



Mr. Robert Granville

November 18, 1931 - August 29, 2024

****NOTE: A SERVICE IN LOVING MEMORY FOR MR. ROBERT GRANVILLE WILL BE HELD AT FIRST UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024.

*****VISITATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES ARE LISTED BELOW

*****PLEASE NOTE: MASKS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST---THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE HAND SANITIZER WHEN ENTERING THE BUILDING.

***The DVD Memorial Tribute will be available soon

OBITUARY

Robert Granville went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, August 29, 2024. Born on November 18, 1931, in Osceola, Arkansas, Robert was the son of Rosa Lee and Jefferson Granville.

Robert was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather. He dedicated his life to the well-being of his family, providing unwavering support and love. His legacy will continue on through the many generations of Granville's he was responsible for giving life to, a fact that he was proud of.

Robert loved the music of the era (John Coltrane, Duke Ellington, Count Basie) and learned to play the saxophone in his early years. He left home at age 16 with saxophone in hand to make a life for himself and later joined the army and served in the Korean war. After serving in the army, he pursued higher education through the GI Bill, earning a Bachelor of Arts in music from Jackson State University where he pledged membership in the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He began teaching music and directing the marching band at Jim Hill High School in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early to mid-1960s. His impact on his students fostered lifelong friendships. During these years he and friends frequently played in bands at nightclubs throughout the south on the weekends.

Robert left his family in Jackson Mississippi in the late sixties to attend Western Michigan University where he earned a Masters degree in Psychology and Counseling. After living in Kalamazoo for this time and after his wife Edna visited for a period of time they decided that Kalamazoo offered a better life for their family. He moved his family from Jackson Mississippi to Kalamazoo Michigan in June of 1969. He worked at Western Michigan University and was the first black counselor at the college as an academic advisor to college students. He then moved on to work as a personal counselor for clients at State Technical Rehabilitation Center in Delton, MI. These jobs propelled him into his career in substance abuse counseling in Kalamazoo for Gateway Services where he excelled in the counseling and support of residents within the Kalamazoo community who were suffering with substance abuse issues. Robert, as one of the founders, brought recovery to the Northside of Kalamazoo with the opening of the Safe House. Providing a safe place for many of Kalamazoo's black residents to engage in 12 step meetings and individual counseling services which they hadn't previously had access to in their own neighborhood.

Robert later in life joined Mt. Zion Baptist church where he assisted in teaching Sunday school. He left Mt. Zion to join First United Baptist church where his wife Edna was a member. He was a devoted member who taught Sunday school in the men's group.

Robert was united in marriage to Edna Granville in 1955. Together, they raised three children: Rosa Denise, Robert Eliot Sr., and Charles Kenyatta. In 2012, Robert lost the love of his life, Edna. He spent the next 12 years keeping her memory alive by pouring into his children and grandchildren. Nothing meant more to him than spending time with family. Robert was an avid sports fan and spent a lot of his free time watching basketball and football games on tv. His favorite teams were the Detroit Lions and Detroit Pistons. Robert also enjoyed spending time with his group of friends at the Ecumenical Senior Center in Kalamazoo.

Robert was preceded in death by: his wife Edna, his daughter Denise, his nephew Charles, his parents Rosa Lee and Jefferson and his siblings Louisa, Mildred, Lillian, Jeffrey, Joseph, John, and Emile.

Robert leaves to cherish his memory: his children Robert Sr., Charles Kenyatta and his ex-wife Gail; grandchildren: Takishia, Robert Jr., Sonya, Jasmine and her wife Michaela, Melissa, and Cassandra; great grandchildren: Cornelius, Rico, Omar, Raekwon, Isaiah, Naomi, Micah, Nalaya, Jeremiah, and Indigo Sol; great-great grandchildren: E'Lyla, Ali'Onna, and Havier

Robert's life was a testament to the power of love, dedication, and service. His influence will continue to be felt through the many lives he touched.

