



Fred "7th Ward Santa" Parker

August 22, 2020

Fred Carver Parker (a.k.a. Peter Rabbit; childhood nickname) was born June 12, 1942 in Lake, MS. Fred was the ninth of ten children born to the late Artis Parker Sr. and Mary Dixon Parker. He attended Galilee Line School and Sherman Hill High School in Lake, MS and completed his high school senior year at the historic Pearl High School in Nashville, TN (1959-1960). He went on to attend Tennessee State University where he studied Business Management and Administration (1960-1962). He joined Galilee Missionary Baptist Church at an early age during a revival and was baptized in Mr. Cliff Tadlock's pond. In later years, he became a trustee at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Lake, MS, where he served dutifully until his death.

In October 1962, Fred joined the United States Army, serving as a Low and Intermediate Speed Radio Operator. During his tour of Honorable service, he achieved the rank of Private First Class (E-3). Fred was an excellent rifleman and earned his M-1 Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge. His service included a tour of duty in Europe before being Honorably discharged in October 1964. After leaving the Military, Fred moved to New Orleans, LA, and began his career working for the Orleans Parish School Board as a bus driver. He transported the children in the city for 26 years until his retirement from Orleans Parish School Board in March 2000. He also worked as a cab driver for several local cab companies during that time.

On December 25, 1969, Fred married Peacola B. Parker of Woodville, MS; and to their union, one child was born, Linitta F. Parker.

In Dec 1971, Fred began a journey of bringing a special joy to people that spanned over five decades. Fred became the original 'Chocolate Santa' of New Orleans, LA. Over that time, he wore dozens of Santa suits and boots as the beloved 'Chocolate Santa' (a.k.a. 7th Ward Santa) at different schools, daycares, hospitals, markets, malls, and various events during the Christmas holidays. It was Fred's legendary deep voice, tall stature; smiling face, jolly laughter, and love for children that brought joy to so many hearts and help put smiles on so many faces. To the city of New Orleans; the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Florida; and more, Fred is a legend!

On August 23, 1974, Brother Fred Parker was healed to Berry Lodge #2, Prince Hall Mason from King George Lodge #14. From 1979 to 1980, he served as Berry Lodge#2's Worshipful Master and later served faithfully as secretary for 25 plus years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Artis Parker Sr. and Mary Dixon Parker; five brothers, A.C. Parker, R.C. Parker, Joe Nathan Parker, John Parker, and Artis Parker, Jr.; and one sister, Hattye Parker Stingily.

He leaves his memories to be cherished by his wife, Peacola B. Parker of Plano, TX; step-daughter, Edith M. Baker of Bedford, TX; daughter, Linitta P. Lewis of Frisco, TX; two grandchildren, Jazzmyne P. Lewis of Frisco, TX and Isaiah C. Lewis of Flagstaff, AZ; one sister, Odessa Parker Coggins of San Francisco, CA; the decedents of Emma Bobbitt; two god-daughters, Rolanda Palmer-Walker of Baton Rouge, LA (Dexter) and Tenia Michelle Powell of Kenner, LA; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Relatives and friends of the family, a public visitation honoring the life of Fred C. Parker will be held on Friday, September 4, 2020 from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Evans Memorial Funeral Home, 247 Walker Street Forest, MS. Join us by Livestream for Memorial Service on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 on the Rhodes Funeral Home Facebook Page at 1:00 pm. Please upload photos of memories with Fred to www.rhodesfuneral.com as tribute to be shared at

Memorial Service.

Cemetery Details

Private

Tribute Wall

AN

“ *Rest in Peace Mr. Fred. You always brought joy to my daughter and I during the Christmas Holiday. You will always be our favorite Chocolate Santa. May your memory live on forever.* 🙏



Angie - September 10, 2020 at 03:15 PM

DO

“ *My condolences to the family and from*



Donetra - September 10, 2020 at 02:02 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Sonya Rondeno - September 09, 2020 at 11:29 AM

SJ

“ Thank you Mr. Parker for being my Santa. Your memory will forever be shared.



Samantha Jones - September 08, 2020 at 11:42 PM

KW

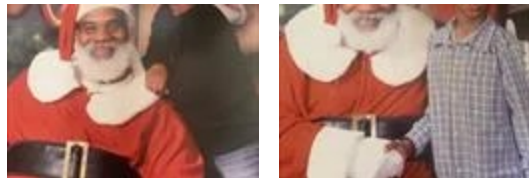
“ My daughter Jada couldn't be told you weren't real and in 2005 when we returned her school said they were taking pics with black Santa (she was 8) , she wanted curls (she got em) When she got off the van it was all over her face (something is wrong) I asked this was her reply: MOMMA! The school didn't tell the truth it wasn't the real Black Santa , they got a fake one (I laughed So hard) the pic came home and she had refused to smile . Love you Mr Parker for the joy you gave .



