



## Allen Toussaint

November 10, 2015

Allen Richard Toussaint departed this life on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at the age of 77 in Madrid, Spain. Son of the late Clarence M. Toussaint and Naomi Neville-Toussaint, Father of Clarence Reginald (Sabrina) Toussaint, Alison (Herman) Toussaint-LeBeaux, Naomi Rios, Aeisha Toussaint, Stepfather of Jesse Quiet, Devoted Friend of Betty Weber, (mother of Reggie, Alison and Jesse), Longtime Companion and confidant of Sandra Merritt, Brother of Vincent Clarence Toussaint and the late Joyce Byrd. He is also survived by 6 grandchildren, Clarence M. Toussaint, Allen R. Toussaint, Herman J. LeBeaux, III, Hannah J. LeBeaux, Angelina Rios, Allena Rios and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Relatives and friends of the family, pastors, officers and members and employees of Life Gate Church, Word of Faith Church, Bethany United Methodist Church, Greater Grace Church, NOAAHH, Festival Productions, Inc. of NO, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, NYNO, Marsaint Music Inc., fans, and the Mayor and Citizen's of his beloved City of New Orleans are all invited to attend a Visitation on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Orpheum Theatre, 129 Roosevelt Way, New Orleans, LA 70112 from 8:00 am until 10:45 am. Tribute will begin at 11:00 am. Interment: Private. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to New Orleans Artists Against Hunger and Homelessness (NOAAHH), C/O Loyola University New Orleans, Campus Box 12, New Orleans, LA 70118 ([www.noaahh.org](http://www.noaahh.org)). Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125.

Please visit [www.rhodesfuneral.com](http://www.rhodesfuneral.com) to sign the guestbook.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ We saw Allen many times throughout the years, but never enough. He was (is) a giant of a musician and person. The real gentleman and spokesperson for NOLA and the musical world.

*John & Helen Stout*

---

**John & Helen Stout** - September 26, 2016 at 10:43 AM



“ I had the honor of having met this humble New Orleans native, of which I share the same background, in New York at The Joseph Papp Theatre on Astor Place back in the late 1990's. I sat in the very first row! Standing there in line, after his performance, with a few other fans, I finally got my turn to say hello. After informing Mr. Toussaint that I was original member of the Tremé Community/6th Warder, he said, "You look like 'one of Us' " meaning, there was something about me that resonated NEW ORLEANS! I was SO touched, not merely by his soft hands/shake and smile, but by his humility and genuineness. I still have one of the gifts he gave out that evening to his audience ~ a "2nd Line handkerchief" printed with musical notes that included his signature; a gift I shall always cherish and will now frame.

*~Robin H Dorantes~*

---

**Robin Dorantes** - December 12, 2015 at 10:08 AM

DB

“ Condolences to the family and the City he loved -

*His Listening touch has sparked a wave of compassion that will roll on and on for eternity.*

*Thanks for the bravery, Thanks for the joy!*

*Dave Bender*

---

**Dave Bender** - November 26, 2015 at 03:59 AM

JM

“ *Held door for Allen and his mother at a hotel. Went to table near them and enjoyed a meal nearby. A wonderful man. Most recently saw him perform in Napa Valley where we now live. Allen you will be missed by family, friends and all that love your music.*

*Jim and Lee Meehan  
Lagniappe Vineyards*

---

**Jim Meehan** - November 23, 2015 at 10:28 AM

VJ

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. I have fond memories of growing up with Allen in Gert Town. He has always been a good person and a talented musician. He will be greatly missed. Vernon James (Bris)*

---

**Vernon James** - November 22, 2015 at 08:06 PM



“ *I first heard his music as a college student. I have always loved his sound and his passion for the music.*

---

**Randolph Carnegie** - November 21, 2015 at 04:39 PM

ML

“ *Melinda Lyons lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint*



---

**Melinda Lyons** - November 21, 2015 at 04:06 PM

MW

“ *Reginald, Alison, Jesse, Betty and all of Allen's family and friends, I am Praying for you to get through this time with the peace that comes from the knowledge that God loves you and that he will take care of you. I love you'll. Mary Weber*

---

**Mary Weber** - November 21, 2015 at 08:21 AM



“ *Allen was a real friend, gentleman and an irreplaceable talent. He taught me so much. I feel blessed to have known him. The whole world will miss him. Willie West*

---

**Willie West** - November 21, 2015 at 05:37 AM



“ *Sir Allen,*

*You touched hearts around the world, and collaborated with my father Benny Spellman, during the hayday, of New Orleans R&B, the sixties! Your music and mastery will live on forever!*

