



Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr.

July 24, 1932 - August 12, 2024

Ceasar James “CJ” Veazie, Jr. (July 24, 1932 – August 12, 2024)

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas, LA, for Mr. Ceasar James “CJ” Veazie, Jr., 92, who entered eternal rest, Monday, August 12, 2024 at Opelousas General Health System.

Visiting hours will be observed from 7:00 AM to 10:45 AM Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Williams Funeral Home in Opelousas, LA.

Interment will be in Bellevue Memorial Park. Father Edwan “Manie” Manuel, S.V.D. will officiate at the Mass of Christian burial.

Ceasar James Veazie, Jr. was born in Opelousas, Louisiana on July 24, 1932, during the Great Depression. He was the youngest of the five children of Ceasar Veazie, Sr, a sharecropper, and Lillie Batiste, his wife. Ceasar, Jr., or “CJ” as he was known, grew up poor, working crops and living in a small house on a road known as “the Dirt Lane”. By the time CJ reached the age of seven, he would lose his mother to a sudden lightning strike in a thunderstorm. That loss compounded the austerity of his early years.

As CJ often recalled, the common poverty of his area connected his community in the Greenwoods area of Opelousas. Neighbors helped each other and CJ would frequently benefit from the kindness of neighbors, oftentimes in the form of a warm biscuit on his walk to school in the morning. The community gave of its want; no one had abundance. He loved his supportive community and vowed to repay it for its loving and generous spirit.

But as happens, hard times and humble beginnings often forge a strong determination to not only survive, but to thrive. And so it was with Ceasar James Veazie, Jr.

CJ was raised to believe in hard work. By the time he was in the eighth or ninth grade, he was working at service stations changing truck tires. Going to school while working was difficult. But he was motivated. While in high school, he started receiving letters from Georgia, an older sister who was an Army veteran in the Women's Army Corps. She had gone on to college. Georgia wrote about the opportunities that the military and education offered. Believing in Georgia's promise of a better life, CJ would soon quit school and later join the United States Army.

On August 18, 1950, CJ took a bus to the Army recruiting station in Alexandria, LA. He pledged the Army oath and took his first out-of-state trip to Kansas. Shortly after completing basic training at Fort Riley, he was shipped abroad.

America was at war.

Communism was moving south on the Korean Peninsula. A full third of the world's population was living under communism and the number was growing. America had issued the Truman Doctrine and promised to contain communism's spread.

The Korean War was one of the first "hot" wars of the Cold War and many American soldiers were sent to Asia. Korea was a feared hot spot, and CJ recalled that many of his friends were sent there. Instead, he was sent to a volatile and divided post-WWII Germany to guard against the growth of communism in Europe.

His two years in Germany were pivotal for CJ. He saw a different part of the world that he had only read about. He worked in waist-deep "real" snow, not like the occasional dusting he had seen at home. He learned military discipline but also learned a trade as a linesman, climbing poles and installing electrical and telephone lines to help rebuild the region. He loved to work with his hands but was also drawn to the possibility of having a career in the educational

arena – an area of promise for African Americans at the time. But he knew there could be no college without a high school degree, so he worked diligently and earned his G.E.D.

After an honorable discharge, CJ took advantage of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act (the G.I. Bill). With a love for the trades as well as an attraction for teaching, he earned a degree in Industrial Education from Alabama A&M University, where he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He also received a graduate degree in Counseling from Atlanta University. He went on to earn additional graduate credits from Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge.

CJ loved his time in Huntsville and Atlanta. He also loved Baton Rouge. But he remembered the kindness and kinships of Opelousas which only strengthened his bond to return. He moved back home, eventually winding up in the very community where he was born; the place that "had his back" as a child.

He was back in Opelousas. Back in Greenwoods. And back on the "Dirt Lane".

His love for his community was that strong.

A NEW CAREER AND A LUCKY CATCH

One of Ceasar's first assignments was in 1957 as a teacher at Carter G. Woodson High School in Lawtell, LA. He loved to teach and counsel. He saw it as a dream job. And he saw a future in it; education was a common path for African Americans to enter the middle class.

As much as he loved teaching, the schools in Lawtell provided an additional benefit for CJ. The elementary school employed a beautiful and striking young teacher named Doretha Bellard. The two met, and dated. He liked to say, "I put that attention on her!"

After only a few months, of "attention", they were engaged and married.

Together, the couple had five children, duplicating the girl-boy-boy-girl-boy

sequence CJ shared with his own siblings, an accomplishment CJ humorously called "SKILL".

The couple would remain married for 64 years until Ceasar's passing.

EDUCATION AS AN OBSESSION

CJ Veazie continued to teach, gifting to students the knowledge that they would need to succeed. In 1967, he accepted a new position as a Guidance Counselor at Lawtell High school. The school had an enrollment of 570 students and he got to personally know many of them. He was very involved in their counseling, testing and career choices. He found the assignment to be fulfilling and the students quickly recognized his sincere interest in their futures. There was such a mutual respect that many students stayed in touch with him after they graduated. It was common to have former students invite him on hunting and fishing outings, which he enjoyed immensely.

In 1969, schools in St. Landry were ordered to desegregate. As a result, some grudging changes occurred. In 1970, CJ. was named principal of Southwest Elementary School, a clean campus with 710 students. A principal assignment at last was CJ's and he handled it with care. To date, it was his crowning achievement and he had the autonomy to lead the institution as he judged appropriate. He led the school well, lived only a half mile away and immersed himself in the community. He knew the students. He knew their parents. Since it was a true community school, he often walked to homes to meet with parents, where he praised the good students and offered guidance and encouragement to those who needed it.

In 1981, CJ was named Director of TH Harris Vocational-Technical School, a parish-wide school with a large student body and a multi-million dollar budget. In this position, he had thousands of students and course offerings from accounting to welding. It was the capstone of his educational career.

After CJ retired from education, he accepted a Regional Manager position for the new Louisiana Lottery Corporation. He held the position for years before ultimately retiring (again).

HARD WORKING AND FEARLESSLY FAITHFUL

CJ's career was varied, prolific and positive. Over his working life, he would hold many paid titles. In 1984, he took on what he called his volunteer work. He ran for the City Council and won election. He would be named Mayor Pro-Tempore. Public service was in his blood.

After still another retirement, he became a licensed Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, a job that satisfied his perpetual desire to improve his community.

Looking back on his work experience, he would often laugh hard and say, "not bad for a high school dropout." No, CJ. Not bad at all.

CHALLENGES AND FAITH

Not all of CJ's ventures were successful. He got licensed in real estate and insurance. But he found real estate selling was not to his liking. Insurance sales were likewise not his bailiwick. He also tried to start a black FM radio station at a time when there were none in the area.

He tried his hand in the savings & loan business, at one time being on an S&L board of directors. None of these ventures took root. In fact, some were outright failures. But none stole his courage or his faith.

CJ believed that faith was more powerful than failure. He had already endured the most heart-crushing loss of all – the death of his firstborn child, Judith Martina Veazie, his beloved "Ju-Ju", who was diagnosed with cancer. For months, he knelt bedside and prayed for her recovery and cure. Sadly, neither would come. In May of 1977, Judith died.

Judith's death broke CJ's heart but his faith would remain intact. His faith in God was evidenced in his devotion to worshipping, prayer and church-related service. He served as a Holy Ghost Church usher until physically unable. He was also an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver. Nothing could kill his faith. Nothing could stop his service.

CJ credited his faith to his wife Doretha, whose exemplary and Godly

conviction led him to be closer to Christ. Through her, he learned that prayer nourishes faith. Like her, he prayed unceasingly.

CJ prayed until the end.

While he aged, he was grateful during his good days and graceful during his bad days.

Ceasar James "CJ" Veazie, Jr. was preceded in death by his parents, Ceasar Veazie, Sr. and Lillie Batiste; sisters, Willie Mae Veazie and Georgia Veazie McCloud; brothers, Leon Veazie and Leo Veazie; a beloved daughter, Judith Martina Veazie and a daughter-in-law, Cheryl Thompson Veazie.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories Doretha Bellard Veazie, his loving wife of 64 years; four children, Mark (Mary) Veazie, Malcolm Veazie, Joan (Lloyd) Hepburn and Michael (Robin) Veazie; 10 grandchildren: Mark Veazie, II., Jennifer Veazie, Lindsey Veazie, Sydney Veazie, Zachary Hepburn, Alexandra Hepburn, William Hepburn, Trever Veazie, Nicholas Veazie and Marley Veazie.

In addition, CJ had many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, all of whom he loved and cherished. The many students he taught and counseled number in the thousands.

