



Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.

October 31, 1943 - December 30, 2023

TEDFORD, Mr. Ralph - Age 80, passed away Saturday, December 30, 2023, at his residence. Family hour 9:00 AM Saturday, January 13, 2023, at Triumph Church Burton Campus 2130 S. Center Rd., Burton, MI., with funeral service commencing at 10:00 AM, Pastor Solomon Kinloche Host Pastor, Pastor Ralph Godbee Presiding, Pastor Carl Tedford, Eulogist. Interment Sunset Hills Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the Church 9:00 AM Saturday. Mr. Tedford will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 1:00 PM-6:00 PM Friday, with family present from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM to receive friends. Ralph Tedford Jr. was born October 31, 1943, in Benham, Kentucky to Ralph B. Tedford Sr. and Lessie Mae Bethune-Tedford. Ralph, Jr. was the eldest of twelve (12) children. He attended elementary school in both Lynch, Kentucky and Cleveland, Ohio. Later, the family relocated to Michigan. After graduating from Flint Central High School in 1962, Ralph, Jr. married Margaret Ann Anderson. Together, they birthed, nurtured and raised eight (8) children. Ralph, Jr. earned his heavenly wings on Saturday, December 30, 2023, 7:30 am. He is now reunited with his loving wife Margaret Ann and son Ralph, III.

Ralph Jr. was employed by Buick Motor Division. After seven years he transferred to General Motors Turnstead and General Motors Fisher Body Plant where he worked in Security. Ralph, Jr. returned to Buick Motor Division as sergeant of security. After 30+ years of employment with General Motors,

Ralph, Jr. retired.

The Tedford Family attended Christ Assembly Full Gospel Tabernacle under the pastorate of the late Bishop Frazier P. Carlton. Mother Lessie Mae Tedford insisted all her children attend church with her together. Mother Lessie instilled godly principles in the lives of her children and taught them how to pray and seek God's guidance in everything. While attending Christ Assembly Full Gospel Tabernacle, Ralph, Jr. was ordained a deacon. Using his gifts for the glory of God, Ralph, Jr. played the guitar and wrote music for the choir. In 1980 Ralph Jr. moved his church membership to The Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of the late Reverend Dr. Granville Smith Sr. During his membership at Mt. Calvary, he was an active participant of the music ministry, playing the guitar along with teaching and directing the male chorus. Also, Ralph served with the fine arts department successfully staging several plays he authored.

As times began to change, crime and criminal activity increased, therefore calling for the congregations to implement a security system to protect their parishioners as they worshipped. Pastor Granville Smith appointed Sergeant Ralph Tedford, Jr. to develop a security team for Mt. Calvary. During the process of developing the Security Team, Sergeant Tedford, Jr., was contacted by General Arlee Mitchner to join the board of security leaders and Sheriff Wilson to implement a plan to keep all churches safe. Bringing his skills and experiences to the table, the team adopted his plans to expand, recruit, train and bond security persons for all congregations interested. Because of his accomplishments in Security in Ministry (SIM) Sergeant Tedford, Jr., was promoted to Colonel of Security in Ministry.

At the retirement of Sheriff Wilson, General Mitchner and Colonel Ralph continued the work of SIM with the new Sheriff Robert Pickell. This union helped many of the houses of worship to keep not only their congregants safe but their properties as well. Colonel Tedford expanded SIM and implemented training and teaching for all officers, members, and congregations. During his tenure many bonds were formed between the pastors, churches, and the

community. Colonel Tedford retired from SIM in February of 2020 and passed the mantle on to Major Danny Knight.

In 2000 Colonel Tedford joined The Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church under the pastorate of the Reverend Dr. Marvin A Jennings Sr., now emeritus pastor, and current pastor, the Reverend Rabon Turner. While at Grace Emmanuel, Ralph, Jr. was part of the music ministry playing guitar and working alongside his son the late Ralph, III, music director. Ralph Jr. attended Grace Emmanuel regularly until he moved to Texas to be with his wife Margaret in March 2020. After his wife transitioned in January 2021, Ralph moved to Maryland with his daughters Elizabeth and Dorcas. During the pandemic, while churches were closed for in-person services, Ralph enjoyed attending Sunday virtual services of his eldest son, Pastor Carl Tedford. He was a faithful supporter of the ministry. He also enjoyed attending church services and concerts with his daughters. Ralph enjoyed his life in Maryland and was able to fulfill a lifelong dream and go to Florida to spend Christmas at Universal Studios and Island of Adventures with all three of his daughters and their families. He would often say, "I see why your mom loved to travel with you girls, you all spoiled her". Ralph's girls enjoyed spoiling him as well and indulging him in the best and finest cuisines that Maryland offers. He was told often, and it was demonstrated to him that his family loved and treasured him. He resided in the home of Dorcas and her family until his death.

