



William C. Rhodes

December 22, 1902 - March 20, 2006

WILLIAM CORNELIUS RHODES, SR., son of the late Cassius and Rebecca Rhodes, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on December 22, 1902, and went home to Jesus on March 20, 2006 at 1:45 p.m. His father died when he was 3 and his mother when he was 11. As a teenager, William participated in YMCA activities in his home town and became noted for his athletic proficiency. At age 15, he won the prestigious Thomas Taylor Award, an award outstanding for an Indianapolis teenager. As a teenager, William had an outstanding job, assistant to Madame C. J. Walker, in helping to promote her famous hair pomade. His work led him into meetings with Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois. His next occupation took him to New York City, where he became a Junior Boys secretary at the Harlem Branch YMCA at Lenox Avenue and 135th Street. At this occupation he met Marcus Garvey, boxer Joe Johnson and many other Black leaders. He became somewhat of an institution at this venue. He stayed in New York until he received a call to come to the Druid Hill YMCA in Baltimore, as a tumbling and gymnastics instructor. One person he taught and never forgot was the famous Cab Calloway, who learned gymnastics from Mr. Rhodes. We wonder if Cab learned to dance under Mike Rhodes. From a previous marriage there was a daughter born, the late Melba Perkins and her husband Gilbert Perkins. In the early twenties, William played professional basketball (The Athenians) out of the New Albert gym on Pennsylvania Avenue. This arrangement enabled him to play ball at Wilberforce and Howard Universities, as well as around Baltimore for a very

meager salary. Among his teammates were the late Powell Sheffey, Rap Wheatley and "Cutie" Brown. In 1936, romance again entered the life of William. He married the former Martha Elizabeth Jordan and in 1938 their son, the late William C. Rhodes, Jr. was born. After this happy event, William worked part time at the YMCA and worked parties, catered affairs and waited tables at some of Baltimore's famous eating establishments, earning what was a good living for a Black man at that time. In addition to waiting tables, he worked as an assistant lab technician at Baltimore Goucher College. A true family man, he always worked hard to maintain a home for his wife, his son and stepdaughter, Gloria Lewis Jordan. His old friends called him "Mike", his family called him "Mr. Rhodes", "Cigar" or "Daddy Rhodes". He always enjoyed watching basketball on TV as well as other athletic events and looked forward to family dinners with his family, which was increased to a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law and later another daughter-in-law (Suzette) and step grandchildren (Jordan and Jack). "Mike", "Cigar", "Daddy Rhodes", "Mr. Rhodes", was quite a man and we are thankful that God allowed him to remain on earth for 103 years. William Cornelius "Mike" Rhodes leaves to remember and cherish him: a wife, the former Elizabeth Jordan; a daughter, Gloria J. Carpenter; son-in-law, Raymond T. Carpenter, daughter-in-law, Shirley Rhodes; grandsons, Raymond L. Carpenter, William C. Rhodes, III, Ronald Perkins, Anthony Perkins, Gilbert Perkins, Jr.; granddaughters, Yolanda Brooks and Laura Gonzalez; and a host of other great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

Tribute Wall



“ *William C. Rhodes*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *To the family and friends: Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. I too have lost loved ones in death. Even though we know that death is inevitable, it is still difficult to accept. Death was not something that God intended for us. The thought of death is always distasteful and it always will be because Jehovah God has created within us the keen desire to live forever. We never get used to it. We feel deep down in our hearts that this should not happen because, “Even time indefinite he (God) has put in their heart,” says Ecclesiastes 3:11. One of the wonderful parts of his plan is the hope of the resurrection of dead loved ones. (John 5:25, 28, 29). Please be assured that Jehovah God loves us and wants the best for us. Take comfort in the promise that he has given us at Rev. 21: 3-5 of a new earth where there will be no more death.##imported-begin##Senita Swann##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but know that the God of comfort is with you all during this time of tribulation. (2Corinthian 1:3-4) Due to the many unforeseen occurrences that brings tragedy to our lives Jehovah God promises one day soon Death will be no more (Rev 21:3-4) and his son have been given the authority to bring all those in the memorial tombs back to life. John 5:28-29 Just think there will come a time not only will death be no more but Jehovah promises that no one will have to say I'm sick according to Isaiah 33:24. I feel the need to express these words of hope because so many of us today treasure the gift of life and we do all we can to maintain it to hold on to it. That is why it hurts so badly when our loved ones die. With so many of us desiring life today no matter how good or bad it is we still want life here on earth. No one looks forward to that time of death. That is why I am under obligation by the spirit and love of God to share that hope that is in our near future that the righteous shall inherit the earth and reside upon it forever according to Psalms 37: 29 along with the above stated promises on a paradise and peaceful earth. We all can hold true to this everlasting promise because Isaiah 55:11 states all the words Jehovah have spoken WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT RESULTS. What a wonderful prospect for our future especially enlight of the fact that Hebrews 6:18 States of God, it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to lie.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ May you have comfort from Jehovah, the God of tender mercies who comforts us during all of our tribulations. Death is truly an enemy that we all must contend with. Even when one lives a long life, it still doesn't erase the pain we feel when they are gone. Jehovah never wanted mankind to suffer and die as is the situation at present, but he desires all to live eternally in peace. Sadly, Adam passed this legacy on to us, but Jehovah's purpose will still be fulfilled. Notice what the bible says about this: 1st Cor 15:21,22 says, "For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a man. "For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive." May you find comfort in the promises of God, as well as your cherished memories.##imported-begin##R Johnaon##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family of Mr. Rhodes, I offer my sincere sympathy. It truly is unfortunate that we experience the sorrow associated with the loss of one we love, even when that one has lived a long life, by our standards. Rest assured that God purposed for us to live a long eternal life and his purpose has not changed. He offers the resurrection hope (Acts 24:15) for those who have fallen asleep in death and the hope of life everlasting (Rev 21:3,4) for those who exercise faith (John 3:16). May this provide you with comfort now and in the days to come. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this wonderful promise further.##imported-begin##Gwen Winston##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM