



Mr. Donald R. Rice

June 28, 1931 - October 18, 2018

UTICA - Mr. Donald R. Rice, age 87, passed away with his loving daughters by his side on Thursday, October 18, 2018, and is awaiting the resurrection. Born in Fayette, Pennsylvania on June 28, 1931, Donald was the son of the late Robert S. and Ella Mae (Johnson) Rice. He moved to New York City after proudly serving in the United States Navy where he met and married the former Mildred Singletary. They shared 65 loving years. She preceded him three months to the day of his death and he has missed her every day since. Their absence from one another overcame him with sadness. They were a well matched couple and he adored her. Don was proud to have such a wonderful woman to share the journey of life with him.

He was employed by the New York State Thruway Authority as a toll collector at the Westmoreland Exit. He was well known for his friendly nature on the job, and admired by many for the interest he took in each individual that passed through his booth. When Don decided to retire, it wasn't for long. He found his way back to a hallmark job because he loved people. "If you went through his booth, you would remember Don Rice". He was legendary! An exemplary father, he found time for his children, encouraged them to attend college, was proud of their accomplishments, and was a good provider. His daughters always wanted to please him and conduct themselves with honor. He loved each one of them and they were all his favorites. For Don, spending time with his family and friends was enough for him.

He had a charming nature. He was humorous and was a bit of a comedian

credited with many memorable one-liners. A kind-hearted man, people of all ages and walks of life were drawn to his warm and welcoming personality. Don was non judgmental, fair, and respectful, and those who were fortunate enough to be a part of his life felt blessed. He was a Jehovah's Witnesses, and as he progressed spiritually, he became a Ministerial Servant, then appointed as an Elder who helped shepherd and teach the congregation. He had a multitude of opportunities to be with people and was much loved and respected by the congregation. A part of his ministry that came natural to Don was his compassionate concern and personal visits to those who were house bound or hospitalized, and he was very capable of lifting their spirits. Mr. Donald Rice, you were so much loved and admired by this community. Thank you for being the man that you were.

Donald is survived by his daughters, Deborah Rice-Thomas (Joe Thomas), Sabrina Rice, Diane Rice, and D. Denise Rice. He was preceded by his daughter Angela at the tender age of 1. He also leaves his grandchildren, Brice Thomas and Donya Thomas; nieces, nephews; sister-in-law, Alberta McLaurie; and a multitude of extended family of brothers and sisters from the Kingdom Hall. He was predeceased by his siblings, Harry "Buddy" Rice, Robert "Bobby" Rice Jr., Dolores Henderson, and Chester "Chet" Rice. Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Donald's Memorial Service which will commence on Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 585 Trenton Road. It will be officiated by Brother George Gray followed by procession of the funeral cortege to Forest Hill Cemetery where he will be interred beside his wife, Mildred.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

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

Tribute Wall

LC

“ This is Larry Cohen from Utica. To all who may read this, family and friends, let me tell all that Mr. Rice was the definition of a gentleman. He was a gentleman's gentleman. If the world were filled with persons such as Mr. Rice, war would be a thing of the past. His calm demeanor came through his every word and every thought. May God be with those that mourn for him and know that his last impression will forever be remembered.
God Bless you in Heaven, Mr. Rice.....

Lawrence Cohen - October 26, 2018 at 07:47 AM

CP

“ TO THE RICE FAMILY: I'm saddened by the news of your loss. My heart goes out to you ALL. My GOD continue to BLESS and give you strength. It was an HONOR to have known two VERY special SOULS, who showed me love.
My family and I send our thoughts and prayers to you all.

*With Heartfelt Sympathy
Cheryl Palmer and Family*

Cheryl Palmer - October 26, 2018 at 12:23 AM

JZ

“ We will miss him and his wife very much they were always so kind and had jokes for us Everytime we came to Utica. We send our condolences to the Rice family.
Sincerely,
Jimmy and Amelia Zephyr

Jimmy and Amelia Zephyr - October 23, 2018 at 05:33 PM

JT

“ To: Deaconess Debbie and Family of Mr. Donald Rice



Your Greater Saint John Cathedral family will continue to pray for you as God comforts you and brings you through this time of bereavement. May your hearts be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times you shared with your beloved father.

