

A Celebration of the Life of
Russel Hicks

June 24, 1943 † March 23, 2026



Friday, June 26, 2026

Visitation 9:00 AM | Memorial Service 9:30 AM

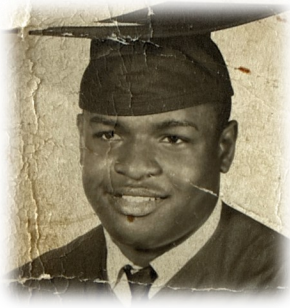
DAVIS FUNERAL HOME

654 Cummins Highway, Mattapan, Massachusetts

REVEREND WAYNE S. DALEY, OFFICIATING

Photograph by: Russel Hicks

Reflections



Russel Hicks was born on June 24th, 1943, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, the youngest and fifth child of Corrine and Richard Hicks. Shortly after his birth, the family relocated to Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Sadly, Russel lost both of his parents early in life, leaving his older sister, Maryland, to raise him and his brother, Richard, while she was raising her own young family. It was a responsibility she accepted with love and devotion.

Russel proudly admired all his siblings—Mozella, Clarence, Maryland, and Richard—all of whom preceded him in death. Their love for one another endured throughout their lives, but his bond with Maryland, who became both sister and mother to him, held a particularly special place in his heart.

Russel was an excellent student and a standout linebacker for the Booker T. Washington High School Lions. Many of you know that he remained close to his classmates throughout his life. He attended every class reunion he physically could and carefully preserved yearbooks, reunion programs, and photographs from those gatherings—a testament to how deeply he valued lifelong friendships and shared memories.

Immediately after graduating from high school, Russel joined the United States Army, where he faithfully served for six years before receiving an honorable discharge in June 1967. During his military career, he completed a seven-month tour in Korea. Unknown to many of us, Russel also became an expert rifle marksman. I only learned this while sorting through his belongings after his passing, when I came across his military records and later discovered his rifle standing quietly in the back of a closet that had remained untouched for nearly thirty years.

Following his military service, Russel relocated to Boston and built a career as a welder at General Dynamics, where military vessels were manufactured. Shortly after arriving in Boston, he met the absolute love of his life, Betty Robinson. They quickly became inseparable and began building a life together.

When Betty and Russel met, Betty had a four-year-old daughter, Michele, and Russel embraced the role of father figure with joy and devotion, spoiling her incessantly. He also developed a deep affection for Betty's mother, Elizabeth Robinson, whom he adored and always respectfully addressed as "Mrs. Robinson." Though she became a mother figure to him, and despite her protests, Russel insisted on calling her "Mrs. Robinson" as a sign of the respect and gratitude he felt for her.

After nearly thirty-five years together, Betty lost her battle with lung cancer and passed away on July 11th, 1998. Though her passing left an enormous void, Russel's love for her never faded, and he oftentimes said, "I loved Betty like no other."

The richness of his relationships—with family, chosen family, and friends—shaped his life and gave him purpose. Russel was generous to a fault. He shared what he had and, at times, what he himself lacked, with others.

As many of you can attest, he loved cooking and photography, and he used both passions to bring people together. Birthdays, holidays, and milestones often meant fantastic meals, wonderful conversations, and, of course, countless photographs. A visit to Russel and Betty's home guaranteed all three.

As I prepared for today's Celebration of Life, I discovered thousands of photographs—many I had never seen before—capturing the moments that became the stories he loved sharing with us. Through those pictures, I realized that Russel had quietly preserved not just memories, but pieces of all our lives.

Generosity, humor, faith, integrity, loyalty, curiosity, and service were not merely qualities Russel possessed—they were qualities he practiced every day, even when his body began to fail him.

Known only to his physicians, Russel battled a slow-growing cancer for many years before it eventually metastasized and affected other organs. Characteristically, he chose not to burden others and shared his diagnosis with no one—not even immediate family members. Only when the struggle became too great did he reluctantly tell a handful of us.

Continued: And whenever you asked how he was feeling, he would invariably reply, “I feel wonderful,” even when it was obvious that he was in pain. And almost every conversation ended with the same words:

“Stay blessed.”

