



Mr. Melvin James France, Sr.

July 27, 1944 - November 29, 2006

No obituary found for this tribute.

Previous Events

Visitation

Wednesday, Dec. **6.** 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

Thursday, Dec. **7.** 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Institutional Church
17100 West Seven Mile Road
Detroit, MI 48235

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Melvin James France, Sr.*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“*Dear Sister and Family: Our hearts are overwhelmed, yet filled with gratitude, when we think of all that Melvin has meant to us throughout the years of your richly blessed marriage. To know Melvin was to love Melvin, and it was indeed an honor to claim him as our "brother". We always felt that he was more, much more, than a brother-in-law. We will always remember the visits to Detroit and Southfield and the times that we shared at the kitchen table (one of our favorite spots where we were surrounded by the enticing smells resulting from your culinary skills, Lelia), the living room, screened porch, and backyard, all areas filled with sounds of laughter and whispers of love. Thank you, dear sister, for blessing us with your choice of a soulmate and for unselfishly sharing Melvin with us. We would like to think of Jesus as being "King of Kings" in the France household and Melvin reigning as honorary Prince, a prince who governed with a spirit of gentleness, compassion, selflessness, and overflowing love for others. Melvin had the uncanny ability to make everyone who walked into his castle feel at home, at ease, and accepted for who they were. Al and I shall greatly miss Melvin, but we are determined to meet him again one day in the new Jerusalem, our eternal home. We stand with you, the boys (now, young men), your granddaughter, Mel's siblings and their spouses in love, support, and heartfelt prayer now and in the days ahead. Although tomorrow may seem fearful, lonely, and perhaps at times, too much to bear, don't worry, because God is already there. We love you and admire you tremendously, Lelia, for the grace, strength, courage, and dignity that you have demonstrated during this chapter of your life. Though deeply impacted by Melvin's loss, we shall always be blessed by the beautiful love song that you and Melvin sang, a perfect duet and melody that began at home and resonated throughout the community, workplace, and far beyond, touching the hearts and lives of those privileged to know you two lovebirds. Take care of yourself, dear sister, and be assured that we are always there for you.*

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ". (Titus 2:13)

*With love always and heartfelt prayer,
Diane and Al##imported-begin##Diane and Al Dawson##imported-
end##*

January 01, 2007 at 01:31 AM



“ *Dear France Family,*

*I thoughts and prayers about God keeping you in this transitional
time of your lives continue to be the center of our time with the Lord.
May the Lord continue to keep you and guide you day by day and
even moment by moment.*

Please remember,

*We are only a phone call away##imported-begin##Robert and
Blanche Troup, Jr. ##imported-end##*

December 08, 2006 at 10:33 PM



“ *To Lelia & Family, I regret that I was unable to attend Mel's going
home services. My sincerest smpathy to you and your family. May
god be with you during this difficult time. Your Mel was a General in
God's army. He will be missed by all that knew him. My prayers
goes out to you sis.*

Love always

*Fred##imported-begin##Fred Alston, New York City ##imported-
end##*

December 08, 2006 at 11:15 AM



“ *Lelia and family,*

We are deeply saddened by Mel's passing. Our words may not comfort you at this time, but know that our hearts feel your loss.

*We love you.##imported-begin##Chris and Tiana Person
##imported-end##*

December 07, 2006 at 09:33 PM



“ *all my wishes and condolences to the France family.*

Leroy Brinkley##imported-begin##Leroy T. Brinkley##imported-end##

December 07, 2006 at 04:25 PM



“ *Dear Lelia and family, what a special man Mel was. I reflect warmly on my time with him, his warm smile and positive attitude. I always felt better after seeing him because his attitude was so contagious! He was always willing to help out and played a hands on role when we were establishing Southfield Kappa League in 1989. He truly cared about our young men and wanted to do his part to make a difference. His presence will be missed by many.*

Our prayers are with you during this period and we pray for your healing.

*George & Jill Hamilton##imported-begin##George
Hamilton##imported-end##*

December 07, 2006 at 03:23 PM



“ to Lelia France and the family: I think of Mel and thank God that he lived and touched my life. He was a fierce friend, trusted advisor, and joyous companion. Like David Branch I remember as he would pull me aside saying "lookahere Metcalf". And with head lowered to hear the sound of his voice, I gained his insight, wisdom and his humor. I am a better man from knowing him and am indebted to him. See you Brother Mel, in the resurrection.##imported-begin##Ralph Metcalf##imported-end##

December 07, 2006 at 01:30 AM



“ My heart goes out to the family. May God bless and keep you. Remember the good times and keep Mel's memory alive. I feel like part of the family because Mel got such a kick out of me having the same last name of France! Much love to all the family.

