



## Morris Conerly

June 14, 1924 - February 4, 2008

CONERLY, Mr. Morris L. Sr. - Age 83, passed away Monday, February 4, 2008 at his residence. Family hour 10AM Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, 930 E. Myrtle Ave., with funeral service commencing at 11AM, Dr. A.J. Pointer, officiating. Interment Sunset Hills Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10AM Saturday. Mr. Conerly will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12Noon-8PM Friday. Mr. Morris L. Conerly, Sr. was born June 14, 1924 to Pervis and Lillie (Coney) Conerly in McComb, Mississippi, where he attended Rose Hill High School. After high school he entered the United States Marine Corps, where he was among the first Blacks to enter the Marines. These first Black Marines were known as the "Chosen Few". They were trailblazers in the mold of the Tuskegee Airmen. Morris served with distinction in the Pacific Campaign against the Japanese in such places as Saipan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guam, etc. After his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1946 he returned to Mississippi, where on May 20, 1946 he married his childhood sweetheart, Emma Lee McEwen. On July 28, 1947 their son Morris Jr., was born. Shortly thereafter the young family moved to Flint, Michigan. Once settled in Flint, Morris Sr. obtained employment at Buick, as a welder in the foundry and wife Emma as homemaker. In that same year Morris Sr., and Emma became members of Metropolitan Baptist Church, where Morris Sr. later became a Deacon. Through the early years the family grew as Rodney

(Sharif), Valaria, Anthony, Dorothy "Nija" and Clayton were born. The young family lived on 805 E. Baltimore Street. Morris Sr. had won various awards for design suggestions and studied at General Motors Institute, however in the "Fifties" there was little call for Black Engineers. Even though he was a committeeman, he felt there was little room for advancement. In 1956 he quit his job at Buick to start his own trucking business. Another young Black man also quit that same night and became a successful businessman, his name Al Golden. This was an audacious move that was questioned by many. So many people couldn't believe he could give up the security of General Motors, for the uncertainty of a small business. Morris would say "anyone can be ordinary" and his life he would prove he was extraordinary. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963. In 1968 his company MLC was the largest minority construction company in the Saginaw Valley with multi-million dollar revenues. His dream was to have his sons work in the business, over the years his sons Sharif, Anthony and Clayton were of great assistance to their father. At one point the company had thirty trucks, trailers, bulldozers, end loaders, back hoes, etc. He was known among his peers as a visionary who started with one truck and built it into a series of outstanding companies that engaged in blacktop, pipeline, concrete, landscaping, bridge construction and highway building, etc. Through his companies Morris Sr. taught and trained many minorities who learned skills and trades that earned a good life for them and their families. Many people approached him over the years for advice, which he gladly gave. He enjoyed mentoring anyone who was serious. It gave him great pleasure to see those whom he had mentored achieve success. Morris Sr. was a very devout Christian who believed that God was in the plan. With prayer and devotion he believed anything was possible. As a Deacon at Metropolitan he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Church. Later he moved his membership to Mount Zion Baptist Church where he was one of the original founders. Later in life he spent a great deal of time on the road, where he always carried his Bible, sermons on tape and watched TCT whenever he could. Morris Sr. was known as "Chief" and if anyone ever met him they knew

why he was called "Chief". He was a born leader in whatever he did. Right up to the end he was driving trucks coast to coast. They broke the mold after they made him and he will be missed. Mr. Morris L. Conerly, Sr. leaves to cherish his memory: 6 children, Morris Conerly, Jr. of California, Sharif Hasan "Rodney" (Sheryl) Ali of Moreno Valley, CA, Valaria Conerly (Lawrence E.) Moon of Flint, Anthony Conerly of Benton Harbor, MI, Dorothy Ladale "Nija Ceylon" (Simon) McKinnis of Flint; and Clayton (Traci) Conerly of Hampton, VA; 15 grandchildren, Nicole Ali of Orange County, CA, Kamilah Ali of Philadelphia, PA, Sharif Ali of Hemet, CA, Faheem Ali of Maui Hawaii, Riyad (Precious) Ali of Phoenix, AZ, Saudeeqah and Raushanah Ali both of San Diego, CA, Lawrence T. Moon of Pontiac, MI, Dettrick Conerly, Monique Warren of Hemet, CA, India Walker of Flint, Tanyakncia Hunter of Jackson, MS, Anthony, Andrew, Jr., and Ashley Holland of Hampton, VA; 16 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters, Linnie (Willie) Couch, Alice Britt, all of Flint and Mary (Bertell) Vernon of Seaside, CA; 2 brothers, Frank (Rene) Conerly of Flint and Moses (Janet) Conerly of Grand Blanc, MI; 3 sisters-in-law, Bertha Wesley and Lovie Price both of Shaker Heights, OH, Helen (Dr. Payton) Cook of Baton Rouge, LA; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Mr. Conerly was preceded in death by his wife, Emma L. Conerly; parents, Pervis and Lillie Conerly; brother, Pervis Conerly, Jr.; sisters, Mildred Miller, Eva Mae Ginn, and Doris Holbrook. The family would like to express special thanks to Sharif Ali, Clayton Conerly, Morris Conerly, Jr., and James Johnson.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Morris Conerly*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Valaria and family, we will keep you in constant prayer during this very difficult time. Just remember, you loved your father, but God loved him best.  
Love always,  
Sylvia and family*

