



Robert Eugene Rhodes

August 12, 1935 - December 10, 2013

Robert Eugene Rhodes was born to the late Clifford and Helen Taylor Rhodes on August 12, 1935 in Julietta, Pennsylvania. He grew up in the rural surroundings of the coal mining region. He received his early education in a one-room school house which his father later purchased and changed into a three-bedroom house. Robert learned early, the meaning of hard work, by digging mile-long ditches afterschool for the family to have running water. He enjoyed hunting, dancing and most of all football. He lived thirty minutes away from the Three-River Stadium which made him a Pittsburgh Steelers fan.

He graduated from Connellsville High School in 1953. After graduation his father decided to introduce him to the life of coal mining. He carried Robert in the mining elevator to the bottom of the mine. He went miles deep into the earth and decided on the spot that coal mining was not the life for him.

He joined the United States Navy in the 1950s and traveled to various places around the world on many ships such as the USS Hermitage, the Proteus and the Gilmer. He joined the Merchant Marines in the 1970's and 90's sailing on carriers and steamships.

In later years, Robert worked as a longshoreman in Norfolk, Virginia, and became self-employed in the home improvement business.

Robert Rhodes married Vernida Viola Wiggins on January 31, 1957 and had

four children, Sharon Yvonne Olds, Robert Rhodes, Jr., Diane Denise Rhodes and Clifford Michael Rhodes, Sr. He was preceded in death, by Vernida, and two of his children Robert and Diane Rhodes.

He loved being with friends and family and watching the Steelers games.

He attended Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia under the leadership of Reverend William L. Davis, Jr.

Robert leaves to cherish his memory, his son, Clifford Michael Rhodes, Sr. (Lynette), his daughter, Sharon Olds; his grandchildren: Shavonda, Clifford Jr. and Joshua Rhodes and Wesley, Sharita and Sean Olds; eleven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Robert will also be missed by his beloved soul mate, Niecey McCoy, his niece Candy King, and a host of relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Service

DEC 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
934 West Little Creek Road
Norfolk, VA 23505