



Curtis Massey

July 12, 1926 - January 29, 2025

Curtis Massey was born the youngest child to Frank and Flossie Nelson Massey on July 12, 1926. Flossie and Frank also had two stillborn sons. Curtis would always say he was the seventh son of seven sons.

At a young age, he met and married, Nellie Vernell Paulk and then joined the military. After serving in the military as a World War II Veteran, he returned to civilian life and settled in Tildenville. Shortly after returning home, he went back and finished his high school diploma by attending night school. While there, he met his agriculture teacher, Mr. Johnson, with whom he developed and maintained a friendship. For many years, he assisted Mr. Johnson by providing citrus for Charles R. Drew High School's display at the county fair. He started work picking oranges. He went from harvesting and picking citrus to driving trucks, and then as a foreman. After learning all he could about the agriculture business, he got a \$20,000 loan, which he paid back in one year, and started his own business. He grew that business from one truck and one man to 270 plus employees, three tractor-trailers, and seven plus foremen.

Later, Curtis moved to Oakland, Florida. There, he met and married Edna Steplight Massey. In 1975, at the age of 49, he decided to run for Mayor of Oakland and won, making history by becoming the first black man to serve as Mayor of Oakland for three years, from 1975-1978.

Curtis had a fundamental love and care for mankind. His generosity and passion for helping others knew no bounds. Well after his tenure as Mayor, he was still looking after the needs of the people of his community. He was a person who always helped others when he could, however he could. Having an innate drive and desire to see others prosper, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the people of his community did not succumb to the poverty that plagued the African American community in Oakland but had their stake in the “American Dream” of home ownership. To be certain of such, he held mortgages for Black residents when the banks would not loan them money, following in the footsteps of his Dad, Frank Massey. Many of his relatives and friends have been recipients of his generosity and kindness.

In retirement, shing became his love and favorite pastime. He loved the peace and serenity of shing in the local lakes. Even more, he enjoyed catching them and giving them away to family, friends, and members of the community. After becoming frail and unable to go to the lake, not going shing became the thing he missed most. Two days before his passing, he expressed to his grandson Brandon, that he wanted to go fishing.

Curtis was preceded in death by his Parents, Frank and Flossie Nelson Massey; Son, Ricky Johnson; and Brothers: David Massey, Lenwood Massey, Grant Massey, and K. C. Massey.

Left to cherish his memories: Daughters: Rhonda Massey Hall Steib (Joseph) and Gladys Rodgers Coates; Stepdaughter, Rosalyn Jones; Grandsons: Will Curtis Hall (Michelle), Vance Hall (Maria), Wendell Coates, and DeAndre Coates; Granddaughters: Elenora Vernell Hall, Jasmine Coates, and Renee Bowman; Step-Grandchildren: Kenya Holmes and Jade Holmes; 10 Great-Great-Grandchildren: Brandon Joseph Hall, James Carlies III, Jordan Carlies, Brittany Ortiz, Ashley Reid, Joshua Robinson, Amon Hall, Jazz'men Hall, Amaya Hall, and Ayumi Hall; numerous other grands, great-great-great-

grands; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other loving relatives, and friends

Cemetery Details

Orlando Memorial Gardens

5264 Ingram Road
Apopka, FL 32703

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anointed Ground Church
304 East Oakland Avenue
Oakland, FL 34760

Graveside Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Orlando Memorial Gardens
5264 Ingram Road
Apopka, FL 32703

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Our heartfelt condolences to the entire Massey family. Peace and Love ❤️
The Gipson/Postell Family
Debra G.Bridges 🕊



Debra Bridges - February 05, 2025 at 09:05 AM

SG

“ St. Paul AME Winter Garden purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Curtis Massey.



St. Paul AME Winter Garden - February 04, 2025 at 03:44 PM

RT

“ My Name is Ricky Thomas, my mother and uncle Curtis was double first cousins.
Uncle Kurt represented the massive family extremely well, strong, proud, and always “walk tall”
My heart is heavy tonight thinking of how my mother Ida Lee Thomas would feel about his passing.
I know uncle Chris will walk with God

Ricky Thomas

Ricky Thomas - February 01, 2025 at 09:27 PM

RB

Thank you Ricky. Dad and I visited cousin Ida Lee several times, your memory brought that back to me. Thank you for your condolences. Rhonda. Curtis' daughter.

RBS - February 13, 2025 at 03:20 PM

RT

Hey Rhonda, this is Ricky, uncle Curtis was a man's man. A good man I will miss him

Ricky

Ricky Thomas - March 12, 2025 at 06:00 PM

MM

“ *Mary Morss lit a candle in memory of Curtis Massey*



Mary Morss - January 31, 2025 at 11:40 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Curtis Massey.*



January 31, 2025 at 10:25 PM