



## Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens

May 19, 1947 - September 9, 2024

PICKENS, Mr. Samuel Lee - age 77, passed away Monday, September 9, 2024, at McLaren Hospital Flint. Family hour 10:00 AM Tuesday, September 17, 2024, from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Pastor John Arnold, Officiating. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Rd., Holly, Mi. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Funeral Home 10:00 AM Tuesday, September 17, 2024. Mr. Pickens will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM Monday, with family present to receive friends from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. Samuel Lee Pickens was born May 19, 1947, in Sawyerville, Alabama, to Johnnie and Prezelia Pickens. Samuel was the fifth child out of seven. His siblings included Ruth, Vera, Eugene, Mary, Alfred (Whit), and Vickie. When their father Johnnie passed away in 1953, at seventy-seven years old Sam was only seven. In 1965, Sam graduated from Hales County Training School where he played varsity sports. Later that same year, Sam moved to Flint, MI, to join his sisters Ruth and Vera who were mentors. In 1966, Sam was hired at Chevrolet Metal Fabricating, a division of General Motors Corporation. Subsequently, during 1967, Sam was drafted into the United States Army. He served with the First Air Cavalry Division during his tour of duty in Vietnam. He served a year in combat as a Machine Gunner from 1968 to 1969. After surviving an enemy attack and being wounded by mortar fire, Sam was Honorably Discharged as a Sergeant E-5. Following, his military service, Sam

returned to General Motors in 1969. In 1971, Sam married Patricia (Adams) Pickens. They had two daughters, Shaunda and Brandy. Their union together was over 20 years. In 1991, Sam and Karen Simon's son Kevin Pickens was born. In 2008, Sam married his best friend & devoted wife, Sharon (Jordan) Pickens. This year, they celebrated 16 years of marriage. In 2007, Sam retired from General Motors after 44 years of employment. During his period at General Motors, he was an active father who supported his children in their endeavors. Sam was a loving grandfather and was a resounding motivator to Braylyn and Gabriella's academic accomplishments and sport activities.

During leisure time, Sam enjoyed traveling, boating, fishing and gardening. Sam was an avid sports enthusiast, a passion he shared with his wife Sharon.

On September 9, 2024, Samuel peacefully passed away in his sleep at the age of 77. It was a beautiful, bright sunny day. Samuel Lee Pickens leaves to cherish his memory: devoted loving wife, Sharon Pickens; 2 daughters, Shaunda (Earl) Jones of Grand Blanc, MI and Brandy Pickens; son, Kevin Pickens, both of Flint, MI; 2 granddaughters, Braylyn and Gabriella Jones, both of Grand Blanc, MI; his 4 siblings, Eugene (Jewell) Pickens of Wanaque, NJ, Mary (Dent) Collins of Grand Blanc, MI, Alfred Pickens of Eutaw, AL and Vickie (Rev Jimmy) Fields of Sawyerville, AL; brother-in-law, Tracey (Katrina) Jordan of Flint, MI; best friend, Charles (Breeze) Robinson and not to mention many loving extended family members and friends. Sam was preceded in death by his mother, Prezelia Pickens (1992); father Johnnie Pickens (1953); sisters, Vera Oliver (2022), and Ruth Robinson (1976).

Mr. Pickens was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army.

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.  
Holly, MI 48442

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

SEP **16**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-6666  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family Present

SEP **16**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-6666  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family hour

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SEP 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

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SEP 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-MOON (6666)  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens*



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - September 17, 2024 at 08:55 AM

TJ

*Prayer & Condolences are sent to my Sister Sharon and family. Samuel will be truly missed. His humbleness and handsome smile would radiate in a room. What a beautiful couple. Love you my Sista.*

Toni JordanJohnson - September 17, 2024 at 02:01 PM



“ *Wanda Baker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens*



Wanda Baker - September 17, 2024 at 11:14 PM

CW

“ *Uncle Sam was a very kind, humble and respectful man. I'm sure he will be missed. Sending love, hugs and prayers to all who were connected to him and impacted by his passing 🙏❤️🙏.*

