



Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.

June 27, 1946 - June 11, 2016

Robert Lee Campbell, Jr., was born June 27, 1946, he was called home to be with the Lord, on June 11, 2016. The dash between a birth-date and a death-date is a powerful little line. It represents the time spent alive on earth. Today we celebrate Robert's dash, how he lived, how he loved, and was loved in return. Robert was the eldest child of Robert Lee Sr. and Henretta Campbell. Robert spent his childhood in Inverness, Mississippi. Life in Inverness was simple but hard. Robert would often talk about having to work in the fields as a boy. In 1957, the family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan. Robert grew up during the era of many movements which included, The Civil Rights movement, the Black Power movement and the anti -Vietnam movement, during this era Robert love of music was for the Motown sound. While hanging out with his cousin Dorothy, he was introduced to her friend Katie Davis in 1963, this was the beginning of a life- long relationship. Robert and his brother, Willie, were running buddies, and yes, they got into a lot of trouble together. Being the eldest of ten, Robert was in charge when Momma had to work. He had to watch his two brothers and seven younger sisters, those 'dern girls!' he would often say. He learned how to take care of others at an early age.

Robert graduated from Central High School in 1964 and upon the second draft was obligated to serve in the military, serving honorably during the Vietnam War. Upon his return home, he worked for Brown Paper Company.

Robert and Katie conceived a daughter together, Tawanda Denise, born in November 1969. Like all of us, Robert had challenges in life, and he decided to take a new path that included going back to school for accounting. This eventually led him to working at Western Michigan University as a Financial Aid counselor. It was there that Robert's passion for helping others really blossomed. He loved his job. Robert took joy and pride helping students above and beyond his job description. He was a true role model. Robert met Laverne in 1981, and they got married in 1986. After going their separate ways Robert and Laverne remained the best of friends. Robert maintained close ties with childhood and neighborhood friends. He loved the Detroit Tigers and his box of wine! His interests varied from the stock marketing to cooking, and even gardening and fishing. Robert could be stubborn and set in his ways. One saying of his was "I ain't fattening no frogs, to feed snakes!" Basically, he wasn't wasting time, money or effort on something of no benefit. One of Robert's most admirable qualities was that he was a family man, always there to help and support. Robert had a special relationship with his niece Tonya (Fassie) Campbell. We all had a relationship with Robert that was unique. He was the one to call if we had any problems, and he never turned any of us away, evidently we weren't frogs!

Robert retired from Western Michigan University after 31 years of employment in 2010. After a brief illness, Robert's dash ended June 11, 2016, joining his parents, Henretta and Robert Campbell, Sr., brother Willie, sisters Emma and Deede.

Robert leaves to cherish his memory daughter, Tawanda Thompson, life-time companion Katie Hunt, beloved children Melinda Thompson, Peaches (Annie) Mitchell, Shantone, Frank Davis, and Jewel Brown; grandchildren Terrence (Mook) Smith, Jazmine and Javon Houston. Beloved grandchildren, Shawn, Terrell, Misa Thompson, and Wondon Hughes. Also two great-grandchildren, Jelani and GiaVonna Houston all of Kalamazoo; one brother, Larry Campbell

of Battle Creek; six sisters, Mary Helen Campbell, Mamie (Rick) Campbell, and Loretta Campbell-Bates all of Kalamazoo, Rachel Campbell of Minnesota, Barbara Covington of Georgia, and Rebecca (Randy) Campbell Spaulding of Florida; two special aunts Mary Stedrick and Doretha Nash of Illinois, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, as well as a special childhood friend Johnnie Holland and neighbor Tom. Robert, your dash was well lived (Heb 12:1-3).

Previous Events

A Service in Loving Memory

JUN 18. 2:30 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Harper Funeral Home - June 17, 2016 at 08:27 PM

LB

This video has so many memories...I shall remember many of them for the rest of my days...1LOVE...Loretta. Bates

Loretta Bates - June 20, 2016 at 06:55 PM

TO

I will always remember the last word I told u and u gave Us eye contact love u again uncle Robert

Tonya - June 20, 2016 at 07:34 PM



Thx for the lovely memories!!Rebecca Campbell Spaulding

Rebecca Campbell Spaulding - June 20, 2016 at 10:06 PM



“ Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM

TC

“ Tracy Charleston-Blakes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Tracy Charleston-Blakes - June 28, 2016 at 04:24 PM

AC

“ I worked with Robert for several years at WMU, He was a joy to work with and students loved Mr. Campbell. He was a great co-worker and a great person.

