

In Loving Memory of

CLARENCE CARLISLE

6 NOVEMBER, 1949 - 10 JANUARY, 2026

23 JANUARY, 2026

VISITATION 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
CELEBRATION OF LIFE 12:00 PM

GRAND RAPIDS BETHEL
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1024 ADAMS ST SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49507

Order of Service



Processional

PRAYER	PASTOR DANIEL INNOCENT
OLD TESTAMENT	PASTOR FARAI NHIWATIWA
NEW TESTAMENT	JOEL BROOKS
SOLOIST	AVALON JONES CUTTS
REMARKS	PLEASE LIMIT (2 MINUTES)
OBITUARY	STEPHANIE LEAKS
SOLOIST	AVALON JONES CUTTS
EULOGY	PASTER ELTON HARDY

Recessional

OBITUARY

CLARENCE CARLISLE, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS “SWEET C,” AGE 76, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, ENTERED ETERNAL REST ON JANUARY 10, 2026, IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. HE WAS CALLED HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD, WHOM HE LOVED AND FAITHFULLY SERVED. CLARENCE WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 6, 1949, TO THE LATE ELMO AND OLLIE MAE CARLISLE SR. FROM AN EARLY AGE, HE WAS GROUNDED IN FAITH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY.

CLARENCE RECEIVED HIS EARLY EDUCATION AT MADISON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ATTENDED GRAND RAPIDS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL. HE CONTINUED HIS EDUCATION AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY, EARNING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK IN 1973, WHERE HE ALSO EXCELLED IN ATHLETICS AND WAS LATER INDUCTED INTO THE FERRIS STATE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME. A HARDWORKING MAN AND SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR, CLARENCE BELIEVED GOD BLESSED THE WORK OF HIS HANDS. HE OWNED AND OPERATED SEVERAL BUSINESSES, INCLUDING CLOTHING AND PARTY STORES, MANAGED MULTIPLE PROPERTIES AS A LANDLORD, AND WORKED PROFESSIONALLY AT GRAND RAPIDS JOB CORPS, RAPISTAN, AND THE KENT COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER, FROM WHICH HE RETIRED AFTER YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE.

A MAN OF FAITH, CLARENCE ALWAYS KEPT GOD FIRST. HE ENJOYED BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL, HAD AN APPRECIATION FOR FINE CLOTHING AND MUSIC, AND SHARED MEANINGFUL COMPANIONSHIP WITH CYNTHIA BUTLER. HIS LIFE REFLECTED GRATITUDE, PERSEVERANCE, AND PRAISE AS HE TRUSTED GOD THROUGH EVERY SEASON. AS SCRIPTURE DECLARES, "I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH." 2 TIMOTHY 4:7

SWEET C WAS NOT ONLY HANDSOME, BUT ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS IMPECCABLE SENSE OF STYLE AND LAID-BACK CHARM. WHETHER DRESSED IN FINE SUITS OR CAREFULLY CHOSEN ATTIRE, HE CARRIED HIMSELF WITH INTENTION, AND WHEN HE ENTERED A ROOM, HIS WARMTH AND CHARISMA WERE IMMEDIATELY FELT. "FINE AS WINE AND SHARP AS A TACK."

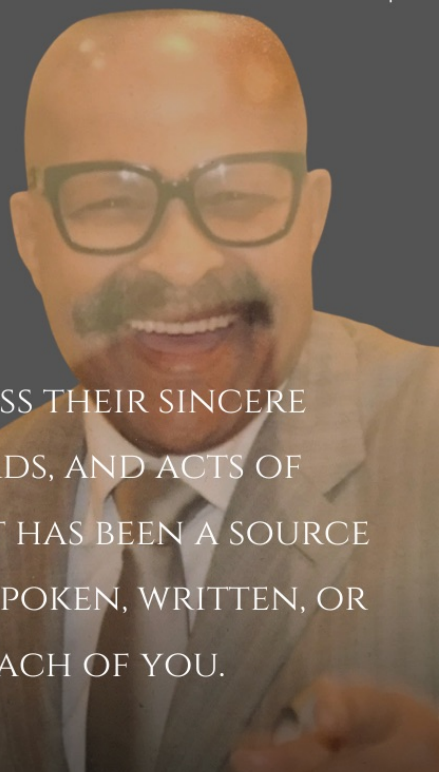
CLARENCE WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS BELOVED PARENTS; FIVE BROTHERS: MC, JC, ROBERT EARL, ELMO JR., AND FRANK LAWRENCE; ONE SISTER, EDNA MAE; AND LIFELONG FRIENDS EZELL ROBERTS, WILLIE BEARDS, JOHN RHODES, LACY WALKER, GENO PEA, HERSCHEL TURNER, JOHN SMITH, AND CARL SMITH. THOUGH THEY HAVE GONE BEFORE HIM, WE TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING THEY ARE REUNITED IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

HE ALSO LEAVES TO CHERISH HIS MEMORY FOUR DEVOTED SISTERS: LUCILLE BARNES, RUBY (JOHN) JIMMERSON, KATHLEEN COUCH, AND IRENE EAST, ALONG WITH A HOST OF NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS, AND FRIENDS. CLARENCE WAS BLESSED WITH LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH LARRY COLBERT, LARRY HARPER, DAVID FOSTER SR., LARRY COBBINS, MICHAEL TIMMS, RICHARD (DICKIE) JOBE SR., AND JIMMY CARTER, AND SHARED A SPECIAL BOND WITH HIS TEAMMATES CHARLES FULLER, LEWIS GARNER, DENNIS JOHNSON, AND LARRY WOLFORD, WHOSE FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE OF THE GAME REMAINED DEAR TO HIM.

HE LEAVES TO MOURN AND CELEBRATE HIS LIFE TWO SONS: BRANDON DAVIS (MOTHER, BARBARA BAKER) AND GENO CARLISLE (MOTHER, CAMILLE SMITH); ONE DAUGHTER, MICHELLE (MICHAEL) SPICER (MOTHER, DENISE LUSTER); SIX GRANDCHILDREN: MADISON, LONDON, MYLES, JORDAN, MASON, AND MILAN; AND THREE GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN: KHYLEN, BRAYLEN, AND ZAYLEN.

Pallbearers/Honorary Pallbearers

Jermaine Couch
Anthony Carlisle
Ricky Leaks
John Jimmerson
Marlon Brown
Michael Spicer
Frank Jimmerson
Paul Barnes
Jerry Couch



Acknowledgements

The family of Clarence Carlisle would like to express their sincere appreciation for the love, prayers, thoughtful words, and acts of support shown during this difficult time. Your support has been a source of comfort and strength, and each gesture, whether spoken, written, or felt, will always be remembered. May God bless each of you.

In God's Care

Clarence has completed his earthly journey and now rests in eternal peace with his Lord and Savior. He will be remembered for his love of family, strong friendships, and unwavering faith in God. While we mourn his passing, we rejoice in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Final Resting Place

Woodlawn Cemetery
2530 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Repast

Brown-Hutcherson Ministries
(Blue Building)
1065 36TH St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Toombs by Crystal Funeral Services