



Willie "Carl" Lester, Sr.

February 8, 1943 - May 30, 2019

Mr. Willie "Carl" Lester, Sr., age 76, went to heaven and was greeted by those who awaited him when he passed away on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the Syracuse Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Born in Pineview, Georgia on February 8, 1943, Willie was the son of the late Gussie and Rosa Lester. He came to Utica in the sixties, one of many moving North for better opportunities. A veteran of the United States Army, Carl served his country with honor in 1973. At one time he was married to Willie Mae Hicks and to that relationship came the blessing of 3 children. He shared in a loving union with Ruby Brown for over 30 years. She was his companion of heart and she was with him until his passing.

Carl was dedicated to his career as a professional truck driver working for the Salvation Army for most of his employment years. Carl could be characterized as a fellow full of life, funny, and forever beloved by many. A family man, he always took time to visit friends and relatives and entertain them with his comedy routine. He was a handsome man, and his well-appointed suits and hats were a testament to his fine taste in attire. When grandad showed up, the party started, and he rarely got everyone's name right. But he did get everyone in an uproar and always made the kids happy with gum and change! He loved his pickups and kept his trucks clean. His presence brought joy, ... and left a lifetime of memories.

Back in the day, he was a dance machine. He was fond of fishing and trying his luck at the lottery every day. Carl enjoyed his "plate", and Ruby always

catered to him and it was always full. He loved his family and was so proud of all of them. He never missed a holiday at Christine's house. When he found God, Willie faithfully attended Holy Temple and it was a calling that changed the quality of his life. Anyone was welcomed to escort him to services.

Willie is survived by his love, Ruby; his children, Anthony Ponder, always close to his heart was the memory of his daughter Carleen Lester who passed away on September 9, 2000, Carl Lester Jr., Phillip Lester, Charles Lester, James Lester, Jerome Lester, Adrian Lester, and Carlene Lester Jones. He also kept the memory of his son Fred Lester who preceded him on March 7, 2017. He leaves a host of cherished grandchildren with mention of James Ware/US Army of whom he was most proud for following in his military footsteps; and the memory of his granddaughter Shavonda Jackson; as well as many great-grandchildren; remembering Zikeya Carleen Lester who preceded him. He will also be remembered by his numerous great-great grandchildren; his sister, Julia Furlow; brother, George Lester; a host of nieces, especially Lizzie Lester, Ann Chaney, Lanette, Sandra, and Michelle; nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and many good and blessed friends in Utica and Syracuse. Because he was a truck driver, he had friends in many states. He was predeceased by his sister, RosaMae Lester Dawson; and his nephew, John Dawson, Jr.

The family extends sincere appreciation to the staff of the VA Hospital and Upstate University Hospital for their professionalism and kindness in caring for Carl. A special thank you to Ruby and granddaughter Kita for being there with Carl to the end of his journey.

Visitation will be held Saturday, June 8th from 3:00-5:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Carl's Home Going Service and Celebration of Life will commence on Saturday evening at 5:00 at the funeral home immediately upon the conclusion of visitation with military honors conferred. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

SA

“ *REST IN HEAVEN Carl things will never be the same with out the jokes and laughs*

Sanadra Aberdeen - June 08, 2019 at 03:47 PM

SA

“ *Nyzaire and king are going to miss you, love you because you were like a grandpa. REST IN HEAVEN*

Sanadra Aberdeen - June 08, 2019 at 03:46 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willie "Carl" Lester, Sr..*



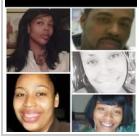
June 06, 2019 at 11:46 PM

CR

“ *Corine Ricks purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Willie "Carl" Lester, Sr..*



Corine Ricks - June 05, 2019 at 01:50 PM



“ *Condolences to the families*



Dawn Winston - June 05, 2019 at 10:58 AM

DB

“ *Darlene Branch lit a candle in memory of Willie "Carl" Lester, Sr.*



Darlene Branch - June 05, 2019 at 06:54 AM

WL

“ *So use to you coming back to Ga for visit you always came by to see mom we really gone miss you Uncle Carl R.I.P*

Winifred Lester - June 03, 2019 at 01:22 PM

MP

Sorry for your loss my deepest sympathy to you and your family from The Fulton family and PAYE family when is the funeral date

Mae Fulton paye - June 03, 2019 at 04:18 PM

SE

This man made me laugh so many days. Loved his entire family. Rest in Peace Carl

sharon etheridge - June 04, 2019 at 09:18 PM

CO

Sorry for loss your niece and family in Ga.

Corine - June 04, 2019 at 10:20 PM