



Calvin R. Mitchell

October 12, 1929 - May 27, 2022

Calvin Rudolph Mitchell departed this world to go to his heavenly home Friday, May 27, 2022.

He was born Oct. 12, 1929, in Jackson. His mother was the late Erma Mitchell Siebert.

He graduated from an all-Black John S. Cobb School in Cape Girardeau in 1948 and went on to attend Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

He married his high school sweetheart, Denza Zenobia Jones, and remained married for 62 years until her death Jan. 25, 2015.

During the early '50s, Calvin was drafted into the U.S. Army. After serving his country, he supported his family by securing employment at the Southeast Missourian from 1955 to 1997. Calvin was blessed to work 42 years with the company. He also worked at the Cape Girardeau Public Library for 35 years and held positions with Farm & Home Savings Association, Frozen Food Locker and Shakey's Pizza.

He was kind, humble, loving and a very devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He always had such a caring spirit for others and made a significant impact in many individual lives. Calvin made a commitment to attend and helped in his children's school, church, community, career events and activities.

Service to God

Calvin was a lifelong member of St. James AME Church. He served as a trustee, usher, Men's Day chairperson, Men's Chorus member and assisted

with the coordination of banquets, anniversary celebrations, Easter fashion shows, backyard socials and other fund raisers for the church. He was a member of the Floral Club, Golden Age Club and the Here I Am Club. Calvin also opened his home to allow church services to be held in his basement and provided meals to many college students, along with parental guidance. He also attended Lighthouse United Church and was appointed honorary deacon.

In his spare time, he enjoyed landscaping his yard and whitewashing his trees and flower bed rocks with his wife. At Christmas each year, he would create a gingerbread house scene and decorate his yard with lights. He loved the outside and enjoyed listening to gospel music.

Throughout his life he was blessed to travel to many areas within the United States with his beloved family. One of his greatest blessings in life, by the grace of the Lord was to be a 25-year Cancer Survivor.

Service to Family

Calvin taught his children to have a strong work ethic and to maintain a job and instilled in them to love everyone and to treat People like you would want to be treated. He always conveyed to them that you are not better than anyone, and no one is better than you. Calvin took great care of his family by working a multitude of jobs throughout his life. Each Sunday he took his children to church and encouraged them to become involved in various church and community events. He also taught them how to landscape, paint and maintain a quality home.

He was blessed to be honored in the following capacities:

Recipient of the Dr. C. John Ritter Humanitarian Service Award;

Oldest member of St. James AME Church;

Lifelong Service Award for contributions to St. James AME Church;

Honorary deacon appointment, Lighthouse United Church;

Cape Girardeau Public library honored him for 35 years of service (1963-1998) by planting a tree in front of the library along with a beautiful concrete marker;

Honored as a trustee emeritus for St. James AME Church;
2022 Honoree for the Missouri Conference Women's Missionary Society
Legacy Luncheon.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Erma Siebert; wife, Denza Mitchell;
son, Reginald Mitchell; sister, Virginia Johnson.

Survivors include a son, Kevin Mitchell, and three daughters, Debra Mitchell-
Braxton, Karen Smith and Denise Mitchell, all of Cape Girardeau;
grandchildren, Randy (Amanda) Smith of Cypress, Texas; Sean Braxton and
Ashley (Danny) Braxton of Cape Girardeau; Frankie Braxton of Columbia,
Maryland; and Ann (Darryl) Parker of Silver Springs, Maryland; brother, Brian
(Phyllis) Siebert of Kokomo, Indiana; great-grandchildren, Calvin, Ariana,
Naomi, Miller, Braxton, Adin, Delylah and Alex; and a host of cousins and
friends.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon Friday at St. James AME Church, 516
North St., in Cape Girardeau. Celebration of life service will follow at noon
Friday at the church. Funeral services will be live streamed at [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83676132834?pwd=akovYzhGeDdnSDRKV0NGc1k2SmVmdz09;](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83676132834?pwd=akovYzhGeDdnSDRKV0NGc1k2SmVmdz09;meetingID:83676132834;passcode:688600)
meeting ID: 836 7613 2834; passcode: 688600.

Interment will be at Fairmount Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

Calvin's family is requesting attendees wear bright color symbolizing a garden
of flowers.

Memorial contributions may be given to St. James AME Church, P.O. Box
301, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Ford and Sons Funeral Home
in Cape Girardeau.