Kelly Walton - September 08, 2020 at 03:14 PM

MB

“ You was the first person my children wanted to meet. Whoever could imagine a real Santa? The gleam in their eyes was so magical. It proved that dreams do come true. Thank you for being such a wonderful person! May you Rest In Peace! Ms. Demonte Bosman, Ms. Zidikiyah Morrison, Mr. Kwesi Morrison and Mr. Christopher Swington Jr



Ms. Demonte Bosman - September 08, 2020 at 02:14 PM

JE

“ You were always there for me, my sweet Uncle Fred. I will miss the regular phone calls & how you always called me beautiful. Heaven has another angel....see you on the other side. ❤️



Janice Parker Ellis - September 08, 2020 at 02:00 PM

DC

“ *Chocolate Santa and my beautiful grandson David B. Cooper, Jr. (Deuce) is one of the most beautiful and touching pictures ever. My grandson just turned 4 in August. I will forever cherish this picture and Chocolate Santa...The Real Santa Clause. I will miss him* 🥺💔💔💔💔💔💔💔💔



Diane F Cooper - September 08, 2020 at 12:50 PM

OP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



olin parker - September 08, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of Righteousness." Chocolate Santa memories will always be on display in many homes. He's not gone, Just Asleep. We shall meet Again on the other side. REST EASY!!!* 🖤❤️🕊️🕊️🕊️



Shelly Warren - September 08, 2020 at 10:36 AM

B.

“ Thank you Fred Parker and my deepest condolences to his family.



B.F - September 08, 2020 at 08:11 AM

RS

“ Robbi Duggins Sr lit a candle in memory of Fred "7th Ward Santa" Parker



Robbi Duggins Sr - September 08, 2020 at 07:22 AM

RS

“ My wife and I when to Louisiana from Texas just to take these pictures with him with the grand kids and has a child my wife also had taken a picture with him. And we were planning on taking are newest granddaughter.



Robbi Duggins Sr - September 08, 2020 at 07:19 AM

FR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Farrah Reed - September 08, 2020 at 06:40 AM

TD

“ T. Davidson lit a candle in memory of Fred
"7th Ward Santa" Parker



T. Davidson - September 07, 2020 at 04:51 PM

TD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



TD - September 07, 2020 at 04:42 PM

BC

“ My heart goes out to Mr Parker and the whole family. You all have been a huge part of my life and my memories. Love y'all. Mr Parker you will be greatly missed.

Brian C.

Brian C. - September 07, 2020 at 10:06 AM

MJ

“ Thank you for the memories Mr.Parker. My condolences to the family. You will be missed.



The Johnson Family

Mena Johnson - September 05, 2020 at 06:21 PM

KA

“ Get your rest Mr Fred everyone here loved you but god love you best



Kawanee - September 05, 2020 at 03:21 PM

SH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sharon Henry - September 05, 2020 at 10:47 AM



Jasminne Navarre

“ *Fondest memories of the Joy Chocolate Santa brought to all of us in childhood. Thank you for all the years and memories Circa 1988*



Jasminne Navarre - September 04, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ *Someone as Special as Mr.Parker will never be forgotten.Rest Easy!!! We shall meet Again 28yrs of service in my home putting smiles on so many faces in a little town called Gramercy,La.*

Shelly Warren - September 04, 2020 at 08:12 AM



“ *My condolences to your family. We will never have another Santa like you. You will be missed. Taylor and Floyd family.*



Christel Taylor - September 04, 2020 at 08:10 AM



“ *Shelly Warren lit a candle in memory of Fred "7th Ward Santa" Parker*



Shelly Warren - September 04, 2020 at 08:01 AM

KG

“ Thank You Mr. Fred for the memories. We will never forget Chocolate Santa! Well Done thy good and faithful servant. R.I.P.



Kelly G. - September 03, 2020 at 07:56 PM

TE

“ Our sincerest condolences to the entire family. Mr. Parker was a true joy to be around and so full of laughter and love. He served his community well and truly loved his family & friends. We are grateful for the moments that we had to know him.

We loved to hear the stories of the Pinochle parties and of all the lives he touched doing what he loved whether it be fishing or bringing smiles to so many kids faces. Rest well, good and faithful servant!

With love,
Shane & Telethia Hurley

Telethia - September 03, 2020 at 05:26 PM