



Mr. Rufus Joseph Matthews

November 11, 1932 - November 28, 2022

Our father, Rufus Joseph Matthews, peacefully departed this life in our family home on Monday morning, November 28, 2022. As firstborn of five children to the sacred union of Julia Ventress Matthews and August Matthews, Rufus was a kind, generous spirit who began this life 90 years ago on November 11, 1932 in Port Barre, LA.

An industrious, hardworking man, Bruh Matthews (as many called him) accomplished many things such as completing professional training to open his own business (Matthews Barbershop), being a father figure to many, retiring from industry after 30+ years at Standard Fittings, and living simply an exemplary life; however, one of his proudest milestones was building a house for his future bride, our mother. From the age of 16, he nurtured a strong work ethic that allowed him to earn and save money for a home he moved her into on their wedding day in 1956. From time to time, he would proudly exclaim, “I had a home for my wife when I married her!” This commitment to hard work and respect for the father’s provision are legacies that have allowed his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild to prosper.

Our dad was educated in St. Landry public schools by great educators like Mrs. Sydalese B. Jackson, and later completed professional training at Tyler Barber College in Tyler, TX. He was a lifelong Catholic whose spiritual growth was championed by his Baptist grandparents. At the dissolution of his parents’

marriage, our great-grandparents Isaac Ventress and Rose Tyler Ventress helped our grandmother raise our father and his siblings. Daddy often spoke of his honorable grandparents who respected their son-in-law's wish that the children would be raised Catholic. As an adult, he was a pillar of the church; years ago, for example, he helped build St. Mary's Catholic Church in Port Barre before rearing his own children in the Catholic tradition at Holy Ghost Church and School (later Opelousas Catholic). Over a span of 65 years at Holy Ghost, our father was a Fourth Degree Knight of Saint Peter Claver Father John Council #8, Eucharistic minister, youth moderator, parish council member, a bass with the Marion Choir for 7 a.m. mass, and a member of BUST, Black Unity and Spiritual Togetherness founded by the late Fr. Albert J. McKnight. In service to his community, our father was an active member of the Society Helpers Social Club that founded the Miss Black Opelousas Pageant. Dad lived an active, vital faith that left an indelible impression on our lives. Reflection tells us that this faith was one of the greatest gifts he ever gave his children.

Rufus leaves in God's mighty care those who loved him most in this life; 5 children: Sheila M. Miles of Opelousas, LA; Sherbie J. Mathews (Vicki) of Midlothian, TX and Cane River, LA; Shirlene Singleton (Steven) of Rowlett, TX; Rufus F. "Gerald" Matthews of Huntsville, TX; Matt A. Matthews of Spring, TX; Deborah R. Frank (Opelousas), whom his sister allowed him to rear; three sisters of Beaumont, TX: Genevieve "Aunt Geneva" Matthews who lovingly called her big brother every day, Faye Banks, and Wanda Mickens; a close sister-in-law, Catherine Roberts Lemelle; three brothers: Wayne Matthews of Beaumont, TX; Ivory Ventress (Marie) of Opelousas, LA; and Peter Lewis of Beaumont, TX; 8 grandchildren: Aliya, Valeya, Allison, Aaron, Shari, Gerard, Sheridan, and Steven; 1 great-grandchild Yasmin Ait Dra; attentive, caring nephews and niece Jevon Hawkins (Elaine), Godson Kenneth Lee, and Paula M. Roberts whose phone calls and weekly visits brightened her Uncle Rufus' life; Goddaughters Trina Roberts Defro, Natasha Hawkins Young, Brandi

Frank, Erica Chatman, and Krystal Thomas of Opelousas; Godsons the late Joseph Roberts, Jr. and Kenneth James Lee; a kind, caring neighbor/friend in Ms. Dorothy Beverly whose daily calls about what he had cooked made his day; Herman Rossette, a good man of Meals on Wheels; steady, untiring nursing care provided by Grace Home Health and Traditions Health Hospice Care; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Our father was preceded in death by his wife, Elnora Roberts Matthews, whom he loved without ceasing for more than fifty years; parents, August Matthews and Julia Ventress Matthews Lewis; brothers, Roy Matthews, Sr. and Neyland Matthews; sisters Norma Jane Stevens and Maudry Matthews, an infant sister he lovingly cared for until her passing.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas, LA.

