



Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens

December 26, 1924 - February 21, 2016

STEPHENS, Mr. Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" - age 91, passed away, Sunday, February 21, 2016 at Regency at Waterford Nursing Home. Family hour 10:00 AM Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 174 Branch St., with funeral service commencing immediately at 11:00 AM. Pastor Samuel Stephens, Eulogist; Rev. Keyon S. Payton, M. Div., Senior Pastor. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 North Belford Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00 AM Wednesday. Mr. Stephens will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., and may be viewed from 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM Tuesday.

Mr. Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens was born December 26, 1924 in Marianna, Arkansas, the son of Frank Stephens Sr. and Willie Ann Stephens. Gloucester was the first born child. He attended Whittier Elementary School from grades K-6th, Eastern Junior High School from 7th-9th Grade, and later attended Pontiac High School. Gloucester later had to drop out at seventeen years of age to help with his family financially. To prove to others he was a high achiever he would always clip a ink pen on his shirt pocket (which wasn't proper for Blacks at that time). At the age of eighteen, Gloucester was drafted into the United States Army during World War II based out of Killeen, TX. While serving in the Army, he was a part of 761st Special Unit Tank Battalion, which was in combat from October 1943 until Dec. 1945. 761st Special Unit Tank Battalion was one of the first black troops on the front line in combat for

183 days straight, under the leadership of General George Patton's strategy to defeat the Nazi Regime. The 761st Tank Battalion has since received many high recognitions for their service which included: The Presidential Unit Citation for his extraordinary heroism to the 761st Tank Battalion signed by President Jimmy Carter. Gloucester returned home from war in December 1945 to his family, with a sigh of relief and honorable discharge papers. He was gainfully employed by General Motors-Pontiac for thirty-two years, with retirement rewards. Gloucester continued to work as a courier for Fenton Realtor Service for eighteen years and then retired due to Kidney Failure. He received very good care from North Oakland DaVita Dialysis Center for eight years. He would drive himself to his treatment, until his hospitalization. Gloucester was a real soldier. Gloucester was married to the late Billie M. Officer for thirty-three years, and from that union they were blessed with eight children. He later married his second wife, Naomi Stephens and they were married eighteen years both preceded him in death. He resided with dignity in this grand ole city of Pontiac. He was faithful member of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church for more than seventy years. He was a very active member serving in the Senior Choir, the Male Chorus and a member of the City Wide Choir for forty years. Gloucester loved to sing to the Glory of God.

Mr. Gloucester Stephens leaves to cherish his memory: children, Jacquelin Smith of Pontiac, MI, Sandra Stephens of Beaumont, CA, Karen Stephens-Rice of Los Angeles, CA, Carolyn Stephens of Detroit, MI, Melvin (Sherri) Midgett of Redford, MI; grandchildren, Carla Murphy of Atlanta, GA, Roshawnda Stephens of Los Angeles, CA, Anthony Stephens, Jr. and David Stephens both of IN, Jermaine Smith of Richardson, TX, Bryan Stephens of Beaumont, CA, Adam Stephens of Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Aaron Stephens of Minneapolis, MN, Melvin Midgett Jr. and Dylan Clemons-Midgett both of Redford, MI; nineteen great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; two sisters, Queen E. Coleman and Geneva Dembo of Pontiac, MI; four brothers, William L. Stephens of Hot Springs, AR, Robert E. (Jessie) Stephens of

Pontiac, MI, James Wesley (Mary) Stephens of Detroit, MI, and Jesse (Lue) Stephens; special cousins, Lillian Tabor, James Montague Jr. and Lorraine Stephens; special friends, Mr. J.C. Richardson and Henry Broadnax of Pontiac, MI; loving long time friend, Betty Terrell and special son-in-law, Louis Smith III; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mr. Gloucester Stephens was preceded in death by his sons, Larry E., James Anthony, Irving J. and Philip Stephens; granddaughter, Jada Lyn Smith; siblings, Marie Kidd and Frank Stephens Jr.

