



## Mr. Clarence Jackson Ball

January 14, 1926 - August 21, 2014

### The Life Of Clarence Jackson Ball, Sr.

Clarence Jackson Ball, Sr. was born on January 14, 1926, in Union Town, Alabama, to loving parents, Moses and Caldonia Ball. Clarence was the youngest of three children, his sister Cleotha and brother William (preceded him in death). He was educated in Union Town, Alabama at Stephens Elementary, Lincoln Normal School (which he loved) and in 1944 he became a certified welder after completion of a welding program.

Clarence accepted Christ at an early age, remaining an active member of Stephens Memorial Baptist Church (Union Town, AL), Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Detroit, MI) and lastly, Palestine Missionary Baptist Church (Detroit, MI). With one of his favorite quotes, being, "I was raised by a praying mother, who always taught us the bible and prayed for me!" He understood the true meaning of being a Christian. He always opened his home to anyone that needed a place to lay their head. Especially if it was a member of his beloved Ball or Stephens families! His home, on Ohio Street was a no judgment zone, all were welcomed and that was a true example of "Christian principles."

In 1944, after working at the Naval Ship Yard, in Mobile, Alabama, Clarence, moved to Detroit, MI, at the age of 18, to put his welding certification to work. But because of the racial climate in Detroit, in 1944, it was difficult to find

work. Clarence often told a story about this, saying, "I would take my welding certificate to places, with signs that read, hiring welders, and every time I'd walk to the door, the sign would be turned around and I'd be told, we're not hiring today!" Clarence was resilient and never one to quit, so he kept looking. When the opportunity arose and his cousin Lou Lipscomb introduced him to a friend who worked for Chrysler Corporation, he was ready for his blessing. Clarence proudly worked for 46 years, as an auto worker. He served in assembly, as a foreman and finally retiring as repairman. His coworkers and employees loved him, many saying he was truly a "good and honorable man!"

On October 16, 1948 Clarence, married the love of his life, Bettye. This union was ordained by God as it lasted for 66 years which was evident in their friendship, and concern for one another's well being. They were committed to one another, no matter what circumstances or situations arose. As he would say; "Bettye I got your back, just like Gee Gee had Brianna's back!" They shared many good times, they had a lot in common, and they understood each other. They enjoyed spending time together with family and friends. Because of his understanding of Christ, he understood his responsibility to his wife, and children. Clarence was an exceptionally responsible man, a great father and grandfather, he always made sure his wife and children were safe and cared for.

Clarence, enjoyed his life, he had many hobbies, his favorite being fishing for countless hours, playing poker, driving Chrysler's finest cars, reading the Detroit Free Press, everyday, preparing for the race track, by thoroughly reading his racing form, attending the Stephens Family Reunion, going to the Sha-Max on Friday nights, and most importantly spending time with his family and friends. Clarence understood family and the importance of friendship. He spent countless hours with his favorite cousins Fletcher, Sam and his close friends George Jones and Robert Williams. In his later years, he would love to see his great-grandchildren, often going to basketball and baseball games or

hanging out at home, giving cookies to every child he could find on the block (Christian principles). His stories were the best, often leaving you on the edge of your seat. He spoke of his beloved mother and father and he loved to talk about his life. He could have written a bestselling book! He was so happy to take his final drive to Kentucky; in May 2014, to witness his granddaughter graduate from college, and for that he was truly thankful.

Clarence will be missed by all, as he has been a positive light for so many, his smile, suits and hats were always a welcoming sight. He was confident, charismatic and loved people.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Cemetery

19975 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48203

# Previous Events

## Visitation

Thursday, Aug. **28**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

## Family Hour

Friday, Aug. **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Grace Temple  
23500 W. 7 Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 543-6000

## Funeral Service

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Friday, Aug. **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Grace Temple  
23500 W. 7 Mile Road  
Detroit, MI 48219  
(313) 543-6000

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Clarence Jackson Ball*

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January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Dwight and Felecia Pryor purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Clarence Jackson Ball.*



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**Dwight and Felecia Pryor** - August 28, 2014 at 04:47 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Clarence Jackson Ball.*



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August 27, 2014 at 01:42 PM