



## Mr. Alphonso "Ted" Tanks

July 8, 1929 - August 17, 2021

In Loving Memory of

Alphonso Tanks, affectionately known as 'Ted' or 'granddaddy', was born on July 8, 1929, in Killarney, W VA to the late Hilda and Ernest Tanks; the second of eleven children. Ted enjoyed a supportive and loving family. The stories he told of life on the "Coal Camp" were very engaging and detailed. 'We had a good life. Even though our family was large in numbers we never wanted for anything' he would say. Ted really enjoyed his childhood and loved his family dearly. He attended Byrd-Prillerman High School, where he played football, saxophone, and enjoyed reading literature and poetry; passions he maintained throughout the remainder of his life. His graduation from high school was in 1948. Post-graduation, he endured a successful coal mining carrier.

Ted met and married the love of his life, Audrey Pulliam, in 1951 relocated to Detroit, Michigan in 1953. Together, they raised 'four beautiful children'; were the proud grandparents of seven, great-grandparents of 23 and great great-grandparents of seven. He was a fierce protector, and provider for his family. This devoted husband, served as the primary caregiver for his wife, Audrey, during a long illness. His unselfish care and attention brought comfort, appreciation, admiration, gratitude and joy to her and the entire family. He was the "fun" parent who played games ("throw and die") with his children and on many occasions, took them fishing, near the Detroit River all night long. He created imaginary characters ("bloody bucket") that lived generations yet

remain invisible; and locations that never existed (“no castle”). He told his children and grandchildren how proud he was of them and reminded them that they were “flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone.” Ted Tanks prayed for his family “every day and night.”

A conscientious, diligent, and dependable worker, he retired from New Haven Foundry, a manufacturing plant in New Haven, Michigan after more than 30 years. During his first year of retirement, he read the Bible from cover to cover, along with other books he never had a chance to read during his working years. He then decided he had more to offer the community and began transporting children enrolled in the latchkey program at Babes in the Woods Child Care Center. He remained a part of the Babes in the Woods family for more than 15 years; until the dreaded covid-19 pandemic caused the center to close.

He continuously verbalized and demonstrated his love for God through his actions. He was a firm believer in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and remained an avid reader of the Holy Bible. Ted was a faithful tither to Beulah Baptist Church as well as other organizations dedicated to demonstrating discipleship through service to others. He was confident of his sonship and personal relationship with God. As a Christian, the last words uttered before he left this earth were: ‘I want to Thank God for my life and for my family.’

Ted will always be remembered as a man of wisdom and impartiality. He maintained unbiased, fair assessments of people, rendering sound advice and solid judgment in decision making. Although he was not formally educated past high school, he was one of the most intelligent people anyone could meet and could discuss Any topic in detail; from world events to sports, he was on top of it. This man read the newspaper from cover to cover every day, yes, even the thick Sunday newspaper. He maintained a sharp mind, and a toned, muscular physique throughout his life. His healthcare providers described him as ‘amazing,’ based on his cognitive and physical capabilities and could not believe that he was 92 years old. Ted was well respected by people of all ages, including his neighbors, coworkers, peers, and friends. He was the

loved and honored patriarch of his family. What a Great Man...What a legacy!!!

He leaves to cherish his memory and continue his legacy, four children: Glenna Jones, Alphonso J. Tanks (Kathy), Ava Tanks Farr, and Cornelia Tanks-McGowan (Dewitt Jr.). Grandchildren: Kimberly (Deshawn), Marlon (LaTonya), Airrion (Heather), Khari, Tene, and Daniel; his great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Four siblings: Jerry Tanks and Ernestine Dozier from Beckley, W VA, Leigh Penny from Silver Spring, MD, and Tyrone Tanks (Victoria) from Highland Springs, Virginia; a host of bonus grand/great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins' friends.

Preceding him in death are his wife of 51 years: Audrey Tanks. Parents: Hilda and Ernest Tanks. Siblings: Ernest Tanks, Jr, Leon Tanks, Harold Tanks, Larry Tanks, James Tanks and Janet Tanks Ross. Son-In Law: Kenneth Jones. Grandson: Andre Jones.

# Previous Events

## Live Stream

Thursday, Aug. **26**. 2:30 PM.

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtiS16ETKLnG1Cdtl088o8Q>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Alphonso "Ted" Tanks*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Sandra Stewart lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alphonso "Ted" Tanks*



**Sandra Stewart** - August 28, 2021 at 07:55 PM



“ *Dear Cornelia,  
My prayers are with you and your family during this time. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. God is your strength and He will see you through. God is with you always.  
Love, Rowena Bostic*

**Rowena Bostic** - August 26, 2021 at 05:52 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Ms. Ava Farr and her entire family. Rest in Peace Mr. Tanks.*

**Mabel McGhee** - August 26, 2021 at 02:40 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Alphonso "Ted" Tanks.



August 26, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ Sharing your sadness as you prepare to say goodbye to your love ones. May your memories console you make God sustain you, with his precious promise to someday soon reunite us with our loved ones. Thinking of you all.

Evans family - August 25, 2021 at 04:51 AM



“ Rest in Heavenly Peace Mr. Tanks. I love You All My Tanks Family 🙏🙏🙏🥹🥹

Courtney Sanders - August 24, 2021 at 06:41 PM



“ Mr Ted Tanks REST in PEACE

Sandra Stewart - August 23, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ Christina lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alphonso "Ted" Tanks



Christina - August 23, 2021 at 06:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Cornelia Tanks McGowan** - August 21, 2021 at 02:25 AM

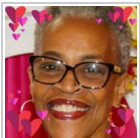


“ *Cornelia Tanks McGowan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alphonso "Ted" Tanks*



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**Cornelia Tanks McGowan** - August 21, 2021 at 01:53 AM



“ *My father love me unconditionally. He told me that he prayed for his family day and night and was very concerned that we followed the guidelines Jesus provided that we would have eternal life."I don't want you to go to hell," he told me.  
I Thank God for the life, love and guidance of such a great man.*

*Rest Well,  
Until we meet again*

*Love Connie*

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**Cornelia Tanks McGowan** - August 21, 2021 at 01:52 AM



*Rest In Peace dear brother, you've done well towards your family and friends. God has called you home to be with him. We will miss you terribly but we realize you are in a better place. You left us so many great memories that we will always cherish. Love you forever big brother we will be fine, your siblings💕*

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**Leigh Penny** - August 28, 2021 at 02:19 PM