Leah France##imported-begin##Leah France##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 10:07 PM



“ My condolences are with the family. If there's anything I can do, please don't hesitate to call. Much love.

"D"##imported-begin##Gerald Morris (D)##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 10:02 PM



“ May GOD bless and hold you in your time of need. Know that he is able to sustain and cover you with his Love, Grace and Mercy##imported-begin##L Ato polk##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 09:49 PM



“ My prayers are with you always.##imported-begin##Patricia Everett##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 07:33 PM



“ To: Melvin France Family
I remember when I met Al and Melvin back in the early 70's
The things I remember most about them were their big friendly
smiles and personality. They would come into a gathering that was
on the quiet uneventful side and before long everybody was happy
and cheerful.
They carried themselves like proud Black men
who knew who they were and
and who they were representing in life and that was Christ Jesus.
Lela I remember your beautiful smile too.
You and Melvin just had a bright glow about yourselves and
displayed so much love for all that came in contact with you.
Now that Melvin is gone he will never be forgotten in the hearts and
minds of all that Loved him.

I realize mere words does little to ease your loss right now
but may it bring some comfort in
knowing that we love you and
will continue to pray that God will lead and guide you through this
time in your life.##imported-begin##D. Jean Kennedy-
Neely##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 07:29 PM



“ Dear Lelia,

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your husband. You and your family are in my prayers, and you have my deepest sympathy.

Love,

Lorine##imported-begin##Lorine C. Mays##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 06:42 PM



“ *As my spiritual and Optimist brother, I will miss Mel, but anyone who knew him realizes the positive impact that he has had on everyone. Mel made the world a better place by being here. His last request of me was for my prayers. The prayers will continue for the family and those who had the benefit of knowing Mel.*

SAM##imported-begin##Samuel Craig##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 12:39 PM



“ *My sincerest sympathy to the family during this time of sadness.*

Love,

Juanda##imported-begin##Mrs. Juanda Bell-Boxley##imported-end##

December 06, 2006 at 09:52 AM



“ MEL WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND RELATIVE.
NOT A MAN OF TOO MANY WORDS, BUT THOSE WORDS
WERE MOST OFTEN PROFOUND.
I WILL BE MISSING YOU.
TAKE CARE###imported-begin##LARRY BURKETTE##imported-
end##

December 06, 2006 at 06:43 AM



“ Lelia,
Mel has gone to glory but we will never forget him. We will continue
to pray for God's grace. God bless you and the children. Love
Walter and Michell###imported-begin##Walter and Michell
Henry##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 09:46 PM



“ Good bye for now to a valued friend .May God bless and keep you
and your family .###imported-begin##Mr & Mrs Gene
Moss##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 09:41 PM



“ Dear France Family,

On behalf of my husband, Pastor David Washington Jr., and my
family, we offer our deepest sympathy at this time. May God's love,
mercy, grace, and "peace that surpasses all understanding"
envelope your hearts, minds, bodies, and souls.###imported-
begin##Errica (McPherson) Washington ##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 04:44 PM



“ To: Lee France and Family, My prayers are with you and your family at this time of bereavement. May God comfort you with his love. Love Peggy Abram##imported-begin##Peggy Abram##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 02:38 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Debra Whiting##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 02:22 PM



“ Alexander "Beda" France and the entire France family.

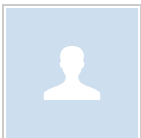
My prayers are with you during your time of bereavement. Mel was a wonderful and valiant fighter and he will be missed greatly by everyone.

In the coming days take solace in the blessing that God has given you in a loving husband, father, brother and friend.

God be with you.

Sandy##imported-begin##Sandra A. Cavette##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 01:15 PM



“ Our Deepest Sympathy goes out to you and your family.##imported-begin##Rohn & Yvonne Baker##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 10:07 AM



“ We at the Carpenter's household wish to extend our deepest regrets on the passing of your loved one. We cherish the card that we received from your family last month during our time of bereavement. May God continue to hold you in the palm of His hand and strenthen you as you pick up the pieces without your love one. God Bless and Keep You!###imported-begin##Minister Donald & Pam Carpente###imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 09:31 AM



“ Dear Family Members,

I am so proud to have known Mel. He was one of the first people that I met when I started working at the Michigan Department of Education. Being a young, eager and dedicated employee I worked through many lunch hours and breaks and one day Mel saw me doing this and he brought a paper over to my office for me to read. The title of the paper was "The Eager Neophyte". Then Mel said to me: "Flora there's more work to do in here than we can do in a lifetime". It put a whole new perspective on things for me.