*Blessings to Reggie and the Toussaint family.*

*Love you,*

*Judy Spellman,  
The daughter of the late Benny Spellman,*

---

**Judy Spellman** - November 21, 2015 at 12:23 AM



“ *Sending a message to the family of Allen.  
Sorry for y'all lost. He will be miss a whole lot.  
God Bless Y'all Family.*



---

**The Farve Family** - November 20, 2015 at 09:44 PM

LC

“ Some years back Mr. Toussaint played a performance on Austin City Limits. He closed with a rendition of Southern nights, I have never heard, it was magnificent, only a genius could compose and perform. New Orleans lost a musical genius, as well as a outstanding song writer and composer. The Toussaint family has lost there matriarch. Mr. Toussaint will be remembered in so many ways, as he touched all of us during his career, with all of his funky(music made for New Orleans and shared with the world) New Orleans music. The rhythm, of the sounds was absolutely New Orleans, all thanks to Allan Toussaint. All of the local musicians, who have in many cases grew up to the Toussaint style of music, are all blessed to have done so. Mr. Toussaint will forever be in the hearts of all who have had the good fortune of hearing his music, as sung by so many talented local musicians. I am sure his ever present smile is etched in all of our memories, Thanks to the Toussaint family for sharing this gentleman with us all. God bless. Never loose sight of the genius of the man.

---

**Larry Clasen** - November 20, 2015 at 09:30 PM

TF

“ The Farve Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Allen Toussaint



---

**The Farve Family** - November 20, 2015 at 09:28 PM

TF

“ *The Farve Family lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint*



**The Farve Family** - November 20, 2015 at 09:26 PM

AL

“ *My condolences to the family .We will ever remember that great artist.Cloudy and crying skies of Paris are forgotten when Allen music from Bright Mississippi leads us to heaven. from a big fan in Paris,France*

**Alain** - November 20, 2015 at 03:59 PM

LP

“ *To the Toussaint family: My husband and I had the pleasure of seeing Allen perform many times, both in and out of New Orleans. As avid music lovers, we see many, many performers, but few are as elegant, charming and exceedingly talented as Allen was. We had the good fortune of seeing him at Joe's Pub in NYC - one of our favorite shows of all time - and meeting him afterwards outside. He was so gracious and kind to us. We will miss him. The world will miss him. His music and our memories will be with us always!*

**Lynn Patmalnee** - November 20, 2015 at 11:12 AM

 Darrel Wise

“ *My condolences to the family.Yvonne Wise Yadonna West ,Lanita Wise May, Dorene Wise Carter and Tamala Wise.*



**Darrel Wise** - November 20, 2015 at 09:42 AM

EP

“ Edward J Cross III Edwards Printing lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint



Edward J Cross III Edwards Printing - November 19, 2015 at 11:56 PM

EO

“ To Mr. Toussaint 's family, please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. I find it hard to believe that we will never see him perform his wonderful music again. He gave so much joy through his music. Mr. Toussaint, you will be missed by everyone who knew you. Music in New Orleans just won't be the same. Bless you.

Elizabeth Ours - November 19, 2015 at 11:05 PM

SP

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Scott Paton - November 19, 2015 at 10:56 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Marie Carruthers - November 19, 2015 at 10:24 PM

RR

“ I had seen Allen many times perform and he was great, but what really blew me away is when I saw him just standing on the food court grass just hanging out waiting to meet and talk to people. I had just seen him with Elvis Costello and was amazed at the horn arrangements that he did for all of Elvis's songs, so I went over to ask him how long it took him and we talked for about 5 minutes. A truly great and humble man he will be greatly missed.

*Russ from Boston*

---

**Russ Robar** - November 19, 2015 at 08:47 PM

SP

“ I had the good fortune to meet and occasionally get to know a majority of my musical heroes, and Allen was surely one of the most significant. But more importantly, as I got to know him over many encounters the past 30 years, I learned that his humility, integrity and grace were every bit the equal of his artistic talent. His music -- and the joy it gave to millions-- was an exponent of his humanity, his heart.