Share words of comfort with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Tribute Wall

WA

“ *Wilton Arceneaux lit a candle in memory of Mr Veazie. Lord God, help his family during this difficult time.*



Wilton Arceneaux - September 04, 2024 at 05:39 PM

E(

“ *My heartfelt condolences to his family & friends...Mr.Veazie taught me at Carter G.Woodson & his wife taught me at James A.Hyland.Awesome memories of both of them..*



Ezia Mae (Carmouche)Fuller - August 25, 2024 at 03:06 PM

JJ

“ *My husband knew Mr. Veazie through the educational system. He spoke of him often and I was able to meet him at his son Mark's wedding. Through the years we met at various family events, and we were glad to see a longtime friend. Our prayers and condolences go out to the family. May the memories of a life well lived bring you comfort in the coming days.*

*Junius & Jeanette Joseph
New Iberia, LA.*

Jeanette Joseph - August 24, 2024 at 10:36 AM

GM

“ I knew Mr. Veazie from a distance as an outstanding leader of our community, and father of my schoolmates at Opelousas Catholic School; however, the unfolding of fall 1976 and ensuing months profoundly impacted how I saw him. For nearly five decades now, Mr. and Mrs. Veazie have held my imagination on the mystery of endurance, especially following unimaginable, seemingly unendurable loss. Now, I know... Mr. Veazie's praying without ceasing nurtured his faith, strengthening him to endure what would have broken many of us. May his example be mighty affirmation of the power of prayer...in every season. The legacy of Mrs. Veazie's husband, the father of her five children and the best of Greenwood(s), endures! Gerald (Rufus) Matthews

Gerald (Rufus) Matthews - August 22, 2024 at 09:37 PM

MV

Thanks from the Veazie children. Much appreciated.

Malcolm V. - August 25, 2024 at 11:58 AM

GM

I am a nearly 60 yr. old Opelousas native who had never heard of Greenwood until I read Mr. Veazie's moving tribute. As reflected in the following remembrance, it is clear that this special place made indelible positive impacts on its residents' lives:

<https://www.creolegen.org/2020/06/07/birthday-reflection-of-a-greenwood-boy/>

R. Matthews

gerald matthews - September 05, 2024 at 03:17 PM

SE

“ *My respect for the Veazie Family.*

I can remember Mr. Veazie from the neighborhood and even when he was Principal at Southwest Elementary, formerly J. H. Augustus, and so on.

It just doesn't seem like it was so long ago.

Mrs. Veazie, I remember you from the neighborhood and when I was sub teaching. It just doesn't seem like it was so long ago.

Mark, and Malcolm, I remember when we were kids playing on that basketball goal over the garage in your front yard when you all first put it up. Arnold was there with us too.

Joan, and Michael I remember you all being younger and growing up in the neighborhood.

It was all so simple then.

My condolences to the Veazie family.

BJ Semien family

bj735arkansas@gmail.com

semien - August 20, 2024 at 01:26 PM

MV

Thanks so much. My siblings and I were talking just the other day about the wealth of role models we had in the community. Among them was your dad, a business owner who served the neighborhood in such a reliable and friendly manner. We were so lucky to have those strong men around.

From Malcolm

Malcolm V. - August 25, 2024 at 12:02 PM

AI

“ My condolences to the Veazie family. I had the pleasure to have met Mr. Veazie through my sister in law Joan Hepburn. He was a humble and kind man. May he rest in Heavenly Peace.
Audrey Itheme and family.

Audrey Itheme - August 20, 2024 at 12:22 PM

AB

“ Andrea Brisco lit a candle in memory of Ceasar Veazie



Andrea Brisco - August 18, 2024 at 04:02 PM

BD

“ My condolences to the family, he was such a nice man and a true gentleman. He was director of TH Harris when I attended nursing school in the 80's. I also graduated high school with Malcolm. My prayers continuing for his family.

Bonnie Herpin Darbonne - August 17, 2024 at 11:54 AM

MV

Thanks, Bonnie.