I would like you to know, as I am sure you already do, that Mel was a very kind, gentle soul who treated everyone with respect and dignity. He often spoke of his family with love and pride. You can all be proud of the way he lived and the positive impression that he has had on the people with whom he came in contact. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Sincerely,

Flora L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Professional Preparation Services

Michigan Department of Education##imported-begin##Flora L.

Jenkins##imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 08:44 AM



“ *Mama France, Mo, Priscilla, & Mel*

Draw Near to God and He will Draw Near You. James 4:8 There are times in life when our hearts are broken and our spirits weary. There are times in life when we can't lean on our own understanding, when we can't see past our circumstances. These are the time when all we can do is draw closer to God. Praying for your peace. love monique###imported-begin###monique hunt###imported-end##

December 05, 2006 at 08:23 AM



“ *Our prayers are with you. My God keep you. Stay strong.###imported-begin###Mr & Mrs Larry Moseley Sr.###imported-end##*

December 04, 2006 at 08:35 PM



“ *Lela,
My prayers are with you and your family. Mel was very special and he will be truly missed. Don't hesitate to call if you need something.###imported-begin###Eddie Hoskins###imported-end##*

December 04, 2006 at 04:51 PM



“ *To Lelia and the Family,
Mel was truley a special person that will be missed by all. Mel had that special gift that always made you feel welcomed and happy to see him. He would always start his sentence off by saying " Look at here" Mel will forever be a part of us all.*

Love you guys

The Branch Family##imported-begin##David Branch##imported-end##

December 04, 2006 at 02:28 PM



“ *To The France Family,*

I love you and my prayers are with you during this time of bereavement. I am here for you - just call. Always remember, there is no sorrow that Heaven can not heal. Look to God, He is your Comforter.

*With the love of Christ,
Carl, Natasha and Demoine##imported-begin##Natasha
Roberts##imported-end##*

December 04, 2006 at 10:59 AM



“ Moe & Priscilla,

My prayers are with you and your family. I pray that God holds you all in His arms and comfort you during this time of grief. I loved watching your parents sing karaoke together. They were serious about their song! :) It was so evident that they were truly in love and enjoyed being together and spending time with their family. I love you both!##imported-begin##Nataki Harris##imported-end##

December 04, 2006 at 10:58 AM



“ May God Bless The France Family

Karen and Stan Britney##imported-begin##Karen Britney##imported-end##

December 04, 2006 at 10:33 AM



“ My prayers are with you guys during this time, much love.##imported-begin##Karyn M. Williams##imported-end##

December 04, 2006 at 10:23 AM



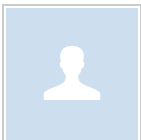
“ Dear Lelia,

We are truly sorry for the loss of your husband, soul mate, and friend. But, we know that he is in a better place where his suffering has come to an end. Mel was a wonderful person and possessed all the qualities of a virtuous man. We have been blessed to know you and Mel and feel that we had become part of your family. We are so very glad that we had the good fortune to spend his 65th birthday with him and to see the joy that your thoughtfulness and hard work brought to him. Even in his illness he still was thoughtful enough to be concerned about the struggles that I was experiencing with my health. And, pressed on and supported us during our time of bereavement with the death of Dahyl's mother. His act of kindness and love has made an indelible impression in our hearts. We want you to know that WE are here for you and will not forget you!

With Love and Prayers,

*Dahyl and Linda##imported-begin##Mr. and Mrs. Dahyl
Littleton##imported-end##*

December 03, 2006 at 03:56 PM



“ Lelia:

Our continued thoughts, prayers and love are with you and the boys during this difficult time. Although Mel is in God's care, we can all smile at the fact that his "other wife" (Our mom) is there to receive him.##imported-begin##Harvey & Debbie##imported-end##

December 03, 2006 at 11:10 AM



“ *May you find solace and peace in God's love.##imported-begin##Gaylotta & Larry Murray##imported-end##*

December 03, 2006 at 12:05 AM



“ *To Priscilla and Family,*

We are keeping you and your family in our prayers. Dealing with loss is never easy, but a loving support system near, it makes dealing with grief just a little easier. Know that we are here for you and your family.##imported-begin##CDAD##imported-end##

December 02, 2006 at 01:48 PM



“ *To Lelia and Family:*

Our love, thoughts, and prayers are with you. Mel was very special in the lives of many of us. We will miss him a great deal and pray that we will all see him again in eternity.

Chris and Terri Carswell##imported-begin##Chris Carswell##imported-end##

December 02, 2006 at 08:46 AM