Ralph Jr. had many accomplishments in his life, yet his greatest was instilling the gift and love of music to all his beloved children and nurturing the gifts that God granted to each. He taught each of them to read and write music, the foundations of music and music theory. Each of his sons were given instruments according to his assessment of their ability to master the instrument. Each of the girls were encouraged to sing and excel. The Tedford children were encouraged to go above and beyond with their music ability and in their life endeavors. The Tedford children was raised in the church and taught to serve God. The motto for the Tedford household was "As for me and

my house we will serve the Lord”.

Ralph was taught and skilled in the art of Aikido and Jujitsu achieving a black belt in both. He would often take some of his children to the Dojo with him during practice teaching them martial arts and how they should be used.

Ralph lived his life by this scripture: Philippians 4:6-8

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Ralph, Jr., authored several books: “Security in Ministry,” “The Life & Chronicles of RTJ,” and “I Am What I Am.” As a playwright, Ralph, Jr., wrote and produced several stage plays: “A New Country, A New God part one and part II,” “A Request from Hell,” “A Story that was Never told,” and many others. His legacy will continue, and his story will be shared with the world as a testament of his life: a man of faith and a family man.

Now resting from his labor and sitting at the throne of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Colonel Ralph Tedford Jr. leaves to cherish his memories and maintain his legacy; loving children: Carla (Calvin) Foreman, Jacksonville, Florida; Pastor Carl Tedford, Flint, Michigan; Frazier (Jolanda) Tedford, Bluffdale, Utah; Emuell (Jeanette) Tedford, Detroit, Michigan; Elizabeth (Joseph) Miller, Hanover, Maryland; Carlton Scott Tedford, San Diego, California; Dorcas (Dr. Ronald Jr.) Green, Severn, Maryland; adoring grandchildren: Marguerite, Janelle, Jazmine (Frank), Keith, Keyya, Quionne, Ryan, Bianca (Steven), Antonnette (Kenny), Candise, Kenisha, Ici, Mariah and Cameron; treasured great grandchildren: Imani, Elliott, Elias, Ella, Eloni, Kyron, Miria, Keith III, Cameron, Carieth and Knoxx, Deniyah, Kaiden, Amaya, Justin, Maci and Myron; Brothers: Donnie Tedford, Flint, Michigan; Frank Tedford, Detroit, Michigan; Ricky (Arlene) Tedford, Los Angeles, California;

Sisters: Dorahetta (Preston) Peery, Davidson, Michigan; Tracy Tedford, Los Angeles, California, many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, extended family and friends.

Colonel Ralph Tedford Jr. was preceded in death by his loving wife Margaret Ann; son, Ralph Tedford, III; father, Ralph B. Tedford Sr.; mother, Lessie Mae Tedford; brothers, Rev. Robert Mills, Ronnie Tedford Sr., Dansby Tedford Sr., Dr. William Tedford; sisters, Vickie Tedford, and Mae Alice Tedford-Baker; grandparents, Big Jett Mills and Danny Sue Cooper Mills

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hills Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.
Flint, MI 48504

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 12. 1:00 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

JAN 12. 3:00 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

JAN 13. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Triumph Church Burton Campus
2130 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519

Funeral Service

JAN 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

Triumph Church Burton Campus
2130 S. Center Rd.
Burton, MI 48519

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ My condolences and prayers to the Tedford family in the loss of your dad. Stay prayed up and God will do the rest. Khris Johnson



Khris Johnson - January 18, 2024 at 09:12 PM

JL

“ My heartfelt Condolence to the Tedford family. Ralph was a great leader in Security @ T&B also Security in Ministry trainer & special deputies. leader wonderful musician, sense of humor & FB friend. He enjoyed talking about our Lord. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and worked with him. A truly wonderful person

Johnnie Lacy - January 13, 2024 at 06:34 PM

NM

“ Nathaniel McKinzie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Nathaniel McKinzie - January 13, 2024 at 05:51 PM

NF

“ Nenja & Teresa Frelix lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Nenja & Teresa Frelix - January 13, 2024 at 09:45 AM

BD

“ Our families were members of the same church as we grew up and into adults. Though our lives played out differently and we lost touch, I have such fond memories of Ralph and the Tedford family.

Carla, I had every intention of coming by the funeral home today, but weather and my health challenges made that impossible. Just know that my heart and prayers are with you and the family as you lay your dad, Ralph, to rest. I'm so sorry that I can't be there for you all. Please convey my condolences to everyone.



Barbara E Doggett - January 12, 2024 at 07:58 PM

DM

“ R.I.H.P. Ralph! Prayers, hugs & condolences family!



