



Mr. Eddie Draper

August 3, 1938 - May 4, 2025

EDDIE C. DRAPER

Eddie C. Draper was born on August 3, 1938, to the late Arther and Annie Bell (née Clay) Draper. He professed his faith in God early in life on the mourner's bench and became a member of the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Eddie made singing his service to the Lord. With music in his blood from both Arther and Annie Bell, it was no surprise that he had a uniquely beautiful voice. Mother Annie Bell once shared that a family friend, enchanted by young Eddie's voice, came by daily after work to sing with him—until she scolded the friend for straining her child's voice. As a young man, Eddie sang with a group and received professional voice training. Fondly known as “C” by family and childhood friends and as “Bruh Bruh” by his baby sister Vivian, Eddie was a good son and a loving brother with deep devotion to family. Like many country boys of his time, Eddie began working early in his life and

proudly
contributed to the household income. One of his first jobs was cleaning at
Fraley's
Grocery Store. Though the pay was good, it required Sunday shifts. After a
talk with his
father, Arther, about the importance of faith and church, Eddie chose to quit.
His
obedience opened doors to new opportunities — driving a school bus and his
most
coveted job: shining shoes at his Uncle Alonza's barbershop, where his father
also
barbered. He earned enough to contribute to the family income and even
"keep
something in his pocket" to pay for sweetheart Julia's ticket to basketball
games. When
Eddie moved away, his brother Robert proudly took over the shoe-shining job.
Later,
cousin Bernard Johnson recalled happily being next in line.
"I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me." [Philippians 4:13]
Eddie received his early education on the old M & I College campus and later
attended
Noxubee Colored High School. Upon graduation from high school, Eddie
moved to Chicago in 1957, a time known historically as The Great Migration.
He often recalled the
bus ride to Chicago with Julia's best friend Mary Jean Joiner Reynolds. With
amusement, he recalled that he was "starched and ironed", wearing new white
penny
loafers and carrying a shoebox of food prepared by his mother that his
Chicago cousins
devoured when he arrived.
In Chicago, cousins Ruth Andrews, Ethel Jordan, and Mattie Harris welcomed

Eddie

and Julia with warmth and guidance. Their example helped the young couple adjust to

city life and pursue their dreams. On August 14, 1957, Eddie began working at Reynolds Metals Company.

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.”

[Proverbs 18:22]

On June 6, 1958, Eddie married his childhood sweetheart, Julia Mason, and together

they had four children. In his early years in Chicago, Ed worked not one but three jobs to support his growing family—an act of resilience and unwavering commitment that

defined his character. Even while juggling those demands, he held fast to a vision for a

better future. His faith, work ethic, leadership skills, and technical knowledge led to

steady advancement. With the unwavering support of his smart, loving, and faithful wife

Julia, he was eventually able to work just his Reynolds job, take college courses at

night, and earn an associate’s degree in business. Their partnership—rooted in love,

faith, and shared purpose—fueled his determination and made every step of his journey

possible. Eddie united with Orleans Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago. He sang with

and directed the Orleans Missionary Baptist Church choir and was honored on a yearly

basis by the church and choir members with a Director's Appreciation program. When

he and his wife Julia moved their membership to Third Baptist Missionary Baptist

Church of Chicago, he became a devoted choir member there.

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."

[Psalm 37:4]

In Chicago, Eddie and Julia purchased a home, educated their children, and owned and

operated The Children's Village Daycare- Kindergarten. On February 1, 1993, Eddie

retired from his management position as Chief Inspector and from over a decade of

service on the Board of Directors of the Reynolds Metals Credit Union.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

[John 15:12]

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." [Philippians 4:4]

Upon retirement in 1993, they fulfilled a lifelong dream by returning to Macon, Mississippi. Back in Macon, Eddie returned to his roots at Macedonia

Missionary Baptist

Church. He served faithfully as a Deacon, Director of the Senior Choir, and Founder and

President of the Brotherhood Ministry. Embracing his entrepreneurial spirit, Ed opened

Mr. Ed's Place, where he cooked his famous burgers, fish, fries, nachos, and breakfast sandwiches—and even resumed his boyhood trade of shining shoes. Ed was a

charismatic man, a great cook, and a true "foodie."

