



Mr. Joel Parker Sr.

March 23, 1937 - April 17, 2026

" And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

John 14:3

Joel Parker, Sr. was born on March 23, 1937, to Ezola Young in Washington, Louisiana. On Friday, April 17, 2026, at Pointe Coupee Healthcare in New Roads, LA, he peacefully transitioned into eternal life.

Joel accepted Christ and was baptized at an early age in Washington, Louisiana and was a devoted member at Wiley United Methodist Church in Blanks, LA. He was united in Holy Matrimony to Elnora Murray on January 21, 1960. Their union was blessed with four daughters and two sons, and they shared 35 years of love and devotion until her passing on June 3, 1995. Though she asked him to wait two years before remarrying, Joel chose to remain devoted to her and never remarried.

From a young age, Joel developed a passion for horses and became widely known as one of the finest cowboys around. He traveled near and far to compete in rodeos as a saddle bronc rider and even tried his hand at bull riding. Despite the challenges of not being welcomed as a black cowboy he fought against the odds and became a Stock and Rodeo Producer in Louisiana and Mississippi bringing black and white cowboys together. For

over 50 years, he hosted rodeos at the Lottie Stampede Arena alongside his sons and rodeo partner, Eli Allen. The annual Easter Sunday Rodeo became a cherished tradition that many looked forward to year after year.

Beyond the arena, Joel was a faithful and hardworking man. He worked for Haas and Hirsh for many years, Jumonville Farms for 15 years, and later retired from Alma Plantation in early 2000. During his retirement he stayed connected to what he loved, continuing to train horses. Outside of work, Joel found joy in the simple things, such as listening to Hank Williams gospel music, watching westerns, animal movies, wrestling, and *The Bold and the Beautiful*. Above all, he treasured time spent with family and friends.

He leaves behind a legacy of love in his children: Augustine Parker of Lottie, LA, Cherry Bridgewater of St. Francisville, LA, Joel Parker, Jr. of Lottie, LA, James Parker of Krotz Springs, LA, Barbara (Dale) Howard of Glynn, LA and Norma (Ronald) Zachery of Lottie, LA; grandchildren, Corey (Margaret) Parker, Brett Parker, Precious (Jessie) Tate, Madonna Parker, Dyamond Parker, Brittany Howard, Tre' Beckman, Courtney Parker, Jamie Williams, Dante' Williams, Jordan Philson, and J' Niyah Parker, and twenty five great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his sisters and brothers-in law, Adrian Tezeno, Geraldine Andrus, Willie Murray, John Murray, Joel Murray Sr., Grace (Melvin) White, and Beverly (Tilden) Boudreaux, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends.

He shared special bonds with many, including Freddie Nolan who was like a son to him, Quincy Battley who was a co-worker and good friend to him, and Lavale Johnson who was like a grandson to him.

Joel also leaves behind many close cowboy friends, including Gene Richard,

Errol Klein, Luke Decuir, Darrell Cezair, Willie King, Eugene King, Ray Dunbar, Pokey Johnson, Leniel Kimble, Mitch Wyble, JB Stelly, Dude Wartell and many others.

Joel was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Elnora Parker; his mother and step-father, Ezola and Arthur Skinner; his father and mother-in-law, Arthur and Edmonia Murray; his brothers, Leroy (Elmer) Andrus, Sr, Aaron Rideau, and Haywood Tezeno, Sr.; his sister, Maybell Lavergne; his grandson, Casper Parker; and his great grandsons, Kyler Jace Mouton and Jax Kaide Albert and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at First Benjamin Baptist Church, (4228 Hwy. 357) in Opelousas, LA. A public viewing will begin at 8:30 AM to 10:45 AM, prior to the service.

The service will be officiated by Rev. Albert Tezeno. Interment will follow at Moundville Cemetery in Grand Prairie, LA.

Today, we celebrate a life well lived. Though we will miss him deeply, we find comfort in knowing that Joel is at peace, reunited with loved ones, and resting in the arms of the Lord.

Welcome to heaven, cowboy. Your entry fees are paid, your ride is won, and your legacy lives on in all who knew and loved you. Until we meet again, we hold tight to God's promise of reunion in His perfect time.

Family and friends are invited to share words of comfort, support and memories with the family by visiting the online guestbook at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

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

Tribute Wall

LN

“ REST IN ETERNAL PEACE JOEL PARKER.JOEL WAS A KIND BEAUTIFUL PERSON.IN MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS HE COURTED SISTER ELNORA MURRAY MY CLASSMATE WHOM HE LATERED MARRIED.THEY WERE A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN.FAMILY IM OFFERING PRAYERS OF COMFORT.REST EASY JOEL

LoIA NEAL - April 25 at 02:25 AM

GS

“ The first time I ever saw Joe Parker he was on a horse. The last time I saw him he was fooling with horses. He was a true cowboy and I know his family and friends will miss him terribly.

gay smith - April 24 at 03:21 PM

SG

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

Sheriff Bobby J Guidroz - April 24 at 10:11 AM

WC

“ Wiley United Methodist Church purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Joel Parker Sr..



Wiley United Methodist Church - April 22 at 07:26 PM



“ *My sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends. I remember the rodeos by Paul Romar on the weekends when I was growing up when my dad Willie Smith used to bring us there and I remember the ones in Lottie down the street from John Roy Hatch’s place. Those were some good times. RIP sir*



Sandra Smith - April 22 at 03:22 PM



“ *So sorry to see this about Joe, I’ve know him and Joe Jr for many years and can also say I do remember the Lottie Stampede, what a great time we had at that event. Joe was a fine man willing to help anyone in need. I enjoyed spending time with him at the events and specially talking horses with him to pick his brain on what he did and didn’t do. RIP OLE FRIEND*

John Brown - April 22 at 11:06 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Joel Parker Sr..*



April 21 at 07:46 PM

HS

“ One of the best all time rodeo man. When trail rides was trail rides! The Sundays when my Dad (Ivory "T-Man" Semien) would take us to the rodeo at the El Chico and watch Mr. Parker. He and my dad would travel to Huntsville, Tx for the prison rodeo. My condolence to the family. God Bless

Harold W. Semien - April 21 at 06:14 PM

LR

“ LILLIAN RIDEAUX-SAVOY lit a candle in memory of Joel Parker



LILLIAN RIDEAUX-SAVOY - April 21 at 11:06 AM

LR

“ OMGODDDD!!!! The seconds I read his name, "Joel Parker", IMMEDIATELY, I remembered him with my dad, Adam Rideau(aka Brown, Adon, Bruce) working at Haas Hirsch, alongside, Mr Joubert, John and Morris Weinstein, T-Boy, Mr Nurley, Mr Holland, and others. OMG, the times they all spent, (especially the Friday afternoons when they would get off) under that "China-ball tree" by our house, laughing, story telling, and jokes....those types of memories that just DO NOT exist anymore;((((To the amazing and lovely family of Mr Joel, I send my most sincerest heartfelt condolences and prayers to all of you. May The Comfort & Peace of The Lord be upon and with you all!
Lillian Rideaux-Savoy aka "Pudgy" the nickname they would call me;))

LILLIAN RIDEAUX-SAVOY - April 21 at 11:05 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Joel Parker Sr..*



April 21 at 09:45 AM



“ *Condolences to the family. May God give you comfort and peace during this time.*



James & Mandy Williams - April 21 at 09:30 AM