



## Walter Cole

April 12, 2012

"Gene", "Walt", "Loveable Walt" Walter E. Cole, 81, passed away on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at The Toledo Hospital. He was born on November 14, 1930, at Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie, Indiana to parents Walter D. and Bonita Louise (Holland) Cole. His early education took place in Dunkirk, Indiana and Toledo, Ohio. He held a Bachelor of Education degree, Master of Education degree, and an Educational Specialist degree, all from the University of Toledo. Further education took place at Bowling Green State University, where he completed course work for a PhD in Administration/Supervision. Over the years, Walter's work history was varied, as a member of the United States Army, Doehler-Jarvis Corporation, the U.S. Postal Services, Midland-Ross Corporation, and Toledo Public Schools. At TPS, he was assigned to the Jefferson Center, where he was an Occupational Work Experience (OWE) teacher, helping students complete their high school requirements and providing work experience through community employment. When he retired in 1992, he became a volunteer with AARP as a Minority Affairs spokesperson, thus enabling him to travel across the country- from New York to San Diego, and San Francisco to New Orleans, plus cities in between. Through AARP he was enabled to promote minority interests and needs as a speaker and advocate. He participated in the Black Expo in Indianapolis and Kroger Expo in Toledo. Walter was a 50+ year member of Third Baptist Church, where he served on the advisory board and as church moderator. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Xi Tau Chapter became important to him

and as he traveled, he would meet other Omega men and never hesitated to stop and chat. He was the Outstanding Graduate Basileus in 1983, the Keeper of Records and Seal for Xi Tau Chapter, and then was elected as the District Keeper of Records and Seal. Walter was a life member of NAACP, a board member of the Urban League of Greater Toledo (charter member), and also served in the Area Office of Aging NW Ohio as an advisory board member. He was a member of Phi Delta Kappa Bowling Green Chapter, Amazon #4 Masonic Lodge, and Mecca #43 Shrine Temple. While wintering in Florida, he joined the Elks in Brooksville, Florida. One of his most recent interests was the afternoon coffee group at the McDonald's, Dorr and Collingwood. He would say, "I'm going to the Club". Often, out of town guests were taken to the "Club" and were surprised when their trip took them to McDonald's! Depending on when you met Walter depended on what name he used. For family members, he was known as "Gene". During his work tenure, he became "Walter", and with AARP he adopted "Loveable Walt". Walter is survived by his wife, Annie; his son, Randy of Kentucky; his stepson, Alan Gilliland of Mexico; his goddaughter, Jillian Nobles, plus numerous cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by both parents and stepson, Paul Gilliland. Thank you is extended to the fourth floor staff of The Toledo Hospital and Drs. Van Boggus and Nelson Nicolasora, for their ongoing care and concern; it was a valiant fight for recovery. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to Third Baptist Church Music & Fine Arts Department, Omega Psi Phi Scholarship Fund, the Area Office of Aging NW Ohio, or a charity of choice . Visitation will take place at Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, 572 Nebraska Avenue on Thursday evening, April 19, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Burial will be Friday, April 20 at 10:00 a.m. at Historic Woodlawn Cemetery, 1502 W. Central Avenue, with family and friends to meet at the front gate at 9:45 a.m., and memorial services to follow at 11:00 a.m. Third Baptist Church, 402 Pinewood Ave., Rev. Kevin Bedford, pastor. [www.dalefh.com](http://www.dalefh.com)

# Tribute Wall

DG

“ *Mr. Cole was my teacher at J.C. He was great,he helped me get a job and drove me there when I couldnt get there. I am very glad I got to know him. He will be missed.*

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**dana gillespie** - April 19, 2012 at 06:15 PM

LT

“ *04/18/2012MAY THE LORD KEEP YOU IN HIS ARMS.LOUISE TYLER*

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**louise tyler** - April 18, 2012 at 05:00 PM

LT

“ *04/18/2012HE HAD A SMILE FOR EVERYONEA HEART AS GOOD AS GOLD,TO THOSE WHO KNOW AND LOVE HIMTHE MEMORY WILL NEVER GROW OLD.LOUISE TYLERPLAZA APARTMENTS*

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**louise tyler** - April 18, 2012 at 04:58 PM

SB

“ *Mr. Cole was my teacher at Jefferson Center I have many good memories of being in his classroom.I ran into him a few times over the years and always enjoyed talking to him again. GOD BLESS R.I.P MR COLE SCOTT BETTS*

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**scott betts** - April 18, 2012 at 01:45 PM