



## Clarence J Walker Jr. 33'

December 1, 1925 - October 24, 2013

Clarence J. Jr.

Long-time community leader, Clarence James Walker Jr., of Ottawa Hills, passed away on October 24, 2013, at The Glendale Assisted Living Facility. He was 87 years of age.

Born on December 1, 1925 to Lucinda Maxine Jones and Clarence J. Walker Sr., Clarence had two brothers, William (Billy) and Eugene, along with his sister, Dorothy (Ayalew).

Growing up, Clarence attended Toledo public schools. As a Scott High School student, where his friends knew him as "Flash," he excelled in football, basketball and track and graduated in 1944.

Following his graduation from Scott, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served as a Disbursing Officer. He completed two tours of duty covering both World War II and the Korean War. He served initially from 1944 to 1946, and then again from 1951 through 1953.

Two life changing events occurred as he wound down his military career. First,

he graduated from the University of Toledo with a bachelor degree in 1950, majoring in Public Administration - skills he used for the rest of his life. He also began taking classes in Law at the University and later completed specialized training in Urban Ministry and Community Development at the Urban Training Center in Chicago, Illinois.

The second major event came in June 1952, when he married Shirley Jean (Vartice) Walker who would share the next 61 years with him. Five years later, in August 1957, the couple welcomed the birth of their only child, Eric.

Throughout the 1960s, Clarence continued his public service becoming a Tax Officer for The City of Toledo and, later, the city's Administrative Officer for the Work Experience Program for Youth. From 1966 to 1968, he was the Executive Director for Northwest Ohio regional office of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission which was comprised of 25 counties and headquartered in Toledo.

Beginning in 1968, he began work as Michigan State Supervisor and Community Relations Specialist of the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Service. Based in Detroit, his primary responsibilities included developing programs and supervising and training individuals to work in the areas of economics, housing, employment, education and administration of justice throughout Michigan.

While still with the Justice Department, he was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Toledo Board of Education in 1972, giving him an opportunity to provide leadership and guidance to the school system that benefited him as a youth. He finished the term with the School Board and in 1973, started working as Community Component Leader of the Criminal Justice Training and Educational Center in Toledo where he assisted in developing training programs for law enforcement and corrections personnel.

In 1975, Clarence took the helm of the Frederick Douglass Community Association as Executive Director, replacing the retiring director who had been in charge of the organization since the early 1940s. Under his leadership, the Association moved to its current location on Indiana Avenue and expanded the legal, social, housing and recreational programs offered by creating a community advisory board to provide input from neighboring residents. He retired from the Association in 1990.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Clarence was involved in many other civic and social projects and organizations. He became a Life Member of the University of Toledo Alumni Association, the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and the NAACP, where he served for a time as state Membership Chairman. A 33rd Degree Mason, he sat on the board of the Indiana Branch of the YMCA, was a member of the National Association of Human Rights workers, and past-president of the Cordelia Martin Health Center and the J. Frank Troy Senior Center. In 2011, the African American Legacy Project honored Clarence for his lifelong work in the community, adding to a host of other awards he received over his lengthy career.

Mr. Walker leaves to cherish his memory, wife of 61 years, Mrs. Shirley J. Walker; son, Eric J. Walker; brothers, William "Billy" (Marilyn "Pat" Anderson) Walker and Eugene Walker of Long Beach, CA; sister, Dorothy Ayalew of Los Angeles, CA; sister-in-law, Carol (Dr. Charles) Steele; aunts, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Wilson and Juanita Jones; one niece, Minister Karen (Michael) Russell; God daughters, Ruthel Flunder, Charlma J. Quarles of Washington, D.C, and Debbie and Autumn Pettaway of Houston, TX; driver, Allen "Andretti" Davis; special friend, Mr. Frank Goldie; many numerous cousins, family, and friends. Special thanks to Maryann Chapman, Administrator, Keith Strozier, Director of Nursing, and the Glendale Assisted Living staff and Nurse Patty and the

Heartland Hospice staff.

All Services will be held at Warren AME Church 915 Collingwood; Toledo, OH 43604: Thursday, October 31, visitation 4-8 p.m.; Kappa Rites 6 p.m.; Masonic Rites 7 p.m.; Friday, November 1 Family Hour 11 a.m.; Funeral Services Noon. Arrangements entrusted to Dale Riggs Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to African American Legacy Project, Warren AME Church or charity of donor's choice.

[www.dalefh.com](http://www.dalefh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Historic Woodlawn Cemetery

1502 West Central Avenue  
Toledo, OH

# Tribute Wall

TG

“ Dear Eric,

*Toby and I are just heartbroken - we just learned of your Dad's passing yesterday! You know we would have been there and brought Mom. We are embracing you and your Mom in our prayers. I left you a message at Glendale, so I hope we can connect. My mother has all new contact information as well. Just as Carla Danner-Powell stated, our lives were so intertwined and we have many fond memories from our childhood. We hope those wonderful memories will strengthened you in the challenging days ahead.*

*Love,  
Trudy Gallant-Stokes & Toby Gallant  
Joyce Cranon Gallant*

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**Trudy Gallant-Stokes** - November 09, 2013 at 01:51 PM

TF

“ Dear Eric,

*So sorry to hear about your Dad. It was interesting to read about his storied life. An extremely accomplished man. You must be very proud.*

*With Sympathy,*

*Jeff, Ann & Kylie Martin*

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**The Martin Family** - October 28, 2013 at 07:09 AM

UJ

*Dear Eric,*

*I am Sorry to hear about your lost. May the cherished memories of your father give you strength in the days ahead! As time passes gradually we move toward the day when the comfort of memories' is greater than sorrow of our loss. Your father has accomplished so many things within his life time. And left a lasting impression on the community.*

*With my deepest sympathy on the loss of your father*

*Ulysses Jones and Jones family*

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**Ulysses Jones** - November 02, 2013 at 08:18 AM