



Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.

November 7, 1938 - December 7, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr., age 82, went home to the Lord on Monday, December 7, 2020 at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare after suffering a stroke. At the time of his passing, his wife and sons were by his side.

Born in Quitman, Georgia on November 7, 1938, Burnie was the son of the late Burnie Sr. and Essie (Mobley) Adams. He was raised and educated in Georgia. As a young man, he came to Utica to live with his father and step-mother for a better life and to be with family. A veteran, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was discharged in 1956. His family and friends thought it would be a good idea to introduce him to a young lady named Melvina Reed, so they did. And they clicked. But Burnie had to be patient until she completed her college education, so he was. When they got back together, they were still in love, and on July 27, 1963, Mel and Burnie were wed. They created a comfortable, loving relationship, Mel and Burnie were their own people, but when it came back together, it was a truly tight fit. Their children saw them as role models to commitment. The real success to their relationship was that they always worked things out.

Burnie worked at Ray Benson Chevrolet, which was an opportunity for him to show his work values and his initiative. He later accepted a position at the FX Matt Brewery where his duties and responsibilities began in the garage maintaining the trucks. In response to his exceptional work ethic, Burnie advanced to Driver assigned to local routes and the New England area. He also operated the Trolley Car. When he retired in 2002 after 35 years of

service, he was the lead man of the Racking Room. Fred Matt/President of the F.X. Matt Brewing Company summed up Burnie's attributes: "He was very devoted and did an awesome job. I would say ...[he] was beloved by our customers as well as all the FX Matt Brewing Company Team".

A humble man, Burnie was honest and generous to a fault, and if someone needed anything, he attended to it, and Mel "often" had to remind him of his generosity. As a dad, Burnie taught his kids strength, humility, and attentiveness, and he stood by their side. When his boys played a sport, he was an active member from the stands or officiating as an Assistant Coach because his kids were always front and center in his life. He was honest, fair, and strict, but laced with humor, too. He was a proud PopPop and Grandpa to Max, Bryan and Florence's son, who was his pride and joy. He was his first grandchild after a long wait for the next generation. Jason's son, Jalen, was like a third son to him; they shared in a wonderful relationship because they lived so close. Burnie had love and patience for his grandsons and he was a great influence in their lives. They could never do anything wrong.

An avid sportsman, Burnie embraced a sport for every season. He was a bowler for many years at Vista Lanes. He was a Utica College Basketball fan and a member of the Jones Athletic Club whose members supported local sports. In his love for the sport of golf, he frequented the Valley View Golf Course and many prestigious courses in the state. His accuracy and precision was evidenced by the hole-in-one he made at the Woodgate Pines Golf Club and the 2nd place trophy he received from the Black Ministerial Alliance. He enjoyed the strategies of playing the card game, Bid Whist. The Syracuse Orange was his passion and in his post-retirement years he worked as an usher at the Syracuse Dome. He and his son Jason were part of the field Down and Distance "Chain Crew" for over 10 years for Utica College football. When Jason played football for University of Buffalo, whether it was a home game, or away, Burnie was there and there were no boundaries to his travel. Staying close to family was important to Burnie, and he never forgot his relatives living in the South. He traveled to visit them, and took in some golfing

on the verdant fair weather fairways while there. At home, he barbecued and started dinner for Mel in later years, and what a delight it was when he prepared black-eyed beans, collard greens, honey-fried chicken, and barbecue ribs, just to mention a few. He also loved and looked forward to the holidays.

Burnie was a beloved and faithful member of St. Paul's Baptist Church where he served on several of the men's committees at the Parish. Burnie was also a proud member of the Teamsters Union and a member of the Oneida County Veterans Association.

Burnie is survived by Mel, his best friend and wife of 57 years; his sons and daughter-in-law, Bryan Reed Adams and his wife Florence Barrau-Adams, and Jason Adams; grandchildren, Maxen Burnard Adams, and Jalen D. Adams; sisters and their loves, Hazel Strange, Mary Lou Henderson, and Burma "Brenda" Adams and Eddie; brothers and sisters-in-law, Willis and Pearline Adams, John Adams. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, beloved aunts and uncles, and cousins; and in-laws, Andrew Bowles, Margaret Reed-Shelton (Eugene), and Darlene Shelton, Fred Reed Jr. and his wife Carla Sorey Reed. Burnie was a man who earned the moniker "unofficial Mayor"! He was a friend to many, ...some long lasting, some instantaneous. He was predeceased by his daughter, Laverne; sister, Delia Mae Bowles; brothers-in-law, Earl Strange, and Bernie Shelton; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Fred and Emma Lou (Brown) Reed. The family is grateful to Burnie's physicians, Kunkel Ambulance staff, MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare ER and ICU staffs, Neurovascular Floor personnel, nurses, and staff. All were compassionate, kind, and understanding to Burnie and his family during this difficult time.