Deb Milling - January 12, 2024 at 06:50 PM

CB

“ Cassandra Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Cassandra Burks - January 12, 2024 at 06:22 PM

SC

“ *Sandra Cabine lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Sandra Cabine - January 12, 2024 at 05:58 PM

FG

“ *Flo Greer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Flo Greer - January 12, 2024 at 05:46 PM

JW

“ *Praying God's comfort and strength for the family! Shaleta, Johnathan, Chris, Janae, and Jamar*

Johnathan C Williams - January 12, 2024 at 02:39 PM

JC

“ *Joseph And Mae Cochran lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Joseph and Mae Cochran - January 12, 2024 at 12:42 PM

MC

“ Mae Cochran lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Mae Cochran - January 12, 2024 at 12:41 PM

AJ

“ Alma Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Alma Johnson - January 12, 2024 at 12:18 PM

AP

“ Sending condolences and may the family continue to remember the wonderful husband, father, grandfather, that he was. Mr. Tedford touched many lives and many hearts in so many ways. He shall be missed and remembered. Our prayers are with the family. Deacon Shelton and Anna Pinnix



Anna Pinnix - January 12, 2024 at 09:36 AM

SS

“ Sophia Staples lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Sophia Staples - January 12, 2024 at 01:38 AM

DC

“ Dana Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Dana Chapman - January 11, 2024 at 03:45 PM

CH

“ Charles And Cynthia Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Charles and Cynthia Hamilton - January 11, 2024 at 01:08 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr..



January 11, 2024 at 10:24 AM

LF

“ Love Alive Church, Florida planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr..

Love Alive Church, Florida - January 11, 2024 at 10:24 AM

EC

“ *Earl And Diane Crowder lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Earl and Diane Crowder - January 10, 2024 at 10:42 PM

RS

“ *Renetta Scott sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



renetta scott - January 10, 2024 at 06:15 PM

CE

“ *Cynthia F Elam sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Cynthia F Elam - January 10, 2024 at 06:01 PM

KR

“ *Kermit & Genell (Crain) Reeves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Kermit & Genell (Crain) Reeves - January 10, 2024 at 05:40 PM

OC

“ *ORA CARTER lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



ORA CARTER - January 10, 2024 at 08:08 AM

CA

“ *Carroll Abron lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Carroll Abron - January 09, 2024 at 07:32 PM

IF

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Ralph Tedford. My husband worked with Ralph with Security n Ministry. Praying for the family and friends.*

Irene Fouse - January 09, 2024 at 05:50 PM

GC

“ *GEBC Choir purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr..*



GEBC Choir - January 09, 2024 at 01:56 PM

SM

“ It was such a blessing and a great pleasure to know u since I was a little girl. Now it's time to rest & reap your reward which is Everlasting Life with Jesus Christ. Until we meet again in heaven Mr Tedford.



Sushila Moore - January 09, 2024 at 01:09 PM

LW

“ Linda F Winfrey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Linda F Winfrey - January 08, 2024 at 09:54 PM

GC

“ God has called a good shepherd home Colonel Tedford will certainly be missed. I remember standing with him working side by side starting Security In Ministry. My condolences to the family may God cover you during this difficult time.
Gloria Cook
Mansfield Tx



Gloria Cook - January 08, 2024 at 01:28 PM

CB

“ *Carl Bucknet lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Carl Bucknet - January 07, 2024 at 08:01 PM

RF

“ *Rose Fizer lit a candle in memory of Ralph Tedford*



Rose Fizer - January 07, 2024 at 04:25 AM

RK

“ *Rodney Keyes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Rodney Keyes - January 06, 2024 at 11:49 PM

DA

“ *Damaria Altidort lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Damaria Altidort - January 06, 2024 at 11:47 PM

JC

“ JoeAnn Carrigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



JoeAnn Carrigan - January 06, 2024 at 07:10 PM

JC

“ RIH Mr. T. Love and Will Miss You and Your Gift For Music. Thank You for playing Guitar for Me at My Concerts and Engagements. God Bless and Keep the Tedford Family In Perfect Peace. Keeping Them All In Prayer. In Jesus'Name. 🙏🙏🙏

JoeAnn Carrigan - January 06, 2024 at 07:08 PM

JG

“ Jeanette Grady lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Jeanette Grady - January 06, 2024 at 05:35 PM

CC

“ Cheryl Cannon lit a candle in memory of Ralph Tedford



Cheryl Cannon - January 06, 2024 at 02:51 PM

MR

“ *Mary Randle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford.*



Mary Randle - January 06, 2024 at 11:57 AM

BW

“ *Betty Wesley lit a candle in memory of Ralph Tedford*



Betty Wesley - January 06, 2024 at 12:01 AM

GT

“ *Geraldine Turner lit a candle in memory of Ralph Tedford*



Geraldine Turner - January 05, 2024 at 08:20 PM

LB

“ *Lay Burns lit a candle in memory of Ralph Tedford*



Lay Burns - January 05, 2024 at 07:44 PM

VF

“ A candle lit in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Violet Warner-Eldridge and Family - January 05, 2024 at 06:38 PM