Eddie was proud of his Southern roots. His roots and work ethic were so

ingrained in
him that he often saw himself in other hard working young men and never
failed to
encourage them to keep going. Ed loved hunting and fishing and often served
up
squirrel and other Southern favorites—free of charge—to those who dropped
by to chat
and reminisce. It was no surprise that Mr. Ed's Place became a community
hub for old
friends, neighbors, and visitors from near and far.

I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name
for
evermore. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul
from the
lowest hell. [Psalm 86:12–13]

Eddie was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. On
the morning
of May 4, 2025, the Angel of the Lord appeared and closed the eyes of our
beloved

Eddie C. Draper. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother,
Kennith Draper; sister, Annie Will Draper; daughter, Towanda Michelle Draper;
son, Dwaka Edmon

Draper; and a special cousin, Lavon Draper.

Eddie is survived by his wife, Julia Mason Draper; two children, Barry
(beloved Diana)

Draper of Calumet City, IL, and Melody Draper (Oliver "Tam Foote") Ellis of
Macon, MS;

two sisters, Ola Draper Stark of Chicago, IL, and Dr. Vivian Draper of Tupelo,
MS; one

brother, Robert Arthur (Dorphine) Draper of Macon, MS; three grandchildren,
Barry

Kenneth Draper of St. Louis, MO, Myles Oliver Ellis of Jackson, MS, and Jordan Nicole Draper (Charles III) Cathey of Chicago, IL; one great-grandchild, Charlie Diana Cathey; three nieces, Dawn Draper (Jackie) Jackson, Drs. Torialyn Draper (Tylon) Crook, both of Atlanta, GA, and Brandi Stark of Chicago, IL; one nephew, Tryence A. Mason; one aunt, Gladis (Frank Sr.) Draper; five sisters-in-law, Alden Mason (beloved Mervin) McKinney, Dorphine Mason (Robert) Draper, Mary Jean Mason Bland, Merlinda Mason (beloved William "Boo") Oliver, and Mary Joyce Pruitt (beloved Lucious) Mason; one brother-in-law, James (beloved Clara) Mason; Mason family nieces and nephews; cherished cousins from the families of Alonzo Draper, Frank Draper, Sr., Rosie Bankhead, Sally Davis, Edna L. Sykes, Mary C. Tate, George Clay, Joseph Clay, Robert Clay, Ruth Andrews, Ethel Jordan, and Mattie Harris; and a host of other relatives and friends who will sorely miss him.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Macedonia M B church
Prairie point road
Macon, MS 39341

Tribute Wall



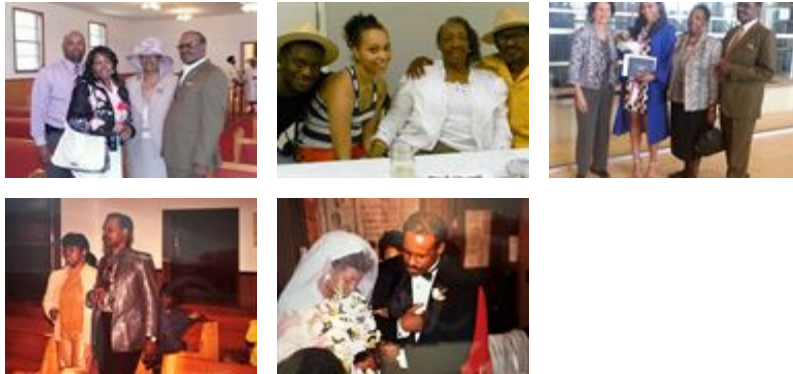
“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Eddie Draper.* ”



May 09, 2025 at 08:29 PM



“ 101 files added to the album Life Tributes ”



Lee-Sykes Funeral Home - May 09, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ *LULA &FRANK DRAPER lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eddie Draper* ”



LULA &FRANK DRAPER - May 09, 2025 at 08:59 AM

TF

“ *Towauna Williams and Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mr. Eddie Draper.*



Towauna Williams and Family - May 08, 2025 at 10:22 PM

TF

“ *Towauna Williams and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Eddie Draper.*

Towauna Williams and Family - May 08, 2025 at 10:22 PM