



## Curtis Lamar Cheeks

March 6, 1933 - June 19, 2014

Curtis Lamar Cheeks, 81 of St. Louis was born March 6, 1933 to Bertha Cheeks in Tougaloo, Mississippi. He excelled in sports, he even had an opportunity to try out for the St. Louis Cardinals in his twenties. He served in the United States Army. He met and married the love of his life, Helen (King) Cheeks. He was one of the first African-Americans to integrate the Switzer Licorice Candy company where he worked for almost 30. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife Helen, daughter Carla, sons Barry (Chebia) (Hassan) Lamar Cheeks, Taalib (Tahira) Abdul-Malik (Mark Cheeks), Kevin (Helen) Lamar Cheeks, Muhktar (Kalthoum Hamdouch) Abdul-Malik (Christopher Cheeks), siblings Priscilla Carter and Issac Jack Wiggins (Cheeks) 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, many loving family and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## National Cemetery - Jefferson Barracks

2900 Sheridan Rd  
St. Louis, MO 63125

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUN 20. 9:30 AM (CT)

National Cemetery - Jefferson Barracks  
2900 Sheridan Rd  
St. Louis, MO 63125

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ We were deeply saddened to hear that Curtis had passed away. He always had a smile on his face and kindness in his heart. May he rest in peace.

Mitch and Roberta Marks - July 15, 2014 at 02:47 AM

SO

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Son - June 30, 2014 at 10:33 AM

SO

“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Son - June 30, 2014 at 08:57 AM

SO

“ A man of great standing, Curtis Lamar Cheeks was born March 6, 1933 in Tougaloo, Mississippi. He was known affectionately by his old friends as Cochise, and all would attest that he lived an extraordinary life. Curtis did not know his father, he was blessed to learn how to be a man of integrity, kindness, and mettle from his grandfather, who he affectionally called “Poppa” Oscar Cheeks. Curtis’s early life was a hard one. He and his mother, Bertha, left the south with his younger siblings Priscilla and Jack to seek a better life for them in St. Louis, MO. In his adolescence, Curtis excelled at sports and often played street ball with his close friends. Sometime during his childhood, he suffered a major hip injury while playing a game of pickup ball. Curtis was left with a permanent limp that would become a defining factor for the rest of his life.

Ol’ Grandpa Cheeks was a determined man, a determined man who loved him some baseball. He never allowed his disability to stop him from pursuing his dream of becoming a St. Louis Cardinal. He even had his chance to try out for the Cardinals sometime in his twenties. They prize his batting ability, but he was unfortunately turned away because he could not run the bases.

A short time later, Curtis served in the military, but received an honorable discharge for his disability one day before graduation from the military academy. But God is good, Curtis hit a home run when he met the love of his life Helen King. He went on to have four sons with Helen: Barry (Hassan) Lamar Cheeks, Taalib Abdul-Malik (Mark Cheeks), Kevin (Khalid) Lamar Cheeks and Muhktar Abdul-Malik (Christopher Cheeks). Curtis later discovered that he had a daughter, Carla, from an earlier relationship.

Being a young father, never having finished middle school or taken up a trade, Curtis hustled to provide for his young wife and family. With no car at his disposal, he would go to the truck loading docks hoping to be selected by drivers to unload their trucks. Curtis would leave before sunrise and get there before his friends. He always tried his best to provide, whether it be shooting pool for milk money or working hard on the docks.

Allah (God) blesses his servants in many ways. Finally, with the help of the Catholic church, Curtis found a job at the Switzer

*Licorice Candy Company. He worked there for almost 30 years until he retired and was one of the first African-Americans to integrate the workplace.*

*To many people he met, Curtis was always a gentle, helping hand. Even while fighting cancer for four years, he was always a giving and helpful man. Recall your good thoughts of him as a helper, friend, and gift from God as he walks this journey of return. We are all thankful to have had him.*

*Curtis is survived by his loving wife Helen, daughter Carla, sons Barry (Hassan) Lamar Cheeks, Taalib Abdul-Malik (Mark Cheeks), Kevin (Khalid) Lamar Cheeks, Muhktar Abdul-Malik (Christopher Cheeks), his siblings Priscilla Carter and Issac Jack Wiggins (Cheeks), 12 grandchildren save for one, 17 great- grandchildren and many many loving friends and family.*

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*We close with this note:?? ?*

*Walk With Certainty And Purpose*

*When you take a step towards The Most Loving, you are also turning your back on the world. He will not leave you alone, He will provide His Divine Care for you. He is with you every step of the way. You may appear alone but He is always with you.*

*A wise righteous man (May God be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of God be upon him) said that God, Exalted is He, says, "And if he comes to Me walking, I go to him with speed."*

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**Son** - June 25, 2014 at 09:24 PM

ND

“ My prayer goes out to the Cheeks family, I would like to express my condolence at this time to your family. The Bible is a great source of encouragement at times like this, a comforting thought is at Revelation 21:4 "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away"

Nikki Davis - June 25, 2014 at 11:20 AM

CF

“ Sending my love and prayers to Aunt Theresa and all of our St. Louis family in remembrance of Uncle Curtis. We love you very much and our thoughts, love and prayers surround you always. With all our love,  
Crystal, Claressia, Clarence and Barry McCarey

Crystal McCarey & Family - June 22, 2014 at 10:07 AM

KS

“ Ken & Archway Staff lit a candle in memory of Curtis Lamar Cheeks



Ken & Archway Staff - June 19, 2014 at 08:54 PM

KA

As-salamualaykum, May Allah ta,ala give the family patience during this time. May the many memories comfort you all. You are in Our dua's . Khaliah, Lahcen and Family

Khaliah Abdus-Sabur - June 20, 2014 at 06:25 AM