



Mr. Ruben Burks

November 24, 1933 - April 6, 2020

BURKS, Mr. Ruben - Age 86, passed away Monday, April 6, 2020 at Ascension-Genesys.

A memorial service will be determined at a later date due to the current public health and safety concerns that we are facing at this unprecedented time.

MR. RUBEN BURKS – A visionary man with a passion for equal rights & social justice for all was born in Bossier City, Louisiana on November 24, 1933 to Robert and Lula Tutt Burks. Ruben accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and now he is present with our Lord and Savior.

The Burks family moved to Flint, Michigan in 1955. In 1955, he began working as an assembler at the former General Motors Fisher Body Plant 2 where he joined the UAW Local 598. He steadily rose through the ranks at the Local 598 serving in various leadership posts, including shop committee person and executive board member. In 1970, then UAW President, Walter Reuther, appointed Ruben Burks to be an International representative for Region 1C. By 1989, he was the director of Region 1C and held that position for three terms. In 1998, Ruben became the first African-American International UAW Secretary-Treasurer, a post he held until 2002.

Ruben received an honorary degree from Mott Community College. Ruben

spent his life devoted to the UAW since his relocation to Michigan.

Ruben leaves to cherish his memories and to continue his legacy by his devoted significant other, Gertrude Young. His five children: Beverly Burks, Reverend Clifford Burks, Gary Burks, Dr. Michael Young and Dr. Larry Young. His sister, Cora Rawls, a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, many friends, and business colleagues.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests you donate to: UAW Regional 1D Women's Council, Attention: Ruben Burks Scholarship Fund, 1940 W Atherton Road, Flint, MI 48507.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hills Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.
Flint, MI 48504

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Ruben Burks*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Ruthi Hill sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Ruthi Hill - May 03, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ *Onita (Winfrey) Turner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Onita (Winfrey) Turner - April 23, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ *To the Burks family I am so sorry to hear of the loss of someone that I truly looked up to, he will be missed, we have lost a great man!*

Michael Winchester - April 21, 2020 at 07:08 PM



“ *Kimberly Underwood Morea lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Kimberly Underwood Morea - April 21, 2020 at 08:08 AM



“ *To The Burks Family. We send our condolscence and PRAYER. MAY GOD COMFORT you, in trying times. GOD LOVES you.*



Linda - April 19, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ *Lois Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Lois Cunningham - April 18, 2020 at 07:19 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the Burks and Young families. Ruben was a close friend and associate of our father. May the God of all comfort you at this difficult time.*

Linda Childress - April 18, 2020 at 11:32 AM

MA

“ *My prayers & condolences to the Burks family*

Mary Avant - April 17, 2020 at 06:24 PM

MA

“ *Mary Avant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Mary Avant - April 17, 2020 at 05:57 PM

WS

“ *Our community has loss a great leader and I have loss a true friend. His leadership and service made our community better.*

woodrow and reta stanley - April 17, 2020 at 12:46 PM

SH

“ *Sandy Hairston lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Sandy Hairston - April 17, 2020 at 08:59 AM

ET

“ *Ernelle Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Ernelle Taylor - April 17, 2020 at 08:51 AM

EM

“ You will be greatly missed. Such an awesome man. Sending up prayers for the family.
Edna Mason and Family ❤️

Edna Mason - April 16, 2020 at 06:04 PM

BH

“ My Condolences to the Family. May God Give You Strength in Your time Of Need. Mr. BURKS will Truly Be Missed. R.I.P



Betty Hobson-Rosborough - April 16, 2020 at 06:57 AM

SW

“ Catherine Williams sending condolences to your family.

