



Mr. J. Russell East

May 6, 2015

The Obituary

J. Russell East

J. Russell “Junior” East was born in Pinnacle, NC, Sunday, March 31, 1929, to the late James East and Nora (Milner) East. He was one of eleven children raised on a farm. Russell moved to Harrisburg, PA, in his early 20’s where he lived until his passing on Wednesday, May 6, 2015. He never forgot about his home and would visit often especially for his family gatherings every April.

He learned the value of work at an early age and continued working into his 70’s. He worked for Bethlehem Steel for many years before he was hired by Halls Motor Transit Company. He retired from Hall’s but wasn’t ready to sit at home. He loved talking with people and took a job working for the State of Pennsylvania in downtown Harrisburg; he left there and worked for Eddie’s Men Clothing where he was celebrated for his twenty years of service.

He spoke and with pride of all his children’s accomplishments in their private sector and military careers.

Russell was an active and longtime member of the Teamsters Union. He was baptized into the Primitive Baptist faith, enjoyed gardening, western movies, dogs, baseball, and as a young man, he played for the Negro Baseball League in NC.

Along with his parents, he is preceded by his children, Jena Y. East and Joslynn L. (East) Stanback; siblings, Thomas, Gladys, Beatrice, Viola, Martha, Frances, Harry and Johnny. He is survived by his children, Larry Graham of GA, Beverly Benton of NC, Anthony English of PA, Stacey East of PA, Russell H. East of VA, Gwendolynn East of VA, and Gloria East of PA; siblings, Helen France and Betty Wellman of NC; several grand-, great grandchildren; close friends, Jimmy Jackson, Eddie Ruth and Norman Brown; God daughter, April Rucker; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Lovingly Submitted, The Family

A viewing will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 6 to 8 p.m., at Wallace Funeral Directors. Services will be Saturday, May 16, 2015, at 11 a.m., viewing 10:30 a.m., at France Memorial Primitive Baptist Church, Brown Mountain, NC, burial in church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Humane Society of Harrisburg, 7790 Grayson Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

Tribute Wall

MT

“ *My sincere sympathy to the family of Mr. East. When I read that he was a former employee of Eddie's Men's Shop on Market street in Harrisburg, that brought back some really nice memories. That was one classy black men's clothing store in downtown Harrisburg. At the time {'67 to '80} I was working at Dauphin Deposit Bank. More than likely some of the men I worked with shopped there; Tom Harvey, Tom Waller and others who I cannot remember.* ”



Marianne Trace - May 11, 2015 at 11:10 AM

MR

“ *GiGi, Rusty and the East family, praying for strength today and comfort in the days ahead. Our condolences. Mitzie Robinson and family.* ”

mitzie robinson - May 09, 2015 at 03:57 PM

EW

Rusty, Gwen, Stacy and GiGi in your time. Of loss just want to let you know that I am praying for you and with God said that he would never leave you alone and just remember that your father is not gone he is just away.

Elder Steve Williams

Elder Steve Williams - May 09, 2015 at 04:07 PM

PG

Gigi and family,. Our prayers are with you during this challenging time. May you find comfort knowing that others are praying for you and with you in spirit. Love, Paulette and Taylor

Paulette Graham - May 13, 2015 at 05:12 PM