



## Mr. Eddie R. Fite

August 26, 1941 - April 22, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Eddie Roosevelt Fite, age 78, went home to the Lord when he passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 with those he loved most in his heart at the MVHS Rehabilitation & Nursing Center.

Born in Gastonia, North Carolina on August 26, 1941, Eddie was the son of the late Leroy and Janie (Patton) Fite. He grew up in Charlotte and attended East Side High School where he lettered in 3 sports, basketball, football, and baseball. When he came to Utica, he enrolled at Utica Free Academy where he excelled at basketball and was known as “the Michael Jordan of the team”. He had a natural quest for knowledge which followed him throughout his life. After a whirlwind romance and a year-and-a-half relationship, he wed the former Barbara Jean Bracey on May 9, 1992. They shared common values and mutual honesty, and their union was a blessing for each of them.

Eddie began his working career at the FX Matt Brewing Company as a driver and advanced to the position of Foreman for the distribution of their product. He retired in April of 1992 after a fulfilling 32-year career. During his retirement, Eddie gave his time and efforts to the T. Revels-Gibson Funeral Service. He met the needs of the community by sharing his compassion which was of great importance to him, and he was beloved for his kindness. His gentle soul and compassionate heart made him unique.

He had a great sense of humor, and Eddie spoke the truth. He was a wise man, but he often let his pride and stubborn streak get in his way! He was happy to help area youth and adults to prepare for their GED testing. And

could he mentor! His sense of commitment made an impact on many. Eddie loved the sport of bowling, and he participated in many leagues and tournaments. He also enjoyed playing the card game Tunk, only at \$1.50 a hand! Holidays were spent in Yonkers with Barbara's family who Eddie adored, as well as in Virginia with "his daughter" Nadine and her family. His marriage to his wife Barbara was his greatest accomplishment, and their life together was comfortable because they had each other. He was a man of humility and many blessings, because the Lord made his life meaningful and magical.

Eddie was a member of the Elks Lodge, the Terrace City Lodge #690, a fraternal organization dedicated to deserving causes, with a mission to assist the needy of the community through food drives, fund raising, and benevolent programs. Eddie lived by the motto of the Elks USA, "Kindness is not an act it's a lifestyle".

He was a worldly man who became a Preacher's Steward. Eddie put his hopes, his heart, and his humanity in the faithful flock of his parish Hope Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church where he humbly served as an Usher, as secretary of the Men's Club, and then as a Steward, a trusted position as President of the Laity of the Albany District. He also served as Co-President of the Western New York Conference, and Marshall keeping order for the Bishop, the highest honor attained by a lay person. Eddie was grounded in the Lord and was a true Christian, and as his illness prevented him from continuing his ecumenical responsibilities, he meditated and prayed to the Lord. It was then that Eddie was confident that "God knew the work that he did in his vineyard".

Eddie is survived by his devoted wife, Barbara Jean; his children, Barbara's daughter Nadine Bruce and her family. As a couple, they loved Derrick George as if he were their son. He also leaves numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his sister, Margaret Louise Wright; nieces and nephews, especially Stanley and Lois Fite, and Elizabeth Wright; great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; sisters-in-law, Debra Fite, and Brenda Bracey; and a host

of friends throughout his life including Jimmy Warmack, James and Margaret McNeely, and many who have gone before him. May they all be reunited and at peace. He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Herbert and Mary Lena Fite, Alfred and Beatrice Fite, Bobby Fite, and Shirley Fite whom he loved so dearly; and his father-in-law, James Bracey.

The family is grateful for the dedication of the staff at the MVHS Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (St. Luke's Home /Barton West), especially nurse Rachel, and aids Akeema and Bertha; and the love and support of their Pastor Reverend Sharon Baugh and Reverend Robert E. Williams.

Due to current health concerns and in keeping with state and federal regulations, services will be held privately and interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



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**Angela & Eugene Walker** - May 02, 2020 at 01:01 PM

WA

“ *Our Condolences to Eddie Fite Family. We are so sorry for your loss. Willis & Pearl Adams*

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**Willis & Pearl Adams** - May 01, 2020 at 07:20 PM

RS

“ *Deep condolences to Eddie Fite's family*



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**Rose Simmons** - April 27, 2020 at 09:29 PM

CW

*Fiy high God wonderful soldier and truly a wonderful person my condolences to the family the Whitehurst family*

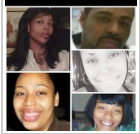
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**Cheryl Whitehurst** - April 30, 2020 at 09:41 PM

TJ

“ I remember Eddie since I was a kid and he always had great love for me and my family, he wss a good friend of my mother Lois n my Aunt Joanie. I'll never forget when Eddie used to bring me the Trolley Cars from Utica Club. Sincerely, Terry Johnson

Terry Johnson - April 26, 2020 at 10:02 PM



“ Condolences to the families and prayers of comfort.



Dawn Winston - April 26, 2020 at 05:11 PM

FA

“ My Prayers of Comfort to Eddie's Family.  
Eddie was a Good friend. Back in the 70's and 80's we were Blessed to have crossed paths at Steppie's Lunch on South St. there, we shared stories of real life. Laughed alot too!  
Since then, I've moved from Utica many years ago. At that time I had no way to find this fine man. I would Google his name every year hoping to reconnect with him.  
I remember his answering machine message many years ago. He Said.... I am portraying Rip Van Ripple (he was sleeping lol) please leave a message.  
Well, Today he is Sleeping in the Arms of Our Lord and Savior, waiting patiently to meet Our King, loved ones and friends.  
HALLELUJAH!!!!  
Rest in Peace my Good and Old Friend till we meet again!  
Frank Annese  
Venice FL.