The family will honor and commemorate Burnie's life at a private time. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to express an act of kindness in Burnie's honor may make a donation to St. Paul's Baptist Church by mail to 219 Leah St., Utica, NY 13502. Interment in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Burnie's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

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

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Growing up with Bryan and Jason, Mr. Adams allowed me to spend time with them attending Syracuse University basketball games as well as time at their house. He always had something both funny and kind to say to me because to me he was the ideal type of father. I respect him and admire him immensely. From where I am sitting, he lived the type of purposeful life that I strive to emulate. My sincere condolences go out to the entire family as I know without question you will miss him each and every second of every day.

-Carl Harris and family

Carl Harris - December 30, 2020 at 10:11 AM

PB

“ My memory of Burnie will always be his jovial personality and great smile! He always made me feel welcomed whenever we gathered!!! Burnie you will be missed!!❤️🙏

Peter and Joanne Burns - December 26, 2020 at 01:19 PM

CF

“ Chris Freeman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.



Chris Freeman - December 23, 2020 at 11:05 AM

BR

To Mel , Margaret and family, please accept my condolences for the passing of Burnie. May God comfort you and give you peace ❤️🌿
Bertha Whiteside Robinson

Bertha Robinson - January 05, 2021 at 06:57 PM

MB

“ In the years we worked together Burnie always was smiling, energetic, and hardworking !! I will always remember meeting him at The Club George for the pool match we had talked about having ! I never met anyone who didn't share my feelings about him.

Michael T. Benson - December 22, 2020 at 09:52 AM

LD

“ Dear Mel and Family:
I wanted to extend my heartfelt sympathies to you at this time. I used to work with Burnie at the brewery and he was always kind and willing to assist me with whatever I needed around the plant. What a great guy and always had a smile for us all.
My prayers are with you.
Leigh D'Agostino
Tour Center Retiree

Leigh D'Agostino - December 20, 2020 at 02:48 PM

GC

“ My father owned two bars in Utica, the Chippewa and the Dinghy bar. Always looked forward to seeing Burnie come in. great sense of humor and smiling face, and sunny disposition would brighten up any day. then i got see what a great neighbor he was to a mutual friend. FInally, I got see what a great father he was when i had his son, Jason, in class. Unfortunately, in this time of Covid, I can't personally extend my sympathy. With sincere condolences to your family.
Gordon Custodero

Gordon Custodero - December 20, 2020 at 11:31 AM

DW

“ My condolences to the family. Everyone knew Burnie. He was truly and affectionately known as "the mayor "" A great man. May he rest in peace. Sending his family prayers of comfort 🙏



Dawn Winston - December 19, 2020 at 07:28 PM

RM

“ To my cousin Burnie the last time i saw you was at morning star church for another family member and right before my daddy past a way you will be missed to your family be strong and be blessed pastor Robert I Mobley jr. Hallandale bch. Florida

Robert Mobley - December 16, 2020 at 08:25 PM

JR

“ John & Flonnie Reed lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.



John & Flonnie Reed - December 16, 2020 at 04:14 PM

VS

“ My sincere condolences to Melvina and Family!! My God give you all the peace, comfort, love and understanding that you may need at this difficult time. Peter and myself have known Burnie for our entire life time, Burnie was a man of his word, and was well loved by many people, May you Rest in the arms of your loving Heavenly Father. Love and Sincere Condolences Peter and Vornette Simons Family!!



Vornette Simons - December 14, 2020 at 06:36 PM

SP

It's never good to lose a friend-To the Family deepest sympathy.

Sylvester Peterson - December 14, 2020 at 10:53 PM

DP

“ *I never met a more joyful person. His smile would light up a whole room and his kindness impacted so many lives! When my son was in boot camp Bernie and Mel showed unbelievable kindness to him & we will always be grateful.*

dominique palestis - December 14, 2020 at 02:00 PM

CW

“ *This was my friend for 66 years, we had many memories over the years and I can truly say they were all blessed with joy and friendship. In those years I do not remember him ever saying a negative thing about anyone.*



My prayers go out to Melvina and family.

God bless and rest in peace my friend .

