



Mr. Ralph Alvin Jefferson Jr.

October 21, 1924 - August 5, 2015

Ralph Alvin Jefferson Jr., was born October 21, 1924 to Willie and Ralph Jefferson Sr., is a native son of Milwaukee. He was the oldest of eight and was preceded in death by his brother, Charles E. Jefferson and sisters, Mildred C. Jefferson and Vernadine Jefferson Brooks. His surviving siblings are Wilma T. Clark, Joyce L. Bryant, Donald M. Jefferson (Frances), and Henry E. Jefferson. He is further survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other loving relatives and friends.

Ralph graduated from Lincoln High School and received his Bachelor's degree from The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 1950. He became one of the first African Americans to receive a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Ralph served the State of Wisconsin in an array of positions which included: Regional Director for Probation and Parole for Southeastern Wisconsin and Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Health and Social Services; as an advisor to Wisconsin governors and US presidents; and, as a

mentor to hundreds of professionals throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Despite his reputation as Dark Gable, Ralph Jefferson and Frieda Parker were married on August 29, 1953 in Indianapolis, Indiana. They are the devoted and loving

parents of Ralph Alvin Jefferson III (Vernetta), and Brian Lane Jefferson, and loving and compassionate grandparents of Lauren Alice Jefferson. Ralph

Holds the

coveted position of best friend to them all.

Ralph's tireless and notable contributions to our community through local, state, and

national organizations to make our city, state, and country better places to live are

numerous. Most of his work was done during the racially charged civil rights era. In

so doing, he has earned our respect, gratitude and appreciation. Ralph's contributions include the following:

- YMCA Certified Youth Work Secretary where he developed pre-teen, teen, and collegiate programs. His contributions were recognized by the Northside YMCA.

- Senior State of Wisconsin Civil Servant who understood the inner workings of state government to positively affect economic assistance, mental health and vocational rehabilitation policies. Ralph went on to develop the first half way house in Wisconsin for the benefit of ex-offenders.

Ralph's other noteworthy affiliations include:

- NAACP - life Member
- US Navy Academy - Wisconsin Recruiter-Blue & Gold Club
- American Correction Association - Board Member, Correction Accreditation
- UWM School of Social Work - Adjunct Professor
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Milwaukee Chapter - Life Member
- Sigma Psi Fraternity - Beta Alpha Chapter, Past President
- Central City United Methodist Church-Member
- Milwaukee Afro-Fest - Elder
- National Association of Social Workers, Gold Card Member
- Council of Elders, Advisory Body to Former WI Association of Black Sector Employees

Cemetery Details

Wisconsin Memorial Park

13235 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 10. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Central United Methodist Church
639 N. 25th St
Milwaukee, WI

Service

AUG 10. 12:00 PM (CT)

Central United Methodist Church
639 N. 25th St
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

KH

“ *To The Family of Mr. Ralph A. Jefferson Jr.,
I extend my heartfelt deepest sympathy to the family. Mr. J. was a
motivator and he inspired me and many others to pursue higher
education and dare to dream. He was an inspiration to me and
many others, a genuine and unique individual that can never be
replaced.*

*Mr. Ralph A. Jefferson always sought to enrich the lives of others by
giving them a sense of direction and purpose. My life has been
richly blessed because of the journey traveled with Mr. J. Forever in
my heart both Godfather and Mentor.*

*May God strengthen his family at this most difficult time. Oh, His
living was not in vain, for he always reached out and helped others
as he traveled on the road of life. Mrs. Jefferson, Brian and Ralph,
you are in my prayer.....*

*Humbly Submitted, Mrs. Katherine Harvey-Stevenson Chicago,
Illinois*

Katherine Harvey-Stevenson - August 08, 2015 at 03:18 AM

KH

“ *Katherine Harvey-Stevenson lit a candle in
memory of Mr. Ralph Alvin Jefferson Jr.*



Katherine Harvey-Stevenson - August 07, 2015 at 05:30 PM

KH

“ *To The Family of Mr. Ralph A. Jefferson Jr.*

I extend my heartfelt deepest sympathy to the family, Mr. Jefferson,

He was a motivator. he inspired me and many others to pursue higher education and dare to dream. He was an inspiration to me and many others, a genuine and unique individual that can never be replaced.

Mr. Ralph A. Jefferson always sought to enrich the lives of others by giving them a sense of direction and purpose. My life has been richly blessed because of the journey traveled with Mr. J. I will be forever grateful for Mr. Jefferson.

Forever in my heart both Godfather and Mentor. May God strengthen his family at this most difficult time. Oh. his living was not in vain, for he always reached out and help others as he traveled on the road of life.

Mrs. Jefferson, Brian and Ralph, you are in my prayer.....

*Humbly Submitted,
Mrs. Katherine Harvey-Stevenson
Chicago, Illinois*

Katherine Harvey-Stevenson - August 07, 2015 at 05:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Ralph Alvin Jefferson Jr..*



August 07, 2015 at 04:30 PM

JM

“ Thoughts and prayers to Brian, Ralph, and Mrs. Jefferson, very sorry for your loss. Mr. Jefferson was a great person and will be missed by all.

John McCormick

John McCormick - August 07, 2015 at 03:56 PM

JH

“ It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I express my condolences to Jefferson family. Mr. Jefferson changed my life and gave me direction, focus and vision; something I will always carry with me and be forever grateful. God Bless you. Love Jacqueline Hudson

Jacqueline Hudson - August 07, 2015 at 12:35 PM