



## Poem

I CAME INTO THIS LIFE  
 YOU HELD ME IN YOUR ARMS  
 YOU KEPT ME SAFE  
 SO NO ONE COULD HARM  
  
 YOU TAUGHT ME VALUES  
 LESSONS IN LIFE I WOULD LEARN  
 YOU TAUGHT ME TO RESPECT;  
 I GAVE YOU LOVE IN RETURN.  
  
 YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN MY LIFE  
 THROUGH THICK AND THIN,  
 AND NOW MY LONELY JOURNEY  
 WITHOUT YOU WILL BEGIN.  
  
 FOR YOU WERE MY HERO,  
 FOREVER AND A DAY.  
 YOU WILL ALWAYS REMAIN THAT HERO  
 TILL I MEET YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY.  
  
 I WILL EMBRACE YOU IN MY ARMS  
 AND HOLD ON TIGHT.  
 I WILL STAND BY YOUR SIDE  
 AND YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE MY SIGHT.  
  
 I MISS YOU SO MUCH.  
 THE PAIN DOES NOT EASE.  
 I PRAY YOU ARE HAPPY  
 AND FINALLY AT PEACE  
  
 LOVE YOU  
 UNCLE ROBERT LEE RHODES



## Pallbearers

Joseph Clark  
Stephen Rhodes

Brian Barrows, Sr.  
Rashaun Burkes  
William Andrews

Jeffrey Burton-Rhodes  
Joaquin Thomas

## Acknowledgment

The family of Robert Lee Rhodes wishes to Thank You for your expressions of kindness and sympathy during this difficult time.



*Davis Funeral Home*  
 89 Walnut Avenue, Roxbury  
 654 Cummins Highway, Mattapan  
 617 427-0828 617 296-1755  
[www.DavisOfBoston.com](http://www.DavisOfBoston.com)

## A Celebration of the Life of

# Robert Lee Rhodes

*Sunrise*

*Sunset*

Monday, September 5, 1959 ~ Monday, September 2, 2023



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 at 11 AM  
**ROXBURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 328 Warren Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts  
*Rev. Virginia Coakley, Officiating*  
 Interim Moderator of Roxbury Presbyterian Church USA

# Life Reflections



**R**obert Lee Rhodes, born September 5, 1959, in Sumter, South Carolina, peacefully entered eternal rest on September 2, 2023, at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the beloved son of Albertha and the late Leon Rhodes. He was affectionately known as Uncle Rob within his family.

Robert's journey began in Boston, MA, where he graduated from English High School and subsequently served in the United States Navy, inspired by his Uncle James Polk, Sr. Over the years, he honed his culinary skills by attending culinary school at the Omni Parker House Hotel. Shortly after, he began working as a chef in renowned establishments like the Hyatt Regency Boston and the lunch counter at Sparr's Drugstore. For 28 years, Robert dedicated himself as a bus monitor for special needs children in the Boston Public Schools.

He cherished his role as a devoted son, caring brother, and loving uncle, playing a significant part in raising nieces and nephews. Robert's daughter, Shaniqua, and granddaughter, Justice, were a source of immense joy, and he treasured their time together. He consistently encouraged and supported his family, imparting life lessons and his unwavering faith.

Robert was a talented portrait artist and an exceptional cook. His passions included fishing, beach excursions, music, dancing, storytelling, and sharing laughter with friends and family.

Robert was preceded in death by his father, Leon Rhodes, maternal grandmother Mary Martha Polk, paternal grandparents Mary and Malachai Rhodes, and sisters Doretha Rhodes-Igbo and Lethia Mae Rhodes (AKA Tisa). Robert is survived by his mother, Albertha Rhodes, his daughter Shaniqua Choice, granddaughter Justice Thomas-Choice, his sisters Martha Rhodes-Hodges of Midlothian, VA, Barbara Rhodes, and brother Melvin Rhodes, and a host of cherished aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Robert's memory will forever be cherished by those he touched with his warmth, love, and unwavering support.

# Order of Service

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Chase Grogan

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear God.

People: As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you says, the Lord.

## OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Virginia Coakley

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

*What A Friend We Have In Jesus*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elder Chase Grogan

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Yet we have strayed from your way; we have sinned through we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace symbolized in baptism, O God, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

## SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Virginia Coakley

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Thanks be to God.

## GLORIA PATRI

Congregation: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## SOLO

*His Eye is On The Sparrow*

Valerie Ingram

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Psalms 23*

Shaniqua Choice

## READING OF OBITUARY

Barbara Rhodes

## CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING

## PRAYER OF COMFORT

Deacon Linda Wright

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*John 14: 1-6*

Rev. Virginia Coakley

## SONG OF PRAISE

*My Life Is In Your Hands*

Thanayi Henry

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Rev. Virginia Coakley

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into Hades; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*Blessed Assurance*

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Virginia Coakley

## RECESSIONAL

PROCESSION TO MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY  
355 WALK HILL STREET MATTAPAN, MASSACHUSETTS