Sandra Williams - April 16, 2020 at 06:49 AM

AJ

“ Alfreda Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Alfreda Jefferson - April 15, 2020 at 06:32 PM

CS

“ *Carolyn Spight lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Carolyn Spight - April 15, 2020 at 05:35 PM

RK

“ *Russell Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Russell Kirksey - April 15, 2020 at 04:38 PM

RM

“ *RONNIE MCDANIEL lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



RONNIE MCDANIEL - April 15, 2020 at 04:21 PM

BH

“ As Director of Labor Relations for the Chevrolet Motor Division, I had more than a few opportunities to meet with Mr. Burks when he was International UAW representative for the UAW Regional Office in Flint, Michigan. I got to know him well and regarded him as a man of respect who performed a tough job well. His integrity could be taken for granted. I retired from GM before he was assigned to UAW Headquarters but his promotion came as no surprise to me. May he rest in peace.

Bob Henderson - April 15, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ Tonia Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Tonia Walker - April 15, 2020 at 01:41 PM

SP

“ Sandra Rawls Payne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Sandra Rawls Payne - April 15, 2020 at 05:26 AM

RB

“ *Renae Banks-Rowser lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Renae Banks-Rowser - April 15, 2020 at 02:21 AM

BL

“ *Betty Leeper lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Betty Leeper - April 15, 2020 at 12:23 AM

JH

“ *James And Carolyn (Cardwell) Hudson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



James and Carolyn (Cardwell) Hudson - April 14, 2020 at 11:47 PM

DH

“ *To a great man
Dorothy Hankins*



Dorothy Hankins - April 14, 2020 at 11:38 PM

JW

“ I would like to offer my condolences to the Burks and Young Family, my prayers are with you during this difficult time. Jeanette and Larry Wiley and Family



Jeanette Wiley - April 14, 2020 at 11:35 PM

CB

“ Prayers for the family 🙏



Corlonda Bowman-Williams - April 14, 2020 at 10:30 PM

GT

“ Geraldine Turner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks

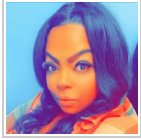


Geraldine Turner - April 14, 2020 at 09:56 PM

KJ

“ We would like to express our deepest condolences to the family.

Keith & Alicia Johnson - April 14, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ *Danielle Love lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Danielle Love - April 14, 2020 at 07:28 PM



“ *Theresa McQuiddy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Theresa McQuiddy - April 14, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ *Sending prayers and sincere condolences from the Garner Family 🙏*



Amie Metcalf Garner - April 14, 2020 at 05:08 PM



“ *Sending prayers and sincere a prayers from the Garner Family 🙏*



Amie Metcalf Garner - April 14, 2020 at 05:07 PM

LF

“ We send our heartfelt sympathy to the Burks and Young family.



LEWIS FAMILY - April 14, 2020 at 03:29 PM

FC

“ Great man always smiling and friendly! He will be missed! My prayers are with the family. More love to thee!



Francine Donan Caldwell - April 14, 2020 at 12:38 PM

JA

“ Jessica Adams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Jessica Adams - April 14, 2020 at 12:21 PM

MD

“ Michele Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Michele Davis - April 14, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ *Derek Berry Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Derek Berry Burks - April 14, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ *Great man UAW leader rest in peace 🙏🙏🙏*
😊



CLIFFTON SYKES - April 14, 2020 at 10:29 AM



Our sincere prayers and condolences are with the Burks family. Ruben was a true friend to me and my family his legacy will live on. Fred & Tiajuana Raspberry

Fred & Tiajuana Raspberry - April 14, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ *To the Burks family and Young's family we like to send our condolences to you . Mr. Burks was a good man when I first started working at truck and bus Assembly plant thanks for being my union rep you was greatly appreciate . Love Whittington family*



Yvonne Whittington - April 14, 2020 at 08:44 AM

HC

“ *Praying for the Family*



HETTIE COLLONS - April 14, 2020 at 08:41 AM

TJ

“ *Tonya Jackson-Battle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Tonya Jackson-Battle - April 13, 2020 at 11:12 PM

JS

“ *Jerrel/Dorothy Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Jerrel/Dorothy Sanders - April 13, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ *My sincere and heartfelt condolences to the entire Burke family and my friends, Michael and Larry. Cherish, share and visit your precious memories often. May God continue to comfort you during this time and the days to come. Love, Cerese.*

Cerese Simpson Pennington - April 13, 2020 at 04:29 PM

CC

“ *He was truly our HERO* ”