Wake visiting hours will be observed from 6 - 8 P.M. on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at Williams Funeral Home. A rosary will be recited at 6:30 P.M.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Williams Funeral Home - Opelousas
817 East South St.
Opelousas, LA 70571
(337) 942-2037
williamsfuneralhomes.1932@gmail.com
<https://www.williamsfuneralhomes.net/>

Rosary

DEC 7. 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Williams Funeral Home - Opelousas
817 East South St.
Opelousas, LA 70571
(337) 942-2037
williamsfuneralhomes.1932@gmail.com
<https://www.williamsfuneralhomes.net/>

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Holy Ghost Catholic Church
732 North Union Street
Opelousas, LA

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Rufus Joseph Matthews*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *To my family you'll have my deepest sympathy I love you'll all there not enough space to express my love and hurt Piran was a loving person hard worker and great father he will truly be missed Rip Love you'll Eveline and family ❤️🙏*

eveline charles - December 09, 2022 at 07:28 PM



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

Sheriff Bobby J Guidroz - December 08, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Alvin Haynes Jr - December 07, 2022 at 06:48 PM

RB

“ To Sheila and family,

“Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday.”

“Be as proud as you want: Your father was a great man and pillar of the community. His mark and presence never ends.

Joy comes in the morning.

Ronald Bob & Family

RBob - December 07, 2022 at 06:16 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Rufus Joseph Matthews.



December 05, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Rufus Joseph Matthews.



December 02, 2022 at 09:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mr. Rufus Joseph Matthews.



December 02, 2022 at 04:28 PM



“ We, the 7A Marian Choir of HG church send our prayers and express condolences to the Mathews/Roberts and extended families. What an awesome obituary. He was a great example of commitment, dependability, perseverance, courage and so forth in participating in this ministry, with that previous bass voice, until mobility and health did not allow. Through these past years, we still checked on him by phone and he was delighted and most appreciative. This man truly knew and followed the “Good Book”. Heaven has gained an angel. Take your rest sir.



Andrea Brisco- Coordinator - December 02, 2022 at 02:12 PM



My deepest condolences to the Matthews family. From Gilton Tyler family. Our prayers are with your. Dorothy Tyler King.

Dorothy Tyler King - December 02, 2022 at 11:21 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Mr. Rufus Joseph Matthews.



December 02, 2022 at 01:30 PM

GR

“ You now have an angel in heaven. Mr. Rufus was a mentor to many and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Peace – Love.

Glenn Richard and Family.

Glenn and Sheila Richard - December 02, 2022 at 08:47 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Rufus Joseph Matthews.



December 02, 2022 at 12:23 AM

C♥

“ My Brother Rufus was such a Smart, Loving, Caring & Honest Person whom I Love Dearly and will ALWAYS ADMIRE HIM FOR THE LOVE HE HAD FOR MY SISTER (ELNORA) AND HIS BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN. I am so happy to call him my brother, because he was always there for me & my family. Rufus you will truly be missed. But, I believe the Love of your life has been waiting for you, now you're together again. May You Rest Peacefully with Christ and May you have Everlasting Joy in Heaven with your Beautiful Bride.

Love You in Heaven

Cat

Catherine R Lemelle ♥🙏👉 - December 01, 2022 at 09:45 PM

JM

“ *Mr Matthew you were a kind and gentle man.I remembered when you would talk to my son when you cut his hair. Sorry for your loss and praying for your family. May the Lord watch over you/family.
Joyce/Curley Milburn.*

Joyce Milburn - December 01, 2022 at 09:07 PM