Cemetery Details

Ft. Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road
Augusta, MI 49012

Previous Events

Visitation For Family & Friends

SEP 11. 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Family Hour

SEP 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Baptist Church
821 S Burdick St
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 381-3996

A Service in Loving Memory

SEP 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Baptist Church
821 S Burdick St
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 381-3996

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Robert Granville



Harper Funeral Home - September 11, 2024 at 03:33 AM

SJ

*Beautiful tribute.
Sincere condolences.*

Sheila Johnson - November 28, 2025 at 10:35 PM

CS

“ Carolyn Seaberry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Granville



carolyn Seaberry - September 14, 2024 at 06:20 PM

CS

“ I am so thankful for all the love and sacrifice and patience that you poured into all of us at the safe house. And for teaching us to grow up and be productive members of society. you will be greatly missed. Now you are in the arms of Jesus. Take your rest until, we meet again Mr. Robert Grandville. Lord send your comfort peace love and strength to encourage the family. Lead guide and direct their paths in Jesus Holy Name.



carolyn Seaberry - September 14, 2024 at 06:14 PM

DB

“ Dale and Merry Sue Battles lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Dale and Merry Sue Battles - September 12, 2024 at 10:04 PM

MM

“ Merry M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Robert Granville.

Merry M. - September 12, 2024 at 09:56 PM

JG

“ JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr-Atlanta GA lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr-Atlanta GA - September 12, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ *Rodger Henry*



Brenda Henry - September 11, 2024 at 09:46 PM



“ *Brenda Henry lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville*



Brenda Henry - September 11, 2024 at 09:45 PM



“ *Sending Prayers and Condolences*

Tanya Hollin - September 11, 2024 at 02:26 PM



“ *Chambers Family lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville*



Chambers Family - September 11, 2024 at 12:27 PM

TF

“ *The Chambers Family lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville*



The Chambers Family - September 11, 2024 at 12:26 PM

YH

“ *Yvonne Heltzel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Granville*



Yvonne Heltzel - September 09, 2024 at 02:56 PM

LB

“ *Larry Bell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Granville*



Larry Bell - September 09, 2024 at 09:38 AM

KD

“ *Kevin Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Granville*



Kevin Dunigan - September 07, 2024 at 07:26 PM

RC

“ Robert L Casey lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Robert L Casey - September 07, 2024 at 01:59 PM

CG

“ Curtis G Gardner & Elaine Gardner lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Curtis G Gardner & Elaine Gardner - September 07, 2024 at 11:32 AM

KM

“ Kim Marshall lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Kim Marshall - September 07, 2024 at 12:59 AM

DF

“ Dallas Boards and family lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Dallas Boards and family - September 06, 2024 at 07:18 PM

KD

“ Kevin Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Kevin Dunigan - September 06, 2024 at 06:50 PM

KD

“ Kevin Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Granville



Kevin Dunigan - September 06, 2024 at 06:49 PM

ML

“ Malinda Ligon-Whitley lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Malinda Ligon-Whitley - September 06, 2024 at 12:52 AM

CG

“ Cordell & Brenda Gardner lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Cordell & Brenda Gardner - September 05, 2024 at 11:02 PM

JH

“ *Jerry Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Granville*



Jerry Harris - September 05, 2024 at 03:31 PM

CB

“ *Claudia Barbee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Granville*



Claudia Barbee - September 05, 2024 at 03:01 PM

MV

“ *Mignon Vincent lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Granville*



Mignon Vincent - September 05, 2024 at 01:40 PM

JD

“ *Joann Dixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Granville*



Joann Dixon - September 05, 2024 at 10:57 AM

BE

“ Bobby Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Granville



Bobby Edwards - September 04, 2024 at 07:34 PM

SW

“ Sonia Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville



Sonia Wilkerson - September 04, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Granville.



September 03, 2024 at 06:32 PM

LC

“ Love, Michael Caruso planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Robert Granville.

Love, Michael Caruso - September 03, 2024 at 06:32 PM

EB

“ *Mr Grandville one of my favorite people in the world. God sent him to me like an Angel. He help save me by counseling me like a real Father. I tried to give up on me. He was determined to put me on the right track. It worked I will be forever grateful God created him to help so many people. He’s definitely a legend in my life. I send my heartfelt deepest condolences and prayers to his family and loved ones. I know you’re with the Lord. Rest In Heavenly Peace Mr Grandville.*

Evelyn Babura - September 03, 2024 at 04:20 PM

HB

“ *Helen Brooks lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville*



Helen Brooks - September 03, 2024 at 12:32 PM

JD

“ *JACK Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert Granville*



JACK Dunigan - September 02, 2024 at 08:47 PM

JD

“ *JACK Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville*



JACK Dunigan - September 02, 2024 at 08:47 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Robert Granville*



Pauline Gardner - September 02, 2024 at 11:21 AM