. Fig was a great guy, very respectful and great to be around. Always with a positive message. Fig was like a big brother to us Thompson girls. We are going to miss that smile and laughter. You always had jokes and getting on us. We love you dearly. Special prayers to the Newton/Williams families.*



*Mr. & Mrs. Cleon A. Frazier & Family*

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**Cleon A. & Patricia A. Frazier** - May 04, 2021 at 12:08 AM

EK

“ *Emma Kessler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



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**Emma Kessler** - May 03, 2021 at 09:56 PM

EK

*With heartfelt condolences, our prayers for strength and comfort for the Newton family. Fig will be greatly missed. Kessler family*

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**Emma Kessler** - May 03, 2021 at 10:05 PM

AC

“ *Angela U Carter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



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**Angela U Carter** - May 03, 2021 at 09:32 PM

AC

*Sending prayer and strength your way during this very difficult time. May you find comfort and peace in the wonderful memories you shared!*

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**Angela U Carter** - May 03, 2021 at 09:38 PM

MW

“ *Deepest Condolences and May God Wrap His Loving Arms Around the Entire Family. You Will Truly Be Missed and Your Kindness Never Forgotten.*

*With Love,  
The Wright Family*

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**Michael and Carrie Wright** - May 03, 2021 at 08:45 PM

VT

“ Fig always had a smile as he was known for grinning about something, will remember all the laughs and fun at AJ's yearly birthday parties, he will certainly be missed. My condolences to the entire family



Vivian Tucker - May 03, 2021 at 07:02 PM

PL

“ Fig was really a kind person and funny i remember in are building we used to play Jacks in the hallway and I always beat beat it him and he always got mad and he was a funny character may he rest n peace peggy lilley

Peggy lilley - May 03, 2021 at 12:58 PM

GM

“ Heartfelt condolences to the family from the McCovery Family. I grew up with this family and have Fig since Third Ave. Always kind and considerate of others. A blessing and will be missed. Amen 🙏

Gloria J McCovery - May 03, 2021 at 12:34 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton.



May 03, 2021 at 11:02 AM

MU

“



*Muriel,Rashell,Mike,LaMont,Kevin,Cameron,Monet purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton.*

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**Muriel,Rashell,Mike,LaMont,Kevin,Cameron,Monet** - May 03, 2021 at 10:53 AM

DT

“ *Dwight Tullis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



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**Dwight Tullis** - May 03, 2021 at 09:45 AM

DW

“ *Prayers for your family we will keep you in our thoughts !*  
*David and Cindy Wells*



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**David Wells** - May 02, 2021 at 08:40 PM

JE

“ *Joyce Enoch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



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**joyce enoch** - May 02, 2021 at 08:22 PM

EH

“ *My condolences and prayers of comfort and strength for Cookie, family and all love ones*



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**Edwina Clayton Harris** - May 02, 2021 at 07:53 PM

JJ

“ *MY CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY .  
WHAT A LOVING MAN. MY PRAYERS ARE  
WITH YOU. HOLD ON TO GOD'S  
UNCHANGING HAND. ALL GOD'S  
BLESSINGS TO EACH OF YOU...STAND  
AND KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH YOU*



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**JUDY MINOR JOHNSON** - May 02, 2021 at 04:15 PM

GD

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family*



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**Grace DeCastro** - May 02, 2021 at 01:01 PM

SH

*My condolences to the Newton family.*

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**Sabrina Heyward** - May 02, 2021 at 04:24 PM

FS

*R.I.P. brother you will be truly missed Love You Brother*

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**Frank SHACKLEFORD** - May 02, 2021 at 04:27 PM

DT

*My Condolences and Deepest Sympathy, to the Newton Family, from Tullis Family, May you rest in PEACE*

**Dwight Tullis** - May 03, 2021 at 09:55 AM

PJ

“ *What a truly Humble & Awesome Man. My deepest sympathy to the family & friends.*



**Patrick Johnson** - May 02, 2021 at 12:44 PM

DT

“ *May God continue to Comfort and Strength the Family.*

**Diane Tanner** - May 02, 2021 at 10:16 AM

MH

“ *Sending my prayers and condolences to the family.*

*Mildred Hill & Family*



**Mildred Hill** - May 01, 2021 at 11:11 PM

SL

*Sending heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the family for Great soul loss God bless all Sandy linen and Adams family.*

**Sandra Linen** - May 02, 2021 at 02:47 AM

JE

*My condolences to all his loved ones*

**joyce enoch** - May 02, 2021 at 08:23 PM

RM

“ *My Deepest condolences ,May God Bless you All.*



**Rochelle Moore-Nichols** - May 01, 2021 at 10:46 PM

VJ

“ *Vanessa Rucker Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton*



**Vanessa Rucker Jones** - May 01, 2021 at 09:01 PM

VJ

*My deepest condolences to the Newton family...My prayers are with you all...*

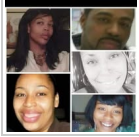
**Vanessa Rucker Jones** - May 01, 2021 at 09:03 PM

EJ

*As the words of the song echo in my mind, "Memories don't leave like people do, they always stay with you." In life, we make connections, develop relationships, create cherished memories: Washington Courts, Goldbas Apts, Kernan School Little League, The Newton Family...How well I remember!!! We all shared a very special friendship. My sincere condolences to the entire family, and may your connections bring continued support, and may your memories bring a quiet comfort. A soaring spirit has no boundaries...peace be with you all.*

*Ernest Jones  
Syracuse, NY*

**Ernest Jones** - May 04, 2021 at 10:31 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to the families and prayers of comfort my friend. Job well done fig. Cookie and family we are so sorry for your loss. The Winston family. We all grew up in the projects Washington courts and Goldbas Apts together. Know the William / Newton families a long time. Went to fig and cookie's wedding. Both are beautiful people. Sending hugs and prayers of comfort cookie and his children.



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**Dawn Winston** - May 01, 2021 at 10:13 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Alfred "Fig" Newton.



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May 01, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ Uncle fig myself and Tordell will miss you so much. Thank you so much for being a wonderful Godfather and role model to my son. We will hold you in our hearts forever.

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**Emma monroe** - April 30, 2021 at 11:39 PM



“ Fig your going to be missed; especially your humor. I appreciate you for being a role model to my sons. I give my condolences to Cookie, her children and the Newton/ Williams families Love, sister Diana C. Greens

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**Diana C. Greene** - April 30, 2021 at 09:08 PM

JD

“ Blessings and Condolences to the Newton family.  
I was blessed and honored to be in the presence of Fig , he shared his wisdom and told many memorable stories when we worked together.  
He will be missed immensely.  
My Deepest Sympathy to the Family, may we hold Cookie in our Prayers.  
Jody Dorsey and Family

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**Jody Dorsey** - April 30, 2021 at 04:16 PM

WF

*The Washington family's deepest sympathy goes out to the Newton Family.*

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**Washington Family** - May 01, 2021 at 08:47 AM

MM

*I am truly sorry for your loss. Keeping the family in our prayers Michelle Bradford Matthews and Family.*

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**Michelle Matthews** - May 01, 2021 at 07:45 PM

PH

*Our hearts are saddened by your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you. Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. Pastor Leonard and Diane Himes*

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**Pastor Leonard and Diane Himes** - May 01, 2021 at 11:42 PM

BW

*Sending Prayers and Condolences to the Newton Family. Continued Prayers for Comfort and Strength. Bernadette Webb.*

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**Bernadette Webb** - May 02, 2021 at 05:57 AM

SB

*Dear Cookie you have our deepest sympathy! Al " Fig" Newton was a guy I looked up to in high school! Always a genuine guy lots of humor. And yes the Projects... Goldbas - A building and Washington Court next door where we all came from in the 60's and 70's! You will be missed my brotha!*

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**Steve Bowens** - May 02, 2021 at 09:35 AM

"W

*We thank God for the life and legacy of Bro. Newton. Praying for comfort, strength, and grace for each of you. Blessings, the Woods Family*

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**"Doc" and Susan Woods** - May 04, 2021 at 02:49 PM

DS

*To Cookie, AJ & Girls, I just heard that your husband & dad passed away! I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. I'm thinking of all of you during this sad time.*

*Donna Sabis and family*

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**Donna Sabis** - June 30, 2021 at 06:03 PM