



Fred Carver 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 12:00 pm. Please upload photos of memories with Fred to www.rhodesfuneral.com as tribute to be shared at

Memorial Service. Family graveside interment. As mandated for COVID-19 pandemic, attendance is limited. Everyone is required to adhere to all restrictions. You must wear a face mask at all times and practice social distancing. Funeral services entrusted to Evans Memorial Funeral Homes, Forest, MS and D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave New Orleans, LA 70125.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall

JP

“ You were my stand in "daddy" when my pops couldn't be there. I'll always love you for all the times you pulled me through the tough times when I needed to cry, when I needed to make difficult decisions, when I just needed someone to hear me, to hold me up, to push me on to success and victory. You were there. I'll always love you. You never judged me, you never scolded me, you gave me courage to face life. I love you forever, my sweet, sweet uncle. Saying goodbye is to tough, too final, too....well, too unfitting. Until we meet again, God will keep you in his care.

Jan Parker - November 23, 2025 at 05:41 AM

SA

“ Mr. Parker...My Chocolate Santa, my heart is truly broken. I don't know if it is fair to title myself your biggest (& most obsessed) fan but I certainly feel as if I am. I was blessed to have sit on your lap as a kid & grateful to have all 3 of my kids do the same. My greatest memory is of my now 9 year olds 1st visit to N.O. to see you. She was screaming & kicking & you were holding on to her smiling so big & bright. BUT, seconds later she was calm & smiling & calling you “my Santa”! I bought all of her photos that year lol! I drove my husband crazy with my obsession to have my baby sit on her your lap. It became a yearly tradition for me & a headache for him. I used to drive 11 hours & once bought a 1 day flight to see you. I made it every year until you hung up your suite! I even inboxed you on Facebook & asked if I could bring her to your house to have her pictures taken that year because I REFUSED to go to any other Brown Santa. I haven't been back home for Christmas since you retired. This 1 hurts Mr. Park but I know there's so many kids in heaven who are now going to have the opportunity to sit on your lap. You will be missed King. Rest in Love Mr. Parker...job well done 🥹💔🙏👴🌸



Sharon Anthony - September 09, 2020 at 09:20 PM



“ Dear Santa,
 I will never forget the time in the 80's my children pictures didn't come out in time. Christmas morning we heard a horn blowing in the driveway. IT WAS SANTA IN HIS RED CAB !!!! To Deliver My Babies Pics! That was my children's BEST CHRISTMAS EVER! That's the Kind of Man SANTA FRED was 😊!!! Thank You 🙏🙏🙏
 🎄📺
 The Marine Family 💕💕💕💕💕

Tanya Marine - September 09, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ It wasn't officially Christmas until you take pictures with the chocolate Santa, so many kids won't experience this man great joy, I'm glad I had the privilege to take many photos with this guy, May his soul rest comfortably 🙏

jarmaine - September 09, 2020 at 01:02 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family of my favorite Chocolate Santa 🙏



Trina Campbell - September 08, 2020 at 11:39 PM

WC

“ *My granddaughter and sons were on a picture with Santa. It was a pleasure to have an impact in our children's lives*



Willie J Crain - September 08, 2020 at 08:05 PM

VR

“ *Our Chocolate Santa....A Legend
Sending condolences
From: DeVille Ladies
(Westbank-Algiers-McClendonville)*



Vanessa Richard - September 07, 2020 at 10:27 AM

AQ

“ *I'm sending my deepest condolences to his family, RIH/RIP My Best Friend Fred Parker I will truly Miss You From Your Best Friend
Angie* 💔😭😭😭😭



Angie Quillens - September 05, 2020 at 02:47 AM