



John Rich Jefferson, Sr.

April 11, 1936 - May 29, 2019

John Rich Jefferson, Sr., was born to Pastor Effer "F.J." and Ida Mae Lane Jefferson in Baker County, Georgia, April 11, 1936. He moved to Arlington, with his brother and sister-in-law Odell and Cleo Curry to attend elementary school. In 1946, he moved with his parents to Chattahoochee, Florida. In 1948 they moved to Winter Garden to be close to his siblings. Under duress they moved to Newberry Farm, Williamsburg, Georgia, to pay off his deceased paternal grandfather's alleged sharecropping debt and rescue his grandmother, "Ma Sally". In 1951 they moved back to Winter Garden permanently, where he attended Drew High School. He continued his education at Westside Vo-Tech for small motors. On October 9, 1954, he married Margaret Thompson.

An enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1956-58 took him to South Carolina and Texas for training and Colorado for service. Upon his return to Winter Garden in 1958, he worked for Speedy Myler in the citrus industry. Later that year, Sylvester Smith helped him to get a job with Roper Brothers operating a bulldozer. After the demise of the Roper brothers, he began working for Burt Roper at Roper Growers Cooperative driving tractors, watering trees and transporting equipment. For about six years he ran a fruit picking crew in Loxahatchee. Gradually, he worked his way up to tire man and then mechanic. He traveled the state of Florida extensively, North and South Carolina repairing trucks wherever Roper was hauling fruit (oranges, watermelon and

peaches). Several times he was sent to Cape Canaveral to work on motors for the space program. To support his family, he often worked a second job, Frito-Lay for a few years and his own mechanic shop. He worked for the Roper family businesses in various capacities from 1958 to 1993 when a work-related accident forced his retirement. Then he ran a fruit picking crew with Golden Gem (1993-1995). Always industrious, he started a lawn business with six yards that Charles King gave him and two he acquired and built the business up to 48 lawns.

As a child, he developed a love for Sunday School when he was a member of the Freewill Baptist Church near Arlington. He later attended Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church and New Inspirations Baptist Church. He moved his membership to Bay Street Church of God in Christ to be with his wife. His civic affiliations included assisting Deacon Joe Brown in obtaining street lights and paved roads for the Joe Louis subdivision. As a member of the Winter Garden CDC since 2010 he helped provide scholarships and home improvements for local residents. He was an avid farmer, fisherman, hunter and cook.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Odell Curry, and a sister, Queen Esther Odom. Several friends also preceded him in death: Stanford Davis, James "Bull" Burke and Ernest Hemingway.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his devoted wife: Margaret; five children: Marlene, Mary Helen Haggins Orlando, John Jr., Victor (Shirley) of South Carolina, and Beverly; five grandchildren: Terika (Frank) Wright, Victor LeVar (Rhoda), Brian, Victoria Lamb, Margaret Nicole Pryce; six great-grandchildren: Monet Wright, Jalen Jefferson, Mekhi Jefferson, Alexrice Lamb, Malachi Lee and Jalisa Pryce; a devoted group of cousins including Susie Mitchell, nieces, nephews, and sorrowing friends.

Cemetery Details

Winter Garden Cemetery

13636 Lake Butler Blvd.
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

West Orlando Christian Center Church of God in Christ
1301 East Bay Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Service

JUN 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

West Orlando Christian Center Church of God in Christ
1301 East Bay Street
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Tribute Wall



“ *John Rich Jefferson, Sr.*

October 22, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *Lois Morss lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.*



Lois Morss - June 08, 2019 at 09:15 AM



“ *To the Jefferson Family,
We are so very shock to hear of the sorrow that has come to you all. We know how little words written on a page can possible mean to you at such a time. But we must tell you that you all are in our thoughts and in our hearts, and if there is anything that we can do for you, please send us a message--whatever it may be.*



*With deepest sympathy,
Charlene and Family
Waverly and Family and
David and Family*

Mrs. Charlene Williams - June 07, 2019 at 11:29 PM

JJ

“ HiLo,

I have many great memories of uncle John, as I enjoyed weekends at his home when I was a child, and the many times we would share at a family reunion or just get together as a family; but by far the greatest thing I will always remember about uncle John is when he would remind me (as he often did), that he had been married longer than I had been alive.

I think it was just his way of suggesting to me that I stay faithful and true to ALL those that I love.

You will be missed Uncle John; but you will not be forgotten!

J. D. Odom Jr. - June 07, 2019 at 10:07 PM



“ *I remember when I was a little girl my mom would receive boxes from GPA and Madear and I was so excited just to see what goodies I was going to get. I always felt his genuine love whether if I was hundreds of miles away.*

Vicky's Jefferson - June 07, 2019 at 03:11 PM

LD

“ *Lisa Davis lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.*



Lisa Davis - June 07, 2019 at 01:50 PM

BR

“ Bobby Ramsey lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.



Bobby Ramsey - June 07, 2019 at 01:46 PM

CT

“ My condolences to my family I only recently met my uncle but I no he loved me he would always talk to me on fb and keep me encouraged I will never ever forget him and I will truly miss him ,I love you unc rest in peace your niece carolann

Carolann thomas - June 07, 2019 at 11:49 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Rich Jefferson, Sr..



June 07, 2019 at 08:15 AM

PH

“ Peggy Hardwick lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.



Peggy Hardwick - June 06, 2019 at 10:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Rich Jefferson, Sr..*



June 06, 2019 at 06:37 PM



“ *Deidre Law lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.*



Deidre Law - June 06, 2019 at 03:08 PM



“ *The East Winter Garden CDC purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Rich Jefferson, Sr..*



The East Winter Garden CDC - June 06, 2019 at 01:37 PM



“ *Cousins Clara and Shirley purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Rich Jefferson, Sr..*



Cousins Clara and Shirley - June 06, 2019 at 09:34 AM



“ Beverly Hemingway sent a virtual gift in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.



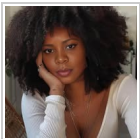
Beverly Hemingway - June 05, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ Brenda Anderson lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.



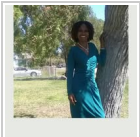
Brenda Anderson - June 04, 2019 at 06:56 AM



“ Cover Brown lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.



Cover Brown - June 02, 2019 at 11:35 AM



“ Lois Morss lit a candle in memory of John Rich Jefferson, Sr.



Lois Morss - June 01, 2019 at 07:50 AM