



Mr. Arnold "Sweets" DePass Jr.

July 28, 1929 - February 20, 2017

Arnold Raymond DePass, Jr.

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OPELOUSAS-Final arrangements for Arnold Raymond "Sweets" DePass, 87, who was born on July 28, 1929 in New Orleans, LA and entered eternal life on Monday, February 20, 2017 in Opelousas General Health System, will be held privately.

Arnold leaves to cherish his legacy, his loving wife of nearly 64 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Gobert DePass, of Opelousas, LA; one son Andrew R. DePass (Sonia) of Sugarland, TX; two daughters: Elizabeth "Grace" DePass Thompson (Lucky) of Las Vegas, NV and Katherine DePass Francis (Vernon) of Lafayette, LA; three sisters: Stanislaus DePass Rachal, Luciana DePass and Olievette DePass Henderson all of New Orleans, LA; three grandchildren: Charlotte Green of New Orleans, LA, Jordan Green of Rosenberg, TX and Gwyneth DePass of Sugarland, TX; a step-grandson: Clarence "Sonny" Francis of Austin, TX; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and special friends.

In the mid-1940s, "Sweets" was a member of the legendary Dooky Chase Orchestra where he honed his skills as a celebrated jazz musician and stage performer - earning the name "Sweets" for his congenial nature and comradery with others. Mr. DePass continued his musical training and development under the tutelage of Professor Alonzo D. Eidson, M.M. at the

Educational Gateways Conservatory of Music in New Orleans, LA where he earned his professional credentials in Applied Vocational Music in 1957. As a performer, arranger and teacher he played with such music notables as Ellis Marsalis, Nat King Cole, Benny Powell, Vernel Fournier, Warren Bell, Bo Jangles and Ethel Waters.

His talent flourished for more than 50 years in various Big Band, Rhythm & Blues, and Jazz ensembles. Arnold proudly served in the U. S. Army from 1950-1953, where he was a member of the General's Jazz Band. Mr. DePass was also notably the first African-American U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier in City of Opelousas, retiring in 1990 after 27 years of dedicated service and a Life Member of 50 years in the National Association of Letter Carriers. On April 29, 1997, he was honored with the Living Legend Award from the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Inc. as a legendary master of musical excellence on the trumpet.

Mr. DePass was preceded in death by his parents Arnold R. DePass, Sr. (founder of the Original Olympia Brass Band) and Lillian Fontenette DePass, as well as, his brother Hausmann DePass.

Share words of comfort with the Arnold Raymond DePass, Jr. family on his Permanent Life Tribute Page at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net.

Final disposition entrusted to Williams Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Opelousas. 817 E. South Street, 337.942.2037.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Arnold "Sweets" DePass Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Mr. Arnauld Depass was a great "role model" before the term became popularized!*

Yet he was a humble Man. I never knew all that he had accomplished "Musically" until I read his obituary.

I am forever thankful he (and wife Elizabeth) has been part of my "Village", beginning in teenage years, and continuing during adulthood!

*Quoting 2 Timothy 4:7,
Arnold Depass ... has fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith!*

May Arnold's soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen!!

He will be missed by family & friends. My condolences to his treasured wife Elizabeth, children Grace, Kathy, & Andrew.

Praying the Peace of God which surpasses all understanding, be given unto them!!

Sincerely ... Chris Brisco

Chris Brisco - March 05, 2017 at 01:25 AM



LS

“ Ms. Betty, Andrew, Grace and Kathy, our condolences on the passing of your father. May He Rest in Eternal Peace. You all are in our prayers. From the Khan's in New York City.

Linda and Crissy-Sonia's Mom and Sister - March 02, 2017 at 06:52 PM

PW

“ Kathy, I was so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I didn't know him, but he had to have been an awfully nice man to have raised a daughter that I am proud to call my friend. You can be proud of the way that you took care of him and continue to take care of your mom. I'm praying that time will ease the grief of your loss. Love you.

Peggy Whittaker - March 01, 2017 at 04:14 PM

RG

“ Ms. Kathy, may you find comfort in knowing that your dad is in a peaceful place with God now and one day we will all be together. Find peace that you were able to share all of your lifelong accomplishments with your dad and that he was a part of your life for so long. You are a very special person and your love for your dad brought him happiness all through his life.

Robert & Julie Greco - March 01, 2017 at 07:22 AM

DF

“ Kathy, I'm keeping you in your family in my prayers. I never got to meet you Dad, but from your charming stories of him, I wish I had. He must have been a wonderful person! May your memories of him comfort you and your family.

Debbie Fuller - February 27, 2017 at 10:54 PM

KF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



K Francis - February 26, 2017 at 03:10 PM

MA

“ *My deepest sympathy and prayers to the DePass family. Mr. Arnie worked with my father, Sam Chachere, at the Opelousas P.O. for years. Daddy always spoke highly of Mr. Arnie and they shared a common love of music. Mr. DePass was very proud of his family and would keep Daddy up to date on what his kids were doing. When my father died several years ago I was able to contact Mr. Arnie and was very humbled by the fact that he honored our dad by playing " Taps" at his services. Keep on playing that horn Mr.Arnie. God bless you and yours. Sincerely,Mary Chachere Allen*

Mary C. Allen - February 24, 2017 at 11:08 AM

CJ

“ *My prayers go out to the DePass family and my sincere condolences. Mr. DePass was a very inspirational person I'm my life. His kind words of wisdom have remained fresh in my mind, for I still practice them daily. I will truly miss him, he was a great contributor in my life.*

Craig D. Jones - February 24, 2017 at 01:35 AM

CR

“ *Kathy, my deepest sympathy to you and family. May the Lord comfort y'all during this difficult time.*

Charlotte Ravain - February 23, 2017 at 09:58 PM

TW

“ Andrew, We are very sorry for your loss. Your dad was a great man!
Your family is in our prayers.

TROY WHIPP - February 23, 2017 at 05:44 PM

SG

“ Love you Aunt Betty!

Stephanie Gobert - February 23, 2017 at 09:35 AM

TW

“ Kathy, you and your family are in my prayers. Will be thinking of you
and hoping your memories will comfort you as days go by. You have
been a very loyal daughter and have taken good care of your father.
You honored him well.

Teresa Ward - February 22, 2017 at 11:06 AM

MD

“ Our prayers go out to the DePass family in your time of sorrow.
Arnold DePass was always the same when we visited him; he was
always willing to talk about and share his love of music.
May God's blessing and peace be with you.
Monica A. and Joycie Donatto

Monica Alvin Donatto - February 22, 2017 at 09:15 AM

CB

“ My sincere condolences to all of the DePass family. Wherever and whenever we saw each other, Mr. Arnold and I spoke and he always brought joy to our conversations. We both shared our love for music.

What a great man, and wonderful father and husband.

He would always dote over all his children and he kept me informed about all of you.

I too will miss him but know he's probably now playing in the Big Band of Heaven.

Such a great guy to be around - and always hard working and willing to share the light of joy wherever we met.

Godspeed Mr. Arnold!

Chris Berzas - February 22, 2017 at 04:31 AM

RS

“ Arnold was a wonderful person and I always enjoyed our chats. May he RIP.

Robbie Sebastien - February 21, 2017 at 08:52 PM

PC

“ The Depass family your have my deepest sympathy, He was a wonderful person to work with at the Post Office in Opelousas.



Pamela Clemons - February 21, 2017 at 02:56 PM

CF

“ Prayers for peace and comfort to the family and for the repose of his soul. Grace, his daughter, has been a special friend of our daughter, Gretchen Varnell, and it was a joy to meet her. We pray that the final victory of life's journey is just as blessed and your family has been with your legacy through the years. God bless to all.
Cary and Gwen Fontenot.

Cary and Gwen Fontenot - February 21, 2017 at 02:33 PM

WH

“ WF Home sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Arnold "Sweets" DePass Jr.



WF Home - February 21, 2017 at 01:56 PM

LB

“ Your precious Angel is with GOD, the almighty now. He is happy and rejoicing with all those in heaven. I bet he already picked up an instrument and started to play sweet music. I didn't know he was talented like that, I know he brought joy to many here who heard his music. Be comforted with knowing this and believing in GOD who teaches us and wants us all to join him when our day comes. Remember Arnold with joy and peace in your hearts.



Lorita Portier Brisco - February 21, 2017 at 12:19 PM

EB

“ Kathy, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Nothing anyone can say will take away the pain of the loss of a loved one but my prayer is that precious memories will bring peace and comfort in the days ahead.



Elaine Bishop - February 21, 2017 at 12:07 PM

SV

“ I was blessed to have Mr Arnold come visit me quit often at Music City. He was a very knowledgable and wise man in many areas. We would lose time in conversation due to our enjoyment of each other's company. I always looked to him and his beautiful wife Betty for the best advise in life's struggles. My wife and I will miss him dearly. The world has lost a beautiful "Sweet" man." Stephen and Julie Verrette

stephen verrette - February 21, 2017 at 10:34 AM



“ Mr DePass was a very nice man.

Cynthia Williams - February 21, 2017 at 08:28 AM

AB

“ Ms. "Betty", "Grace", Katherine, Andrew and your extended family, along with his friends and colleagues, I offer my prayers and condolences. May he rest in peace.



Andrea Brisco - February 21, 2017 at 03:41 AM