The family would like to express special thanks to North Oakland Davita Dialysis and Regency of Waterford Rehabilitation Center Staff.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac
268 North Perry Street
Pontiac, MI 48342
(248) 758-1913
lemoonfhpontiac@gmail.com
<https://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhomepontiac.com>

Family Hour

MAR 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

NEW BETHEL MBC
174 BRANCH ST.
PONTIAC, MI 48341

Funeral Service

MAR 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

NEW BETHEL MBC
174 BRANCH ST.
PONTIAC, MI 48341

Tribute Wall



“ *J lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens*



J - November 29, 2016 at 03:38 PM



“ *Stephens Family~
You have our heartfelt condolences. May God give you peace and comfort. We have our precious memories of the "Quartet"...Mr. Claude Seay, Mr. Walter Moore, Sr. and Jimmy Taylor...May they all rest in peace.*



*Taylor Family
Bartlett Street*

Taylor Family - March 12, 2016 at 06:36 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to The Stephens Family and Friends. I will always remember Mr. Stephens as a faithful member of the New Bethel Baptist Church, it's choir and The Choir Union. May God keep and comfort you at this time. My prayers are with you.*

Mrs Martha Rice

Martha Rice - March 02, 2016 at 07:07 AM

LV

“ *Lindsay Maurice Wynn, Vietnam Vet lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens*



Lindsay Maurice Wynn, Vietnam Vet - March 01, 2016 at 04:37 PM

LV

My generation could never have done the things in the service of our country if not for the things Mr. Stephens and the Men of the 761st did 20 years before when they served... they "came out fighting"... and fought well!

Lindsay Maurice Wynn, Nam Vet - March 01, 2016 at 04:43 PM

CS

“ *To my cousins, Poppa Bubba has given us a great gift to think about, many think of the amount of years in our lives and the important thing is the life in our years. Poppa Bubba did it so well, may he rest in perfect peace. Love to you all. Your cousin Chris Steverson.*

Christine Steverson - March 01, 2016 at 04:28 PM

7A

“ *761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Association purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens.*



761st Tank Battalion and Allied Veterans Association -
February 29, 2016 at 04:38 PM

JB

“ James Bullock lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens



James Bullock - February 29, 2016 at 09:29 AM



“ 74 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - February 28, 2016 at 08:49 PM

RJ

“ Ritchie Jordan lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens



Ritchie Jordan - February 27, 2016 at 08:17 PM



“ *Tammy Brown lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens*



Tammy Brown - February 26, 2016 at 11:48 PM



“ *Gwendolyn Ellis lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens*



Gwendolyn Ellis - February 26, 2016 at 11:43 PM



To My Cousins: Jackie, Sandra, Karen, Carolyn, & Melvin (Shari). God Is The God Of All Comfort! Love You All!

Gwendolyn Ellis - February 26, 2016 at 11:46 PM



“ *Praying for the family in this time of beareavement. May God continue to give the family peace and comfort. Thank God for a wonderful uncle. We will miss Uncle Bubba. Love Shaila and Family.*

Shaila Murray - February 26, 2016 at 09:25 PM



“ *Hold on to those precious memories and his legacy of love. Lean on God He will never let you fall. God is strengthening you right now. To Sandra, Beverly, Bonnie, Mavis and all other family memnbers.*

Sheila Perry - February 26, 2016 at 03:40 PM

MM

“ *The Stephens Family,*

Our deepest sympathy. May the good Lord bless, keep, and give you peace in this time of sadness. Always keep the memories of Bro. Gloucester close.

*Nate & Marilyn McDonald & Family
Waterford, MI*

Marilyn McDonald - February 26, 2016 at 07:13 AM

DE

“ *Love you Uncle I will miss you dearly*

Delores - February 25, 2016 at 06:09 AM



“ *JDenisejustbecuz Tillman lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens*



JDenisejustbecuz Tillman - February 23, 2016 at 11:36 PM

EB

“ *To the Stephens Family,*

I am so very sorry for the loss of your Dad. May God keep you and comfort you at this difficult time. Deepest Sympathy.

With Love. - Ernestine Bush (Johnson)



Ernestine Busg - February 23, 2016 at 10:48 AM

RL

Sandra, so very sorry for your loss. I hope your memories bring you peace. Rosie Lawson Lass

Rosie Lawson Lass - February 25, 2016 at 06:19 PM

SS

Rosie, this is the first time that I have found peace within myself to read this page, I was so surprised to see your name , thank you so much for your kind words . Sandra

Sandra Stephens - May 27, 2016 at 08:40 PM

MH

“ *Miss.M Hurner sent a virtual gift in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens*



Miss.M Hurner - February 23, 2016 at 09:21 AM



Bernice
Thomas

“ *Bernice Thomas lit a candle in memory of Gloucester "Poppa Bubba" Stephens*



Bernice Thomas - February 23, 2016 at 12:58 AM