Claudia Croom - April 13, 2020 at 06:47 AM

AM

“ *Art And Marie McGee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks* ”



Art and Marie McGee - April 13, 2020 at 12:11 AM

FR

“ *Praying for the Burks family.* ”

Fred Robinson - April 12, 2020 at 08:27 PM

 Sheila Strunk

“ *Ruben was a good man and a true unionist. His legacy lives on.* ”

Sheila Strunk - April 12, 2020 at 02:33 PM

WR

“ *Winston Ruffin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks* ”



Winston Ruffin - April 12, 2020 at 01:44 PM

WC

“ *Sadly missed, will never be forgotten*



Wanda Cramer - April 12, 2020 at 01:05 PM



“ *Condolences to the family,A Angel has gone home,RIH Ruben* 🙏

George Washington - April 12, 2020 at 11:51 AM

JS

“ *Mr.Burks*
My mother would talk bout what a wonderful
man you we're for the UAW. Thanks you for all
you're hard work. May you rest in peace.



Jeanetta Starr - April 12, 2020 at 11:49 AM

RW

“ *Rudy And Geneva Ward lit a candle in*
memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Rudy and Geneva Ward - April 12, 2020 at 06:26 AM

MA

“ *Mary Avant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Mary Avant - April 11, 2020 at 09:20 PM

AM

“ *Our prayers go out to the family of Mr Ruben Burks, a truly great union leader, who worked his entire life for working families in this UAW Region as Regional Director , and throughout the Labor Community as UAW Financial Secretary. Ruben was a mentor for many aspiring Unionist and will be missed by all.*

Art and Marie McGee - April 11, 2020 at 07:32 PM

RB

“ *Russell Barkman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Russell Barkman - April 11, 2020 at 01:26 PM

JK

“ *Jesse Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Jesse Kirksey - April 11, 2020 at 12:38 PM

CU

“ *Carl Ursery lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Carl Ursery - April 11, 2020 at 12:30 PM

DB

“ *DeNise Blake lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



DeNise Blake - April 11, 2020 at 09:56 AM

TT

“ *Tony Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Tony Taylor - April 11, 2020 at 08:39 AM

 Linda Brooks

“ *We here in Bossier City, Louisiana who remembers Mr. Ruben Burks send our condolences to the Flint families. God bless you all.*



Linda Brooks - April 11, 2020 at 06:55 AM

GH

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family.
Praying for you 🙏🙏*



Gerri Hall - April 11, 2020 at 01:59 AM

CM

“ *My sincere condolences to Mr Ruben Burks
family. May the God who gives peace be with
all of you.*



Camilla McGee - April 11, 2020 at 12:26 AM

YJ

“ *My condolences ❤️ prayers*



Yolanda Johnson - April 10, 2020 at 11:49 PM

BP

“ *I lit a candle in memory of Mr. Burks*



Belinda Burt Patrick - April 10, 2020 at 09:54 PM

JA

“ *Jacque & Senita Jackson (Marengo Ave) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Jacque & Senita Jackson (Marengo Ave) - April 10, 2020 at 06:08 PM

MO

“ *My deepest condolences and prayers....Marcella O.*



Marcella Oden - April 10, 2020 at 05:28 PM

NB

“ *Neysa Burns lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Neysa Burns - April 10, 2020 at 09:39 AM

DT

“ *Debby Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Debby Taylor - April 10, 2020 at 08:37 AM

BP

Lit a candle in memor of Mr. Ruben Burks

Belinda Burt Patrick - April 10, 2020 at 09:44 PM

TS

“ *Trina Stewart lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Trina Stewart - April 10, 2020 at 07:36 AM

RL

“ *Rev. Jeanette Lenoir lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Rev. Jeanette Lenoir - April 10, 2020 at 06:11 AM

MM

“ *Mailyn (Yorko) Miner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Mailyn (Yorko) Miner - April 10, 2020 at 01:19 AM

TC

“ Terry L Cramer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Terry L Cramer - April 09, 2020 at 08:28 PM

GL

“ Gail LaFleur lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Gail LaFleur - April 09, 2020 at 07:22 PM

R(

“ Rosie M. McCollum (Meekins) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Rosie M. McCollum (Meekins) - April 09, 2020 at 02:02 PM

WS

“ WYVONNE SKINNER lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



WYVONNE SKINNER - April 09, 2020 at 12:13 PM

JS

“ *James & Sharon Owensby Sr.(Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



James & Sharon Owensby sr.(Arizona) - April 09, 2020 at 11:35 AM

VP

“ *Vanessa Powell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Vanessa Powell - April 09, 2020 at 11:24 AM

RH

“ *My Condolences, Love and Prayers to the Family. You Will Always Be Remembered For All Your Hard Work and Your Dedication To And For The Solidarity Of The Brothers And Sisters Of UAW Region 1-C. God Bless You And Thank You! R.P.I.H Reuben Burks*



Ruthi Hill - April 09, 2020 at 10:33 AM

LC

Thank You for all you've done over the years for the Labor Movement. One of the Giants who made life so much better for not only me but so many others. You will be sadly missed. R.I.P. Reuben Burks

Lara Clarke & Steve Cockram - April 10, 2020 at 03:52 PM

JC

“ *Janis Conerly sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Janis Conerly - April 09, 2020 at 10:07 AM

ED

“ *Excelento Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Excelento Davis - April 09, 2020 at 09:12 AM

JR

“ *John, Tujunana & Nicholas Reaves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



John, Tujunana & Nicholas Reaves - April 09, 2020 at 07:09 AM

SC

“ *Sandra Cabine lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Sandra Cabine - April 09, 2020 at 03:59 AM

LS

“ *Lewis Driskell, Sr. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Lewis Driskell, Sr. - April 09, 2020 at 12:54 AM

BW

“ *Prayers and condolences to the family.*



Betty Wesley - April 08, 2020 at 11:49 PM

SS

“ *Sheila Summers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Sheila Summers - April 08, 2020 at 04:42 PM

BL

“ *Barbara Lakes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Barbara Lakes - April 08, 2020 at 04:10 PM

BL

“ *Betty Leeper lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Betty Leeper - April 08, 2020 at 03:53 PM



“ *Anita WiseWilliams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Anita WiseWilliams - April 08, 2020 at 03:46 PM

RH

“ *Hi my name is Ralph Huston I knew Ruben for many years and work within closely when I was the HR Director at AC sparkplug he was a fine gentleman a very positive person for the UAW membership I always remember him as being very kind and considerate and it was a pleasure knowing and working with him I'm sorry for your loss*

Ralph Huston - April 08, 2020 at 01:35 PM

VF

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burke.*



Violet Warner-Eldridge and Family - April 08, 2020 at 01:28 PM

EB

“ *Eddie Booth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Eddie Booth - April 08, 2020 at 01:10 PM

JK

“ *Julie Koger lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Julie Koger - April 08, 2020 at 01:05 PM

HC

“ *Our prayers are with the entire Burks family. May God Bless & Keep you during this difficult period. Attorney Hewitt & Dornell Chatman, Plant City, FL*

Hewitt Chatman - April 08, 2020 at 12:51 PM

JS

“ *James & Sharon Owensby Sr.(Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



James & Sharon Owensby sr.(Arizona) - April 08, 2020 at 12:50 PM

DS

“ *Deadrea Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Deadrea Smith - April 08, 2020 at 12:09 PM

VM

“ *Virginia McDaniel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Virginia McDaniel - April 08, 2020 at 11:50 AM

JB

“ *Joann Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Joann Burks - April 08, 2020 at 11:33 AM

BF

“ *Bridget Burks Faust lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Bridget Burks Faust - April 08, 2020 at 11:32 AM

WF

“ *Wilson Faust lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Wilson Faust - April 08, 2020 at 11:31 AM

WF

“ *William Faust lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



William Faust - April 08, 2020 at 11:30 AM

JB

“ *Joann Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Joann Burks - April 08, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ *You always live in my heart and through my work thank you for making time to be a positive role I'm my life!*

Chad Fabbro - April 08, 2020 at 10:22 AM

RG

“ *Rev I Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Rev I Gilbert - April 08, 2020 at 10:03 AM

BT

“ *Betty Tipper lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Betty Tipper - April 08, 2020 at 09:56 AM

DD

“ *Debra Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Debra Davis - April 08, 2020 at 09:42 AM

LR

“ *May You Rest In Peace And May The Work You Have Done Be Not In Vain*

Solidarity Forever,



Lorene Randall - April 08, 2020 at 09:13 AM

EP

“ *Elder Michael Proby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Elder Michael proby - April 08, 2020 at 09:01 AM

TJ

“ *Tanya Jefferson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Tanya Jefferson - April 08, 2020 at 08:35 AM

LB

“ *Linda&Eddie Booth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Linda&Eddie Booth - April 08, 2020 at 08:27 AM

CH

“ *My Prayers and Love to all the Family members also to All Member's of Local 598 The New Ruben Burks Hall. MR. RUBEN BURKS YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. All the people of Flint MI will remember all the things YOU STAND FOR.. THANK YOU.*



Christy Henry - April 08, 2020 at 07:46 AM

PR

“ *Patricia Roberts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Patricia Roberts - April 08, 2020 at 12:24 AM

WH

“ *Wanda Harrison lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Wanda Harrison - April 08, 2020 at 12:14 AM

PH

“ *Patsy McDaniel Holder lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Patsy McDaniel Holder - April 07, 2020 at 10:42 PM

DS

“ *Prayers for Burks/Young Families. GOD is Able.*



Deidre Spight-Woodson - April 07, 2020 at 09:49 PM

VW

“ *Velma Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Velma Williams - April 07, 2020 at 09:31 PM

EG

“ *Esther Gentry-Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Esther Gentry-Thompson - April 07, 2020 at 08:36 PM

YT

“ *Yvonne Tidwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Yvonne Tidwell - April 07, 2020 at 08:22 PM

SH

“ *R.I.HEAVEN MR. BURKS*



Sandra Hughes-Hatter - April 07, 2020 at 07:31 PM

NO

“ *NaRotha Ogden lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



NaRotha Ogden - April 07, 2020 at 05:31 PM

JJ

“ *My condolences and prayers for the family.*



Jovita Johnson - April 07, 2020 at 05:06 PM

KB

“ *Khristian Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Khristian Burks - April 07, 2020 at 04:20 PM

KB

“ *Karson Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Karson Burks - April 07, 2020 at 04:19 PM

KB

“ Kennedy Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Kennedy Burks - April 07, 2020 at 04:19 PM

KB

“ Kristin Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Kristin Burks - April 07, 2020 at 04:18 PM

TB

“ Tony Burks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks



Tony Burks - April 07, 2020 at 04:18 PM

CH

“ Be bless Burks family. Great Man and leader for the Union. Hartfield family



Cheryl. Hartfield - April 07, 2020 at 02:50 PM

SL

“ *Sandra Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Sandra Lewis - April 07, 2020 at 02:49 PM

TL

“ *To the Burks and Young Families, My deepest sympathy I give to you at this time of loss. Mr. Burks was indeed admired by all in the community. He will be missed.*

Tia Lewis - April 07, 2020 at 02:48 PM

VW

“ *Sending prayers and condolences to the entire family of Mr. Ruben Burks. Rubin was a fair, kind, concerned, and approachable . He rose to become the first African American international UAW secretary-treasurer. Take your rest Mr. Burks.*



Valerie Williams - April 07, 2020 at 02:30 PM

MW

“ *Mary A. Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Mary A. Williams - April 07, 2020 at 02:25 PM

PW

“ *Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



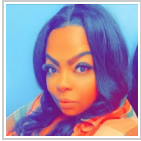
Pam Williams - April 07, 2020 at 01:49 PM

CC

“ *Clarence (Charlie) Campbell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Clarence (Charlie) Campbell - April 07, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ *Danielle Love sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ruben Burks*



Danielle Love - April 07, 2020 at 01:38 PM