Online condolences may be shared at fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Fairmont Cemetery

835 Caruthers
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. James A.M.E. Church
516 North St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

JUN 3. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. James A.M.E. Church
516 North St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

TF

“ Sending my sincere love, hugs and prayers to the Mitchell family during this time of loss. Your dad was a wonderful man and he and your mother raised an amazing family, May God continue to hold you all in his arms of comfort and peace! I am sorry I was out of town during his passing but my thoughts and prayers are still with you all.

The McGarr family (Kia and Fran) - September 09, 2022 at 10:54 AM

LC

“ Louise (Wren) Ross and Children purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Calvin R. Mitchell.



Louise (Wren) Ross and Children - June 08, 2022 at 12:26 PM

KP

“ I am sending my sincere love, hugs, prayers & kisses to "ALL" of you (Debbie, Denise, Karen my Bonus Aunties & family), during this time. May God hold you in His arms of comfort & love. My heart is with you as I forever hold on to the MANY memories & the love I've received. 💙🙏🌟+

Kellie Dockery/Johnson/Prince

☐ Genetha's Daughter ☐



Kellie Dockery/Johnson Prince - June 03, 2022 at 12:55 PM

KP

“ I am sending my sincere love , hugs prayers & kisses to ALL of you during this time. May God hold you in His arms of comfort & love. My heart is with you as I forever hold on to the MANY memories & the love I've received. 🙏💙🌟+

Kellie Frances
(Dockery/ Johnson/Prince)
💖 Genetha's daughter 💖



Kellie Dockery/Johnson Prince - June 03, 2022 at 12:31 PM

KP

Remove Please. Wrong picture

Kellie Dockery/Johnson Prince - June 03, 2022 at 12:51 PM



“ So sorry to hear of the passing of "Pop" Mitchell. I loved seeing him come to church all sharp in his suits with that smile on his face. I know he loved the Lord and he loved his children. He was truly a fighter. God bless you all on today and everyday after. R.i.p "Pop" Mitchell 💖

Showty Gillespie - June 03, 2022 at 11:27 AM

CB

“ Your father was such a wonderful man! Always with a smile and a kind word every time we meet. We are holding you all in loving thoughts and prayers now and in the coming days.

Calvin & Kathie Brennan - June 02, 2022 at 10:05 PM

JH

“ *Mr. Mitchell set a wonderful example for all to follow. My sincerest sympathy to Kevin, Debra and all of the Mitchell family.*
Joan Edmundson Howard

Joan Howard - June 02, 2022 at 08:12 PM

PB

“ *I worked at the public library in the late 1970's with Calvin. He was always a gentle, caring person and made the day seem a little brighter. You were blessed with having him as your dad.*

Patricia Book - June 02, 2022 at 06:04 PM

PR

Debbie and Karen,

I am sorry to read about your Father's passing. May his memory be your comfort.

patricia C Rya - June 05, 2022 at 05:43 PM

CP

Debbie, Karen, Denise & Kevin, I am so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. I will never forget the good times and excellent hospitality shown by your dad and mom Denza, back in the day on Middle Street. They were always so kind. May God give you what you need as you move forward. May his memory be a blessing.

Carol Ann Primm - August 31, 2022 at 02:56 AM

RF

“ *Robert & Bret Estes & Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Calvin R. Mitchell.*



Robert & Bret Estes & Family - June 02, 2022 at 12:24 PM

TK

“ Heart felt condolences with your loss from our family to yours. He was a good man, a good Christian man, and we know he is with Jesus now.

Tim, Vilma and Kevin Keller

Timothy P Keller - June 02, 2022 at 10:22 AM

BP

“ Debbie and Karen, I am so sorry for you, but also rejoice in your father's ultimate reward. He lived a wonderful life. Very blessed by his family and friends he leaves that will miss him and learned from him. God's blessings to you all.

Bill Presser - June 02, 2022 at 09:58 AM

JS

“ I send my sympathy to all the family especially Denise who worked in the alumni office and Debra and Karen! Your dad was very kind to me! Love ❤️

jane Cooper Stacy - June 02, 2022 at 09:42 AM

LP

“ Condolences and prayers to the family. Just knowing two of his daughters, Debra and Karen, I know he was a fine gentleman and a tribute to mankind.

*Hugs and love,
Lana Andrews Piner*

Lana Andrews Piner - June 02, 2022 at 08:56 AM