As his health declined, Russel often reminded me that he had lived a life rich in family, chosen family, and friends. He knew he had been blessed, and he lived with gratitude for the relationships that sustained him. Sadly, Russel departed this life on March 23rd of this year.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Michele Scott; his granddaughter, Ashley Scott Lezama; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and their families; his chosen family; and many dear friends whose lives were forever touched by his kindness and love.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize and thank those whose acts of love—both large and small—brought comfort, companionship, and dignity to Russel over the past several years, but especially the past two years.

Specifically – James “Jimmy Lee” Cromartie, Sam & Betty Guynn, Lisa Reid & Spencer “Spence” Franklin, Janika Gates, The Williams Family and The Council Family.

Your kindness mattered, and your presence in his life was a blessing.

Again, thank you for joining us today.

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE		Paul White
OPENING PRAYER		Rev. Wayne Daley
SOLO SELECTION	<i>“His Eye Is On The Sparrow”</i>	Athene Wilson
SCRIPTURE READINGS		Rev. Wayne Daley
OLD TESTAMENT	<i>Psalms 121</i>	
NEW TESTAMENT	<i>John 14:1-6</i>	
PRAYER OF COMFORT		Rev. Wayne Daley
REFLECTION		Robert Alan
REMARKS	<i>2 minutes please</i>	
SOLO SELECTION	<i>“Blessed Assurance”</i>	Athene Wilson
BENEDICTION		Rev. Wayne Daley
ORGAN POSTLUDE		Paul White

Procession to Mount Hope Cemetery

355 Walk Hill Street Boston, MA

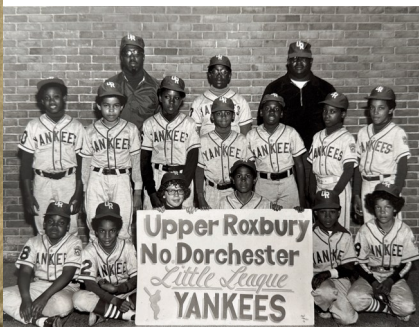
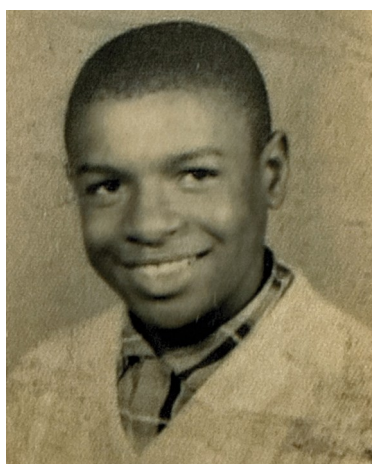
Following the burial, you are invited to join the family in fellowship at:

Cathay Pacific
111 Hancock Street Quincy, MA

In Memoriam

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23

With profound gratitude, we celebrate a life marked by faith, love, quiet strength, and unwavering devotion to family and friends. Though our hearts are heavy with loss, they are equally filled with thanksgiving for the countless blessings his life bestowed upon us. Entrusting him to God's eternal care and resting in the hope of resurrection, we cherish his memory, honor his legacy, and carry his love with us always. Until we meet again, may God's grace and peace abide with us all.



In Gratitude

The Family of Russel Hicks is forever grateful for your prayers, telephone calls, text messages filled with words of encouragement, greeting cards, home-cooked meals, companionship during doctor visits and unexpected trips to the emergency room, pick-ups and drop-offs, overnight care, special treats, and unwavering love and support.

In addition, Russel was blessed with an exceptional medical team, including dedicated oncologists, nurses, aides, and home health care professionals who treated, cared for, loved, and fought alongside him throughout his courageous battle.

Special recognition is deserved by Sonya Council and her family, who lovingly welcomed Russel into their home and cared for him during the final days of his life. Their compassion, selflessness, and devotion brought comfort, dignity, and peace to Russel and provided immeasurable solace to his family. We will remain forever grateful for their extraordinary kindness and love.