**Sylvia (Ratliff) Avery** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *My prayers are with you all, uncle Morris was the Biggest man I've ever known,he will be deeply missed!*

**Tandalayo Hardman** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Val and the Conerly & Moon Families -*

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens.....a time to love; a time to lose..."*

*Cherish the thoughts that your Dad, indeed, served a wonderful purpose during his season.*

*May God be with you and yours...*

*Deepest Sympathies*

**Tom and Linda Belford** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ As far back as I can remember, there were big trucks parked on the lot at the corner. There was a tall imposing but gentle man that made sure that those trucks were in constant working order. My very first and probably most significant role model. I learned early on that hard work and perseverance will reap tremendous rewards. Your legacy is cemented and suspended in time for all to enjoy. I miss you and I will continue to be thankful for the impact that you made on my life.....your friend.....and birthday buddy, Lawrence Allen Ratliff.....

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**lawrence ratliff** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Bro Valaria & Bro Moon,

*My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. God See, God Knows, and God comforts us during difficult times of losing a love one.*

*May God Bless and bring much comfort*

*Sis. Loria Corder, Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church.*

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**Loria Corder** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Sis. Valaria & Bro Moon, My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. God See, God Knows, and God comforts us during difficult times of losing a love one. May God Bless and bring much comfort Sis. Loria Corder, Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church.*

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**Loria Corder** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ I can truly say I know what you are going through right now, It is so hard to lose a loved one. Your dad was a wonderful man and the fruit didn't fall far from the tree. We have been friends all of our days, we had good times on Baltimore St. It was a time when parents were real parents and we didn't get away with ANYTHING!! I am here for you. I love you all. stay encouraged.  
Freda & Family

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**Freda Ratliff-Williams** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ May God be with you in your time of bereavement. You have our prayers.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles; so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

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**Boyzie/Joy Mathis** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ I'd like to take this time to send my deepest sympathy to ALL of his family, once again. Clayton, I met you about 17 years ago and in a way you changed my life, I still owe you for that. To India and her sisters my prayers are most definitely with you at this time, for your loss. From my family to the Conerly family, you have our deepest sympathy.

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**Re-Naye Sanders** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BI

“ *To the Moon Family:*

*Debbie & I send our deepest sympathy at this most difficult time for you. We understand the loss of one so near and dear, and want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you today, tomorrow, and always.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ben & Debbie Hodge*

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**Benjamin H. Hodge, III** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strenght. They shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint Isaiah 40:31. In your time of sorrow ,remember the faith and memories of your father and they will see you though these difficult times. May God continue to Bless and keep you.*

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**Bettye Southall and family** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ *My prayers are with you in these difficult times .May God bless you in the days ahead and forever.*

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**Warren Southall** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *We would like to extend our condolences to your family in your time of grief.If there is anything that we can do for you do not hesitate to call upon us at any hour.Thats what family is for. Love Bo and Renee*

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**Mr. & Mrs. Larry Coney** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *It's always difficult when someone you love has gone home. But during our many trips on the road, his faith was very strong. I was with him when he became sick on the road. He was like Job, he fought a good fight and he said he lived a good life and whatever his God wanted for him, he was ready. My prayers are with you, and he will be missed.*

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**Roald Russell** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Weep, but briefly, for your father as he enters into the Kingdom of God because he loved his heavenly Father. He now possess a joy and peace that is unattainable on this earth. Rejoice in his home going and in his everlasting and total happiness, for his eyes have seen God and he is now absent from the body and present with the Lord. My prayers are with all of the family.*

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**Barbara Graham** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ *Many blessings too the Conerly Family...I remember Baltimore St.*

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**Earl H. Sisco Jr** - February 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM