



Mr. Benjamin Franklin Lee, Sr.

October 7, 1932 - July 7, 2020

In Loving Memory Of;

Benjamin Franklin Lee, Sr. was born on October 7, 1932, in Evergreen, Alabama to the late James Napoleon “Sam” Lee and Willie Guy Green Lee. He was the second eldest of five children, JC, Willie James, Sam and Jesse. He was educated in the Conecuh County Training School in Evergreen. He spent most his early years in Evergreen helping his mother raise his younger siblings. After the death of his mother in 1952, his father married Carrie Bailey and Benjamin was blessed with nine brothers and sisters: Jane, Otis, Lazarus, Homer, Joyce, Sidney, Aaron, Kelly, Marie, and Pam. JC, Willie James, Jesse James, and Pam preceded him in death.

Benjamin lived an amazing life. On March 20, 1953, during the Korean War, he was drafted into the United States Army. He completed basic training and Quartermaster training at Fort Lee in Virginia. After his initial training, he was stationed at White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico. During his service he was known as, “the man with the million-dollar hand”, because his signature for incoming inventory was worth a million dollars. On October 28, 1953, while on a thirty-day furlough to Detroit, he married Eloise Oliver, who preceded him in death. On June 20, 1956, he received an honorable discharge from the military as a Specialist Third Class or SP3. Benjamin was rewarded with this rank because of his high degree of experience and technical knowledge.

In 1956, Benjamin and Eloise moved to Detroit after spending some time with his family in Georgia. After settling in Detroit, Benjamin held several jobs, during his life. He worked at Carl Auto Shop as an electrical engineer. On June 22, 1966, he was employed as a frame assembly line worker for the Ford Motor Company at their Rouge Plant. Because of his passion for cars, Benjamin left Ford Motor Company after 20 years of service to pursue his dream of having his own auto repair business.

Benjamin, a self-taught, master mechanic, successfully opened Lee’s Auto Shop and was known as one of the, “best Eastside mechanics”, in Detroit. He was successful because he was honest, fair, and would offer a payment plan or perform the work for free to needy customers. He was also known as a, “jack of all trades”, because he could fix anything he put his hands on. He was known by many names: “Littlebug, “Benna”, and “Lee Cross”. Benjamin was known for his tenacity to solve problems, he spent most of his leisure time

solving Cryptoquote puzzles, playing Bid Whist and Spades with family and friends. He also enjoyed watching a good boxing match. He was an avid chess player and on any given day, he could be found playing chess against his computer. For those who knew and loved him, he was known to reply to something by saying: “No s#!”. When asked how he was doing Benjamin would adamantly say, “Everything is running smooth”. Known for his quick wit, charm, the ability to think fast on his feet, and sense of humor, people of all ages were easily drawn to him.

In the early morning of July 7, 2020, at the John D. Dingell Veterans Hospital in Detroit, Benjamin made his peaceful transition after a long battle with COPD.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI 48442

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Benjamin Franklin Lee, Sr.*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Please accept our deepest sympathy in your lost. From Bill and Verdell Pipkins and family.*

W. Pipkins - July 21, 2020 at 04:08 PM



“ *Please accept our deepest sympathy.
May the God of all comfort help to ease the pain of your grief. Truly sorry for your loss.*

Evans family - July 20, 2020 at 05:19 AM