Frank Annese - April 26, 2020 at 01:18 PM

FT

“ I send my deepest condolences to the family I had the pleasure of meeting Eddie when I was about six years old him and my dad worked at FX Matt’s together they were very good friends Are used to call him uncle Eddie when I had my son he came to the hospital with my dad and I couldn’t figure out what I was going to name my son and I looked at his face and that smile and I name for my son Eddie I remember Being like 24 years old and going into Dots Place And I walked in the door and it was a bar but I was grown and he was sitting there with Sam Evans and he said I’m calling your father and I laughed in about 20 minutes later my dad walked in the door at the bar I remember Eddie smile would light up a room and he was such a big guy and he spoke so soft he was like a gentle giant I’m going to miss him terribly

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**fran gaspa. thayer** - April 26, 2020 at 01:20 AM

DH

“ Eddie was a wonderful man. He is the uncle of my dear friend the late Sharon Wright and he always made us laugh and looked out for us by giving us good advice. He will truly be missed. May God bless the family.

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**Dorothy Holloway** - April 25, 2020 at 07:27 AM

JS

“ Barbara, my deepest sympathy at this difficult time sending you and your family prayers .

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**Julie Spanfelner** - April 25, 2020 at 06:20 AM

LB

“ So sad to hear of the passing of my friend.  
But God has a plan that we know not, all is  
well with him for he is with God . I will be  
praying for for the family. I will remember him  
always. RIP MY FRIEND!



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**Lonnie Brown** - April 24, 2020 at 10:52 PM

EH

“ Edwina Clayton Harris lit a candle in memory  
of Mr. Eddie R. Fite



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**Edwina Clayton Harris** - April 24, 2020 at 09:18 PM

LS

“ Linda Spratt lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Eddie R. Fite



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**Linda Spratt** - April 24, 2020 at 04:38 PM

LM

“ Brother Fire always was kind and helpful to me  
Guided me through my first Annual conference in Buffalo  
So sad for his loss to his wife and all of us  
But God be praised!

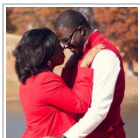
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**Lois Mitchell** - April 24, 2020 at 03:20 PM

DK

“ *Darlene Kinsey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



Darlene Kinsey - April 24, 2020 at 01:16 PM



“ *My dear Aunt Barbara, I am praying for you and the family. My heart is sadden by the lost of my Great Uncle Eddie! Andrea and I are here for you and the family if you need us for anything. Grace and Peace! Jerret Fite*



Jerret Fite - April 24, 2020 at 01:15 PM

LD

“ *Sister Fite, my heart goes out to you and your family. I hope you can find some peace in all of this at this time. You are in my prayers.*

Linda Davis - April 24, 2020 at 12:36 PM

LM

“ *LaTonya (ReRee) Moody lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



LaTonya (ReRee) Moody - April 24, 2020 at 11:55 AM

E(

“ *Ezel Hawkins (EZ) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



Ezel Hawkins (EZ) - April 24, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“ *Yvette Green lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



Yvette Green - April 24, 2020 at 10:43 AM

IC

“ *Ida Cook lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



Ida Cook - April 24, 2020 at 10:40 AM

IC

“ *Sending our Blessings and condolences to the Family was very proud to have known Mr. Eddie*

Ida Cook - April 24, 2020 at 10:38 AM

KT

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Fite family.*

Keith and Angela Webb , Memphis Tn - April 24, 2020 at 07:39 AM

JF

“ *Sending thoughts & Prayers For The Family  
We Love You Jackson Prince & Workman  
Families*



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**Jackson Prince & Workman Families** - April 24, 2020 at 06:28 AM

DF

“ *Darlene Branch And Family lit a candle in  
memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



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**Darlene Branch and family** - April 24, 2020 at 04:34 AM

DH

“ *Debbie Henderson lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



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**Debbie Henderson** - April 24, 2020 at 12:41 AM

RD

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. LOVE  
YOU MR. FITE!!!*



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**Raheema Davis** - April 24, 2020 at 12:11 AM

SH

“ *Sheila Holliman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



Sheila Holliman - April 24, 2020 at 12:10 AM

JJ

“ *Judy Minor Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie R. Fite*



Judy Minor Johnson - April 23, 2020 at 11:53 PM

JJ

*Mr Fite was such a kind gentleman. Had a kind and loving spirit..He made his presence at T Revel Gibson so nice he would do anything from opening the door for you and respectfully creating everyone with his beautiful smile and showing so much companion. He was dearly missed. I would like to express my very sincere CONDOLENCES to his BEAUTIFUL wife Barbara...They were quite the couple. My CONDOLENCES to the rest of his family and friends...Fly Mr Fite Fly GOD is well pleased with you..REST IN PARADISE*

Judy Minor Johnson - April 24, 2020 at 12:07 AM

YF

“ *Uncle Eddie was always a favorite of mine, always throwing me a few dollars and he taught me a lot about life. He will truly be missed. Love Always, Yusef Fite*

Yusef Fite - April 23, 2020 at 11:14 PM

GM

“ My condolences to the entire Fite family! He will truly forever MISSED! He was my brother from another mother. I'll always remember his food ministry EVERY Saturday morning to many in need and less fortunate, diligence in the church ministry, soft spoken, gracious humble warm heart! I could go on and on..... JOB well done my brother and GOD's faithful Servant! 🙏😞❤️

Gloria McMillan - April 23, 2020 at 09:31 PM

VA

“ My deepest condolences to Barbara Fite and family...my prayers are with you all and may God give you strength...



Vanessa - April 23, 2020 at 09:05 PM

TS

“ Chanel,

*I am truly sorry for your loss. I know the relationship you had with your uncle. May the memories live on in your heart. May bless you and your family.*

*Love,  
Tiayana and Robert Smith*

Tiayana Smith - April 23, 2020 at 05:51 PM