DS

“ Deidre Spight-Woodson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Deidre Spight-Woodson - January 05, 2024 at 02:23 PM

TK

“ Ted & Sylvia Keys lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Ted & Sylvia Keys - January 05, 2024 at 12:13 PM

HM

“ HOUSE OF PRAYER, MBC lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



HOUSE OF PRAYER, MBC - January 05, 2024 at 09:59 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr..*



January 05, 2024 at 09:41 AM



“ *Lisa Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Lisa Wilson - January 05, 2024 at 08:37 AM



“ *Sandra Cabine lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Sandra Cabine - January 04, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ *Be bless and rest in God arms I remember at church u and your wife so happy Heaven happy. Hartfield family will pray for your family*



Cheryl Hartfield - January 04, 2024 at 09:53 PM

SJ

“ Shirley Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Shirley Jones - January 04, 2024 at 09:08 PM



“ Matthew Van Buren sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Matthew Van Buren - January 04, 2024 at 06:33 PM

LB

“ Loretta Black lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Loretta Black - January 04, 2024 at 05:42 PM

CT

“ Carolyn Taylo lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



carolyn taylo - January 04, 2024 at 03:58 PM

GL

“ Glynis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Glynis - January 04, 2024 at 03:47 PM

EW

“ Elder Charles Woods lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Elder Charles Woods - January 04, 2024 at 02:01 PM

KT

“ Keith Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Keith Taylor - January 04, 2024 at 10:39 AM

DW

“ Derrek & Regina Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Derrek & Regina Williams - January 04, 2024 at 09:30 AM

MD

“ *Montena Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Montena Davis - January 04, 2024 at 05:57 AM

PW

“ *Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Pam Williams - January 04, 2024 at 03:48 AM

RA

“ *Rosia T Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Rosia T Anderson - January 03, 2024 at 11:48 PM

GC

“ *Gale Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Gale Chapman - January 03, 2024 at 09:05 PM

OC

“ ORA CARTER lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



ORA CARTER - January 03, 2024 at 08:34 PM

GT

“ My condolences to the family. I am lifting you up in Prayer,Peace , strength and love. I love this family. I've known them a long time. From childhood to adult hood. This family is amazing. Simplified what a Christian family looks like. I love you all.
Gloria Tyus



gloria tyus - January 03, 2024 at 05:57 PM

SN

“ Sending my Love and Prayers to the Tedford family ❤️🥺



Sandy Neal - January 03, 2024 at 05:55 PM

MB

“ Mother Birdie Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.



Mother Birdie Brooks - January 03, 2024 at 05:43 PM

AD

“ *My sincerest thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during their time of bereavement!*



AC Dumas - January 03, 2024 at 03:24 PM

JA

“ *Jerome Adams lit a candle in memory of Ralph Tedford*



Jerome Adams - January 03, 2024 at 12:25 PM

LC

“ *Prayers for the Tedford family.*



Loria Corder - January 03, 2024 at 11:57 AM

MF

“ *Mackey-Smith Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Mackey-Smith Family - January 03, 2024 at 09:24 AM

JK

“ *Condolences and prayers for the Tedford family.*



Julie Koger - January 03, 2024 at 08:33 AM

JM

“ *James & Barbara Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



James & Barbara Moore - January 03, 2024 at 03:03 AM

BD

“ *R. I. P. As you meet Sis Tedford and Ralph 3 in heaven.*



Bobie Douglas - January 02, 2024 at 11:30 PM

AM

“ *Annette Marks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Annette Marks - January 02, 2024 at 10:22 PM

BF

“ *Sending Our Prayers And Love To The Tedford Family*



Billings Family - January 02, 2024 at 06:43 PM

TA

“ *Sending sincere prayers of love, comfort, peace and God's strength..to the entire family!*



Teresa ReRe Anthony-Johnson - January 02, 2024 at 12:22 PM

CG

“ *My sincere condolences to the entire Tedford Family.*



Carol Gardner - January 02, 2024 at 10:52 AM

EP

“ *Erwin And Carmen Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Erwin and Carmen Patterson - January 02, 2024 at 10:52 AM

PM

“ *Pamela L. Mitchell/Hightower lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ralph Tedford Jr.*



Pamela L. Mitchell/Hightower - January 02, 2024 at 10:34 AM

GB

Praying for the Tedford family. Gerald Battle and family

Gerald Battle - January 04, 2024 at 07:23 PM