*He was the truest gentleman I ever met in life, let alone the music industry. Whether I was watching him onstage or catching a brief conversation with him, I felt a joy that few other human beings have radiated to me in that fashion.*

*I am brokenhearted that he has passed and the only solace I can take right now is that he helped define and capture the soul of one of the world's greatest cities, and that his spirit will remain in eternal here on Earth through his music as it surely will in Heaven.*

*I really loved and admired Allen.*

*My deepest, deepest sympathies to his family, I know you must be a lovely group. I hope that I'll have the chance to meet some of you one day, too.*

*Scott Paton*  
*sep1958@hotmail.com*



---

Scott Paton - November 19, 2015 at 06:08 PM

GM

“ *A beautiful spirit.*



---

**Greg Moss** - November 19, 2015 at 05:49 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Allen Toussaint.*



---

November 19, 2015 at 05:33 PM

MM

“ *A quiet, resounding man of immeasurable talent has tickled his last earthly ivories and transcended the bonds of earth to take his rightful place at The Lord's piano. May he funkify Heaven and keep God and the Angels groovin' for eternity. I'll stop by and groove with you when I get there. Until...*



*Mark S. "Maddog" Madson  
Galliano, LA*

---

**Mark S . Madson** - November 19, 2015 at 12:30 PM

KE

“ *God Bless the Toussaint family.*

---

**Keith** - November 19, 2015 at 10:48 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Allen Toussaint.*



---

November 18, 2015 at 05:11 PM



“ *You and your music came into my life late, and I always will regret this fact. However the quality of your music and your very special style will always be with me. Thank you for what you so generously shared with the world. God's speed, juanita lamberger*

---

**Juanita Lamberger** - November 18, 2015 at 05:09 PM



“ *My wife and I are lovers of New Orleans and music from New Orleans. We've had the privilege (with many) to attend Mr. Toussaint's show at the Jazz fest twice (2012 & 2013). We already knew his music for long but that was such a joy to see him playing and to listen once again to his wonderful songs. We are planning to come to NOLA for the next jazzfest but it definitely won't be the same. All our sympathy goes to the family of Mr. Toussaint.*



*"big wheel keeps on turning"*

*Jean Claude & Brigitte Bossonney-Valmont from Evian (France)*

---

**Jean Claude Bossonney** - November 18, 2015 at 01:45 PM

MP

“ Not everyone knew that Allen was not only a Jazz fan but constantly studied and practiced Jazz piano. I always enjoyed our "Jazz piano" talks at the Windsor Court Hotel, where I played for more than 15 years. Allen was always supportive and complimentary and he also was very supportive of our work at NOCCA, where his grandson Herman LeBeaux Jr. graduated in 2015.  
Michael Pellera

Michael Pellera - November 18, 2015 at 11:31 AM

CS

“ We are so sad to hear of Mr. Toussaint's passing. His music has made us so happy for so many years. He brought us joy and what a gift!



Charmaine Siciliani - November 18, 2015 at 09:28 AM

JM

“ Truly a beautiful man, whose contributions to the world of music and musicians will be remembered forever!

Joe Tiboni, WEMU, Ypsilanti, MI - November 18, 2015 at 08:43 AM

JN

“ Truly a genius and a gentleman - proud to have known him - all my sympathy to the family; he is so much missed - Jill Nicholls, director of BBC film about his life & work



Jill Nicholls - November 18, 2015 at 04:47 AM

EC

“ EDWARD CROSS lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint



EDWARD CROSS - November 18, 2015 at 02:15 AM

EC

“ RIP

EDWARD CROSS - November 18, 2015 at 02:14 AM

LF

“ Lawanda Briley & Family lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint



Lawanda Briley & family - November 17, 2015 at 08:20 PM

MS

“ Marie & Stacey lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint



Marie & Stacey - November 17, 2015 at 04:15 PM

NI

Sad the loss, wonderful the legacy  
Nick, Nottingham Uk

Nick - November 21, 2015 at 04:51 AM

RS

“ Praying for the Allen Toussaint family during their time of sorrow. May God lift you up and give you strength during this trying time. Let the memory of Allen Toussaint keep him within your hearts. Rest in Peace Allen while the angels enjoy your music. God rest your soul brother.

Roy

Roy "Bongoman" Salomon - November 17, 2015 at 02:34 PM

SL

“ My Father Lionel Moore use to be a huge Fan of Allen Toussaint .Now youll all enjoying a place called Paradise.Rip. ❤️❤️❤️



Shanell Latanya - November 17, 2015 at 01:11 PM



“ Luis Williams lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint



Luis Williams - November 17, 2015 at 09:54 AM



“ Best wishes and much sympathy on the loss of your father, father in-law, and grandfather. Luis, Connie and, Emily Williams

Luis Williams - November 17, 2015 at 09:54 AM

LD

“ Larry Davis lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint



Larry Davis - November 17, 2015 at 07:32 AM



“ I last saw Mr. Toussaint while disembarking from the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise in Oct. 31. It was one of the joys of my life to see him interviewed eight Irma Thomas during the cruise. We saw his final show in Friday night Oct. 30. He was so vibrant. It's hard to imagine that he's now in another place. Though I've seen him many times, this last performance will remain with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for the memories and the music, Mr. T. 💜💚💛



Connie Kleinbart - November 16, 2015 at 11:43 PM

CK

“ Connie Kleinbart lit a candle in memory of Allen Toussaint



connie kleinbart - November 16, 2015 at 11:37 PM

JS

“ To the family and friends,  
It is very hard to depart from a love one, forever  
You can have the assurance that Allen was respected around the  
world  
for his musical talent and his gentle spirit.  
I remember Allen often on our porch with my brother SAMMY  
BERFECT  
playing the old time piano. They brought the neighbors out to their  
porches  
to listen to REAL MUSIC.  
Allen had developed a group of followers at the Dakota Jazz spot ,  
in Minneapolis, MN  
What a time when Sammy, Marva Wright and Allen greet each other  
in Heaven!!



