



Chief Van Tyrone Tatum I

September 20, 1946 - March 22, 2015

My Story:

Van Tyrone Tatum was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on September 20, 1946. He was the oldest of seven children blessing the marriage of Charles Buford Tatum Jr., and Helen Tatum. Van was confirmed in 1960 at St. Andrew Redeemer Lutheran Church. He attended St. Leo Catholic School, McMichael Junior High School and was a 1965 graduate of Detroit Northwestern High School where he played football and baseball for the Colts. After high school, Van served his country by voluntarily enlisting in the United States Army in 1966 and was honorably discharged in 1968 after completing his enlistment.

Prior to serving in the Army, Van married his high school sweetheart, Rosalind Howard in 1966 and their union would later add three children: Van, Keith and Natalie. Van was a very diligent and hard worker, after his military service in 1968 he went to work in the foundry at Ford Motor Company and was later selected in 1969 to attend the Detroit Fire Fighter Training Academy. After graduating from the Fire Academy in 1969, he served as a Fire Fighter and Fire Fighter Driver for several years throughout the city of Detroit. Van was promoted to Lieutenant in 1985, where he served as Detroit Fire Department Water Supply Investigator and through his hard work and industrious efforts he would ultimately be promoted in 1988 to the rank of Chief, where he served as Chief of the Water Division. He retired in 1991, after serving 22 years with

the Detroit Fire Department.

To all those that knew Van, they knew he loved life and he lived life to the fullest. He was a wonderful, caring and loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend that did anything for those he cared for and loved. Van absolutely and unequivocally loved being a fire fighter, he enjoyed working with the men and women of the Detroit Fire Department. During downtime at the fire house between runs he was known to cook delicious meals and also play practical jokes and prank the guys to help lighten the mood of the fire house. Van loved the city of Detroit, Northwestern High School, fishing, swimming, football, baseball, softball, cooking, grilling and gardening.

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

1200 Elmwood Ave.
Detroit, MI 48207

Previous Events

Visitation

Sunday, Mar. **29**. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Family Hour

Monday, Mar. **30**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

Monday, Mar. **30**. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Chief Van Tyrone Tatum I*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *To the Family of Van Tyrone Tatum I,
During your time of bereavement, please find comfort in knowing
that God truly has concern for you and can provide comfort to you
during your time of bereavement as stated at Psalms 146:5,9.
Therefore, in the days ahead please look to his word the Bible for
the comfort that only he can provide. My condolences are extended
to the Tatum Family.*

S. Henderson - March 31, 2015 at 07:39 PM