Bishop Kevin V. Gresham, Sr.
Senior Pastor
Greater Saint John Cathedral
Upper Marlboro, MD

Jessie Tinsley - October 23, 2018 at 10:19 AM

CP

“ Cheryl D. Parker purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Donald R. Rice.



Cheryl D. Parker - October 23, 2018 at 08:31 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald R. Rice.



October 22, 2018 at 04:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald R. Rice.*



October 22, 2018 at 01:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald R. Rice.*



October 22, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald R. Rice.*



October 21, 2018 at 08:20 PM

KL

“ Dear Donald Rice Family,
Don was an absolute prince of a man in our congregations at the Kingdom Hall and at the NYS Thruway. He was a true friend to me and my wife. When I suffered a bad construction accident and at the same time my wife had acute appendicitis Donald and his dear wife Mildred took us both to Syracuse, stayed with us, and when we could manage, brought us home. We loved Don and Mildred very much. He lived for his daughters and grandchildren and often spoke of them in his kindly and loving manner. I'm so sorry that you bear this sorrow and send my prayers and every good wish. Donald made it very clear that he cherished you and your love. His next wake up shall be in Paradise and the arms of those who loved him.
Kerns Laurie

Kerns Laurie - October 21, 2018 at 05:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald R. Rice.



October 21, 2018 at 10:33 AM

CD

“ I worked at the NYS thruway with Don during the summer of my college years in 1976 and 77. He was so kind in his willingness to mentor. I still think of him as a gentleman and a gentle man. May time and loving memories heal your hearts and temper your sorrow.

Cathy Altieri Ducato - October 21, 2018 at 05:50 AM

ST

“ To the Rice family: May you all be Blessed and have peace knowing that your father was a very loving father, husband, grandfather, father-in-law and ND overall great man. Mr Rice will be totally missed by everyone who knew him. Dear family please take comfort in knowing that the Thomas family send their heartfelt love and sympathy. From Sharon Thomas and family in Columbus, Georgia.

Sharon Thomas - October 20, 2018 at 10:19 PM

SH

To my beloved sister may God continue to give you strength through this time; and may continue to bless. My 🙏🙏 are will you and your family. Love you . S. Parker, GSJC

Shirley - October 21, 2018 at 01:39 PM

PW

Dear Ladies,
I'm saddened by the news of Brother Rice's passing. He will be truly missed. He had such a gentle demeanor, always pleasant and forever shaking his head over our conversations. Even when he wasn't feeling well, his concern was how everyone else was feeling. Both of your parents had a deep love and devotion in the Bible's promise of the resurrection which brought them comfort. I'm hoping that same promise brings each of you a measure of comfort also. Until that promise had been fulfilled, please know that my family and I are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers and hope you can find some peace in knowing that both of your parents are sleeping, free from pain.
With heartfelt sympathy, Pam Wilson and Family

Pamela Wilson - October 21, 2018 at 05:58 PM

HF

“ Our family was very privileged to know and love our very warm and kind Brother Rice. We can only smile when we think of him. Looking forward to seeing him when he is called. The Cabbage Family.

Henrietta Cabbage and Family - October 20, 2018 at 08:44 PM

CA

“ *My deepest sympathy to Debbie and Family I felt the loved that you'll had with your Father. I pray that God gives you'll the comfort that you need during this time.*

Catherine Alexander - October 20, 2018 at 03:14 PM

LE

“ *It was such a joy to work with him in the ministry, Doug always talked about the good times they had working together on Wednesdays. So looking forward to seeing them all again in the paradise.*

Leite - October 20, 2018 at 02:21 AM