Malcolm

Malcolm Veazie - August 18, 2024 at 10:37 AM

BT

“ *My sincere condolences to the Ceasar family in the loss of your loved one. May he rest in peace.*



Barbara W Thomas - August 17, 2024 at 11:19 AM

TK

“ *The Family of Mark and Wanda Kramer purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..*



The Family of Mark and Wanda Kramer - August 17, 2024 at 12:14 AM

VC

“ *The first time I met him that beautiful smile caught my eyes. I had the pleasure of knowing him over the years. I'm lost for words.. Servant of God well done, your battle has been fought the victory you won. Rest Mr. Ceasar.*

Vera cohen - August 16, 2024 at 05:09 PM

CV

I'm so very saddened by the death of Mr. Ceasar he and his entire family are awesome people. They have always been very loving and caring. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. My name is Cynthia Jackson Verrett. My grandparents Clarence and Beatrice Jackson were neighbors but we grew to become family.

cynthia Jackson Verrett - August 16, 2024 at 11:33 PM

EG

“ As one of his students at Carter G. Woodson, I remember him as firm, tough but very fair. He earned the respect of his students which he deserved. Never missed an opportunity to tell him what he did for me whenever I saw him. Sincere condolences to his family. He will be missed.

Ernest (Bilko) Guillory
Class of '62

Ernest Guillory - August 16, 2024 at 03:40 PM

RF

“ Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers goes out to the Family! So sorry for your Family loss! R.I.P Mr. Veazie 🙏🙏



Rita Pickens & Family - August 16, 2024 at 12:53 PM

MB

My deepest condolences to Arnold and other family members. Brother Veazie let his life doing the singing. May the work he did, speak for him.

Michael Byrd - August 17, 2024 at 06:07 PM

SG

“ May peace and comfort be with you and your family at this difficult time.

Sheriff Bobby J Guidroz - August 16, 2024 at 09:56 AM

MF

“ Michael & Stacy Rhone and family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..



Michael & Stacy Rhone and family - August 16, 2024 at 08:33 AM

MF

“ Michael & Stacy Rhone and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..

Michael & Stacy Rhone and family - August 16, 2024 at 08:33 AM

WH

“ Our deepest sympathies to the family during this time of bereavement. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Russell and Artherine White and family



White - August 16, 2024 at 02:15 AM

WC

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending our deepest heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family.

Wanda & Larry Caillier - August 16, 2024 at 12:57 AM

MT

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Veazie family. Mr. Veazie taught me Civics in high school. He was an awesome teacher. He taught many, mentored many and showed us the benefits of hard work through the challenges he overcame. May he now rest from his labors. 🙏

Madeline Taylor - August 15, 2024 at 11:59 PM

EM

“ Mr. Veazie, served as one of our Board Members of Holy Trinity Villa. The time he was there until he retired, he was always fighting for the best for our Residents and for the employees. He won many of his goals. It was a pleasure to work with him. You have my prayers.

Elsie Mayon

Elsie Mayon - August 15, 2024 at 10:23 PM

PB

“ My Deepest Sympathy to the Veasie Family. R.I.P. Mr. C.J. Gone too Soon




Priscilla Boutte - August 15, 2024 at 09:12 PM

NP

“ Thank you for doing so much for so many.

Nancy W. Pierre - August 15, 2024 at 08:42 PM

JB

“ *What an inspiring testimonial to Mr. Ceasar J. Veazies Life Story. He was a true soldier that never gave up on anything. Showing thru difficult times who kept his. He prevailed in all his battles. Also showing how his community were caring people back in the day. Showing how his wife was always by his side in their FAITH.....* 

John & Betty - August 15, 2024 at 08:41 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..*



August 15, 2024 at 07:54 PM

TH

“ *The Ray Family and Ella Harleaux planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..*

The Ray Family and Ella Harleaux - August 15, 2024 at 07:54 PM

DB

“ I have fond childhood memories of the summers my parents and I spent in Louisiana with the Veazie's. Cousins CJ and Doretha graciously welcomed us into their home. They showered us with Southern hospitality, delicious food and homemade popcorn balls. I enjoyed my sleepovers with Judith. We had so much fun in the backyard during those hot August days with Mark, Malcolm, Joan (and Cousin Arnold too). For my Dad (Will T), CJ was one of his favorite cousins. He enjoyed their long conversations. My Mom (Shirley) & I will miss seeing CJ the next time we're at the family reunion.

Denise Batiste - August 15, 2024 at 05:56 PM

CT

“ You were a wonderful Principle back at Southwest Elementary! Rip Mr Veazi!