Doug And Dorothy Warmack

charles D Warmack - December 14, 2020 at 12:53 PM

BJ

My condolences to Melvin's and family, I remember when Bernie and Mel was married, what a Beautiful couple, Everlasting Love...

Bettyanne Jones-Whitehurst - December 16, 2020 at 02:12 AM

DW

“ Dear Family,
Burnie Adams is one of the kindest people I have encountered in my life time! I'm sadden that Burnie's light, shining so brightly to illuminate and exemplify the good of humankind, will now become an after-glow! I'm grateful for his life, his example and the hope we all have of seeing him again in the promise of the eternal day! May Burnie rest in the Joy of the Lord. For we know that our beloved Burnie is loved with the perfect love of Christ Jesus. May God be with you all and bring you the kind of comfort that only He can give.

In Christ's service - Rev. Dwayne T. Williams

Dwayne T. Williams - December 14, 2020 at 10:09 AM

DF

“ My sincerely condolences to the family during this difficult time.
Danyelle Faulkner-Forgas

Danyelle Faulkner-Forgas - December 14, 2020 at 08:31 AM

SJ

“ My sincere condolences to the Adams' family. Growing up Mr. Adams was a welcoming sight; always smiling and always kind. May you find comfort in the beautiful memories of his life. Mona Jackson- Avery

Shirley Jackson-Avery - December 13, 2020 at 11:29 PM

BR

“ Benikia Robertson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.



Benikia Robertson - December 13, 2020 at 05:51 PM

KD

“ AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS UNCLE BERNIE WILL BE MISSED I ALWAYS LOVED TO TALK AND JOKE AROUND WITH HIM, HE WILL NEVER BE LONELY UP AND HEAVEN WITH HIS TWO BROTHERS FRANK AND BILL



KAREN DAVIS - December 13, 2020 at 01:57 PM

MD

Deepest condolences prayers and lots of hugs-Marion Davis

Marion Davis - December 15, 2020 at 02:55 PM

IG

“ *Condolences to the family and sending prayers of comfort and strength.*

Irish Neloms Givens - December 13, 2020 at 12:48 PM

EN

“ *Elgie Neloms lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.*



Elgie Neloms - December 13, 2020 at 12:43 PM

IG

“ *Irish Neloms Givens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.*



Irish Neloms Givens - December 13, 2020 at 12:29 PM

DT

“ *Dwight Tullis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.*



Dwight Tullis - December 13, 2020 at 10:51 AM

EM

“ *My prayers and condolences to the Adams family.*
Edna Marie Martin



Edna M Martin - December 13, 2020 at 08:41 AM

JJ

“ *JUDY MINOR JOHNSON lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.*



JUDY MINOR JOHNSON - December 12, 2020 at 08:27 PM

DD

“ Mel & Family, I an so sorry for your loss you will be in my prayers and thoughts at this difficult time.
With deepest Condolences,
Donna Dye

donna dye - December 12, 2020 at 05:14 PM

MD

“ Melvina and family I share your lost and offer my sincere condolences
Much love to you all
Mary Brown DePass

Mary Brown DePass - December 12, 2020 at 05:04 PM

KP

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I worked with Burnie at the brewery for several years. He was one of the good guys, always there to lend a helping hand and do a great job.
Sincerely, Kathy Pugh

Kathy Pugh - December 12, 2020 at 10:41 AM

RG

“ To the Adam's family from The House of God Church, you have our deepest condolences and sympathies. We will keep you in our prayers. Look to the lord for all your strength.



Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Gary - December 12, 2020 at 09:27 AM

BF

“ *Brenda Fudge lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burnie Adams, Jr.*



Brenda Fudge - December 11, 2020 at 04:15 PM

DT

Deepest Sympathy, and our condolences. Our prayers go out to the family. May God grant you peace. The Tullis family

Dwight Tullis - December 13, 2020 at 10:48 AM

RP

So sorry for your loss

Rose Pearson-Simmons - December 13, 2020 at 05:24 PM

GM

With our deepest heartfelt condolences to Addams Family 🙏 Prayers going up amen 🙏 much love ❤️ much respect to you all.

Gloria J McCoverly - December 13, 2020 at 07:51 PM

PA

Mel, Bryan & Jason

We are so sorry for your and our loss of Bernie. He was like an angel on earth. So thoughtful to everyone. He is going to be missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Love Willis, Pearline, Chris, Tim, Gaynor & Theresa

Pearline Adams - December 15, 2020 at 06:59 PM