Joyce BERFECT Shelton

---

Joyce Shelton - November 16, 2015 at 09:43 PM

AD

“ My condolences to all my family. Allen may be  
gone, but will never be forgotten. The good  
Lord has called Allen because now is His time  
to hear those magical fingers roll out those  
beautiful tunes. He's with his departed family  
but you can still hear those "beats". Hey Allen! When you see my  
daddy, "Jeff", be prepared to sit behind that organ and play!



---

Alma Jefferson Davis - November 16, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JC

“ Allen Toussaint was a giant in the Music Business ,to be sure, but he was also a giant in the Human business. He assisted, encouraged, mentored with love, everyone who was lucky enough to cross his path. His was a giving soul, which was coupled with a heart full of joy. His songs were a testimony to his love for his fellow human beings, his belief in them, and an unwavering faith in the good in people. We all learned so much from you.... and your music will keep you with us, always.

---

**Jeff Cook** - November 16, 2015 at 01:27 PM

PK

“ Mr. Toussaint will be missed by his beloved N.O. I was so pleased to meet him at neighborhood events and NOAAHH events. He was always so generous with his time, so friendly and so committed to his city, especially to those in need. I loved, loved, loved his music and was always happy to see him on the Jazz Fest list of performers. Patricia Kennedy

---

**Patricia Kennedy** - November 16, 2015 at 12:02 PM

 Perry Dror

“ Thank you for your wonderful gift of music that will continue to delight so many of us. You are gone but your music will march on throughout time.

---

**Perry Dror** - November 16, 2015 at 10:04 AM

CB

“ *To the Toussaint Family  
Keep the great memories of your loved one and allow the love of  
the Holy Spirit to comfort you during this time.*

*Connie R. Bouligny, NOLA*

---

**Connie R. Bouligny** - November 16, 2015 at 09:46 AM

GR

“ *A most gracious man. A city's best ambassador. I'll miss your  
warmth.*

---

**Gavin Robinson** - November 16, 2015 at 08:36 AM



“ *You were always my top soldier, Allen. Thank you.*

---

**Willie West** - November 16, 2015 at 08:12 AM

TJ

“ *Troylyn Jefferson lit a candle in memory of  
Allen Toussaint*



---

**troylyn jefferson** - November 16, 2015 at 08:08 AM

SW

“ *Susie Wrenn lit a candle in memory of Allen  
Toussaint*



---

**susie wrenn** - November 16, 2015 at 04:28 AM

LL

“ So longo, my old pal, I saw you in Madrid and played your music in my radio shpw (Radio 3). <http://www.rtve.es/alcarta/audios/sonideros/sonideros-luis-lapuente-adios-allen-toussaint-15-11-15/3363858/>



---

**Luis Lapuente** - November 16, 2015 at 12:09 AM

MR

“ Condolences to the Toussaint Family, Allen was a gift to the New Orleans & world community...he will be missed! Praying G-d's peace and blessings be upon him as he enters paradise!

---

**Maryam Ra'oof** - November 15, 2015 at 10:39 PM

JW

“ Janie Williamson sent a virtual gift in memory of Allen Toussaint



---

**janie williamson** - November 15, 2015 at 05:47 PM

MA

“ I saw Allen at the 2014 Jazz Fest, 29 years after I had seen him at the 1985 version and was amazed at how much he looked the same. He was a complete musician; songwriter, producer, pianist, singer, he could have been a success in any one of those categories. The good Lord is not democratic, he gives more to some than others and Allen got way more than the rest of us.  
Thanks for the great music  
I guess God needed some piana pickin too.

---

**Martin Alex Aucoin** - November 15, 2015 at 04:18 PM

DA

“ I met Allen briefly in New Orleans about a month or so back, and told him how much I Loved his music and how he was an Inspiration to me, I managed to put a Smile on his face and will remember him always as the Perfect Gentleman and the Spirit of New Orleans that he was and will continue to be.  
Rest in Peace

---

**Dave** - November 15, 2015 at 02:58 PM