Alisha Cederberg - June 20, 2016 at 06:24 AM

DF

“ Debra Lee And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Debra Lee and Family - June 18, 2016 at 09:15 PM

BB

“ Birletta Bean-Hardeman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Birletta Bean-Hardeman - June 17, 2016 at 09:46 PM

RW

“ R.J. And Anita Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



R.J. and Anita Wilkerson - June 17, 2016 at 06:06 PM

LB

“ Robert, you had your way of doing things. You were very private about some things, however, I know you loved all your family...Please say "Hello" to our other family members there in the heavens with you. Wow, I still want to call your phone number to hear your voice. This part of my dash is truly hurt.

Love you always- Loretta Campbell Bates

Loretta Bates - June 17, 2016 at 04:52 PM

VB

“ Victor Bennett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Victor Bennett - June 17, 2016 at 04:41 PM

VB

I miss you Robert and our team is winning. Campbell Family my condolences are with you all. God bless you all!

Victor Bennett - June 17, 2016 at 04:44 PM

ED

“ *Elois Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Elois Dunigan - June 17, 2016 at 04:40 PM

ED

God bless the Campbell Family

Elois Dunigan - June 17, 2016 at 04:40 PM

LB

“ *Loretta Bates lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Loretta Bates - June 17, 2016 at 04:32 PM

LB

God has a plan. Campbell Family be strong knowing God makes no mistakes. We have to hold on to one another and our faith. We shall see our beloved brother again. I thank GOD for the time he allowed us to borrow you...Robert... You shall be missed...1OVE

Loretta Bates - June 17, 2016 at 04:39 PM

HW

“ *Helen (McPherson) Word lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Helen (McPherson) Word - June 17, 2016 at 06:29 AM

CS

“ *Deepest Sympathy. I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Campbell at Western Michigan University. He was a great man and went above and beyond for his students. He will be missed.*

Christina S - June 16, 2016 at 04:04 PM

AR

“ *Robert I am really going to miss you. You kept it real. RIP Arlene Buchanan*



arlenebuchanan - June 16, 2016 at 01:27 AM

TF

“ *THE WALKER FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



THE WALKER FAMILY - June 15, 2016 at 01:08 PM

LC

“ *Lillie Cotton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Lillie Cotton - June 15, 2016 at 07:15 AM

RL

“ *Ramona Lumpkin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



ramona lumpkin - June 15, 2016 at 12:11 AM

FD

“ *Frank And Tracey Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Frank and Tracey Davis - June 14, 2016 at 10:40 PM

PD

“ *Patricia And Johnnie Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Patricia and Johnnie Davis - June 14, 2016 at 08:54 PM

AR

“ *Abdul-R Rashid lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Abdul-R Rashid - June 14, 2016 at 07:31 PM

AR

“ I was sadden to hear about Robert's passing, we go way back. I knew all his family members, and we all liked each other. May G-d bless Robert to enter the paradise, and protect him from the hell-fire. May he be forgiven of his sins, and may he bless for all the good that he's done....Amin. [Robert Gaston] Abdul-R Rashid

Abdul-R Rashid - June 14, 2016 at 07:30 PM

TC

“ Thomas Charleston lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



thomas charleston - June 14, 2016 at 01:32 PM

NH

“ Nanette Hickman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Nanette Hickman - June 14, 2016 at 11:00 AM

LJ

“ So sad to hear of the passing of my dear friend, Robert you made us laugh and now you made us cry but you will be remembered by your carling spirit and how you helped so many students at Western Michigan University. You were a family man and believe in always helping when needed. To the Campbell & Thompson family, I'm praying that God will comfort your hearts and give you strength to get through this difficult time, remember to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Laverne Jones - June 14, 2016 at 09:52 AM

LJ

“ Laverne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Laverne Jones - June 14, 2016 at 09:41 AM

FF

“ Frank & Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.



Frank & Betty Ford - June 14, 2016 at 07:52 AM

LJ

“ *Laverne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Laverne Jones - June 13, 2016 at 08:09 PM

BP

“ *Barbara Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Campbell, Jr.*



Barbara Phillips - June 13, 2016 at 07:30 PM