

## **Richard James Luckie**

July 29, 1940 - May 11, 2024

Richard Luckie was born in Pine Level, near Greenville, Alabama to the union of Mary Carter-Luckie and Henry (Buster) Luckie. He was the sixth of seven children. Richard accepted Christ at an early age and became a member of the St. Paul Baptist Church of Greenville Alabama. Upon completing high school at Lomax in Greenville, Richard enlisted in the United States Army. After his military service, Richard briefly returned to Greenville before relocating to Chicago, Illinois.

Richard became a manager of a food warehouse and distribution facility in Chicago. He would eventually meet the love of his life, Ms. Sonja Thurston and the two were married for 51 years until Sonja's passing in May 2023. The couple also resided in Kalamazoo, Michigan for a number of years where they were owners of a retail store. The couple retired to Tennessee in 2001. Richard and Sonja did everything together from traveling, which they thoroughly enjoyed, to attending and hosting family reunions, to playing card and board games. They were a fun couple who loved to laugh and express love to their family and friends.

Richard was a devoted husband who provided constant care for Sonja, especially during her prolonged illness and served as her primary care provider. His level of devotion and dedication serves as a model for others that underscores the marriage vows "for sickness and health for better or worse": he lived his faith to the fullest. He really enjoyed gardening, which he learned from his grandmother Lula, and cooking gleaned from his grandmother Julia.

Richard was preceded in death by both parents and by sisters Clattie Stewart, Mable Luckie and Rosie Simmons, as well as brothers Milton and Eddie Lee Luckie. He leaves to mourn his passing one sister, Sarah Owens, Chicago, Illinois; one son, Eddie "Earl" Phifer, Greenville, Alabama; two grandsons, Reggie and Mickie Wade, and one granddaughter, Maylo Pond, all of Pensacola, Florida. He also leaves 16 great grandchildren; Nathaniel Wade, Oakland, California, Tazbrail Dashawn Wade Jr., Destephino Wade, Reginald Wade Jr., Regineya Wade, Tianna McShane, Jada Wade, Jada Cesar, Marquis Richardson, Devion Wade, Aniya Wade, Janiqua Wade, Kenny Dukes, Quentin Royal Wade, Zuri Kamille Wade, and Bree Pond--all of Pensacola, Florida, along with one great-great grandson. In addition he leaves devoted nephews Curtis (Lisa) Stewart, Montgomery, Alabama; Albert (Lydia) Stewart, Manassas, Virginia; Gene Stewart, Greenville, Alabama; Malcolm Owens and Alfonsa Luckie, Chicago Illinois; nieces Sandara Carter and Cheryl (Carl) Harris, Chicago, Illinois; as well as a host of great nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 2:00 at Companion Funeral Home in Cleveland, Tennessee. The internment will occur at Lee Cemetery in McDonald Tennessee, with Pastor Darrel Lovelady presiding. The family requests cards and reflections be sent to Mr. Eddie Phifer at 907 Kylo Drive, Greenville, Alabama 36037.

# Poem --- Don't Cry for Me

by Deborah Garcia Gaitan

**Don't cry for me.  
I will be okay.  
Heaven is my home now,  
and this is where I'll stay.**

**Don't cry for me.  
I'm where I belong.  
I want you to be happy  
and try to stay strong.**

**Don't cry for me.  
It was just my time,  
but I will see you someday  
on the other side.**

**Don't cry for me.  
I am not alone.  
The angels are with me  
to welcome me home.**

**Don't cry for me,  
for I have no fear.  
All my pain is gone,  
and Jesus took my tears.**

**Don't cry for me.  
This is not the end.  
I'll be waiting here for you  
when we meet again.**