Christina W. - September 17, 2024 at 10:52 AM

NP

“ To my dear Uncle Sam, thank you for your unconditional love, always. Thank you for hosting me during summers so I could visit with my bestie cousin. Thank you for idyllic bike rides and Cedar Point trips. Thank you for fish fries and making me eat my lima beans (🤢). Thank you for indulging my curiosity on Vietnam and your time of service on a road trip to MN to see your baby (Brandy) play. Thank you for your kindness, laughter, and caring. I will miss you and love you forever. Your niece, Nikki 🥹

Nicole Pickens - September 17, 2024 at 06:57 AM

WM

“ My love and prayers to Aunt Mary and the rest of the family, may God keep you during this difficult time 🙏❤️.

Walette Morse - September 16, 2024 at 08:50 PM

YT

“ Your Meridian Team purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens.



Your Meridian Team - September 16, 2024 at 03:51 PM

CK

“ City of Restoration Church KilleenTx purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens.



City of Restoration Church KilleenTx - September 16, 2024 at 09:27 AM

PS

“ *Pamala Simpson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens*



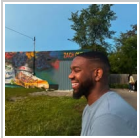
**Pamala Simpson** - September 16, 2024 at 08:22 AM



“ *Wanda Baker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens*



**Wanda Baker** - September 15, 2024 at 05:50 PM



“ *Uncle Sam has always been a light for as long as I've known him. He always made sure I stayed encouraged and communicated to me the importance of a smile. More than communication, he was a powerful example of what maintaining good cheer can do not only for your own spirit, but the spirit of others.*



*I will miss him, but I'm reminded that staying down in grief is not what he would want. Thank you for being a good man as well.*

*I will remember to stay close and keep my smile. Keep on with good cheer, as we celebrate your home going 🙏.*

**Breaunté Brown** - September 15, 2024 at 01:46 PM

RW

*Thanks BJ! That is so special Cuz!*

**Reginald Williams** - September 16, 2024 at 04:47 PM

RB

“ *Rosa Burnett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Pickens*



**Rosa Burnett** - September 13, 2024 at 11:16 PM

RW

“ *As a young boy, I always saw my Uncle Sam as this larger than life, beautifully made man that seemed to me, at the time as a giant. The thing I will remember the most will be his magnificent smile. That was magical to me. This is one thing I've tried to show, no matter what life has thrown my way. What a Soldier we have been graced with! So Beloved Family, let me remind you, after our grieving, honor our soldier and smile! Peace*

**Reginald Williams** - September 13, 2024 at 02:13 PM

DP

“ My family and I appreciate that God blessed us with such a supportive and loving family member. My Uncle Sam was loving, kind, and funny. No matter the occasion, whether fun or not so fun, he was going to be in attendance to support us with his strength and, of course, with his contribution to food and drinks for everyone. As his nieces and nephews, he was one of our family heroes we knew we could count on. It has been very difficult for us to accept that he won't be physically present at our upcoming family reunion; however, we know that his spirit will be with us. As we adjust to our new normal without my uncle, we will keep his memory alive by giving our love and support to his wife, daughters, son, and grandchildren. We will cling closer to each other as we realize that life is short and unpredictable. We love you, Uncle Sam, and will miss you immensely. Love, Dana, and the Price Crew.



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**Dana Price** - September 13, 2024 at 01:47 PM

IH

“ Iris HARE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens



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**Iris HARE** - September 12, 2024 at 10:36 PM

KR

“ *Kendall E Reaves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens*



Kendall E Reaves - September 11, 2024 at 04:21 PM

LI

“ *Sending love and prayers*



LeGayle Ireland - September 11, 2024 at 02:48 PM

MP

*Blessings and prayers to the family. Mary P. Gaitor*

Mary P. Gaitor Perry - September 13, 2024 at 09:37 PM

BR

*love and prayers*

Bob Russell - September 15, 2024 at 07:12 PM

BM

“ *Bobby McKay(Slim) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Samuel Lee Pickens*



Bobby McKay(Slim) - September 11, 2024 at 11:31 AM