Carolyn Thierry - August 15, 2024 at 05:46 PM

SP

“ Shala Rene Pickney lit a candle in memory of Ceasar Veazie



Shala Rene Pickney - August 15, 2024 at 02:27 PM

SJ

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family.*



Sandra Johnson - August 15, 2024 at 02:09 PM

MM

“ *Mark&Ommanda Major lit a candle in memory of Ceasar Veazie*



Mark&Ommanda Major - August 15, 2024 at 12:45 PM

AF

“ *Mr. Veazie was a very nice and awesome princioal at Southwest Elementary! RIP 🙏*



Annette Freeman - August 15, 2024 at 12:05 PM

CP

“ *Carol Phefferkorn lit a candle in memory of Ceasar Veazie*



Carol Phefferkorn - August 15, 2024 at 11:57 AM

DL

“ DELTA GAMMA CHAPTER SPRING 1978 LINE purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..



DELTA GAMMA CHAPTER SPRING 1978 LINE - August 15, 2024 at 11:40 AM

EB

“ Wow ! What an inspiring obit . Young people should read this . Wish I would have done more but didnt believe in myself But Thank God He has been good and I've kept The Faith . May The Good Lord comfort all of you now and in days ahead

Emma G Bertrand - August 15, 2024 at 10:38 AM

AA

“ My deepest condolences to the Veazie family. May the hand of God rest on you. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4
Sending love to Mrs. Veazie and family.



Angela Angelle - August 15, 2024 at 06:55 AM

CR

My condolences to be fairly.

Charlene Rideau - August 16, 2024 at 02:15 AM



“ *Joshua Richard lit a candle in memory of Ceasar Veazie*



Joshua Richard - August 14, 2024 at 11:53 PM

TC

“ *The John and Cecile Joseph Children purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..*



The John and Cecile Joseph Children - August 14, 2024 at 10:45 PM

TC

“ *The John and Cecile Joseph Children planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..*

The John and Cecile Joseph Children - August 14, 2024 at 10:45 PM

HW

“ *Blessings family in. Your time of sorrow.
Helen Carriere-Crawford
Seattle Washington. 🙏*

Helen Carriere-Crawford. Seattle Wa. - August 14, 2024 at 10:09 PM

MR

“ *What a touching tribute to such a kind and helpful servant. I will never forget all the kind deeds he did for so many people. He was a friend indeed. We will miss him but I know he's at peace. Dorothea, I love you. I know that you are a praying woman and you know God's will.*
You all have our deepest sympathy.
Love,
Joseph and Marcelete Reed

Marcelete Reed - August 14, 2024 at 10:05 PM

GB

“ *RIP MR. VEAZIE JOB WELL DONE. TAKE YOUR WELL DESERVED CROWN. GREAT MAN. OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY*

Grace Barnes - August 14, 2024 at 09:32 PM

MZ

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Zachery sent a virtual gift in memory of Ceasar Veazie*



Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Zachery - August 14, 2024 at 07:00 PM

CF

“ *Charleston VAMC, NAGE R5-150 family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..*



Charleston VAMC, NAGE R5-150 family - August 14, 2024 at 06:52 PM

BB

“ Deepest sympathy to the Veazie Family. Our thoughts and Prayers are with you all.

Beulah M Bell - August 14, 2024 at 06:37 PM



“ My condolences to you and your family. May God be with yall.

Bridgette Johnson - August 14, 2024 at 06:30 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..



August 14, 2024 at 05:41 PM

VL

“ Victor Lewis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..

Victor Lewis - August 14, 2024 at 05:41 PM

DF

“ I send God's comfort and peace to the family during this difficult time---may he rest in peace!!!

Daisy Frilot - August 14, 2024 at 04:12 PM

GO

“ Govind purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Ceasar James Veazie Jr..



Govind - August 14, 2024 at 03:19 PM

CF

“ Condolences to Caesar’s wife and families! Mr. Veazie and I work at Carter G. Woodson and Lawtell High School for many years. He was a great teacher and co-worker. Clara Frilot

Clara Frilot - August 14, 2024 at 02:47 PM

CR

My condolences to the Veazie family.

Charlene Rideau - August 16, 2024 at 02:22 AM

JM

“ Mrs Viezie I am sorry for your loss of your husband. May the Lord Bless you and your family in this time of difficult. Keeping you and your family in my prayers.

Joyce Milburn - August 14, 2024 at 01:25 PM

AM

We remember the family fondly, our condolences from the Morris and Green family on College Ave. Greenwood

Aaron Morris - August 15, 2024 at 03:27 PM

SH

My deepest condolences to the Viezie family and all who loved him. I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers. Thanks for all of your contributions Mr. Viezie. May you R.I.P.

Sandra Amos Hypolite - August 21, 2024 at 09:07 AM