



Mr. Lucky Cleaver

July 16, 1922 - December 6, 2023

Lucky Cleaver was born in Waxahachie, Texas July 16, 1922. He graduated from Oak Lawn High School in 1940, before going on to spend two years serving his country in the United States Army during World War II, as a member of the 320 Barrage Balloon Battalion. Before joining the military, in 1942, he married the love of his life, Marie McKnight Cleaver, whom he affectionately called "Whetie." They were married for 44 years before her death in 1986.

During his early years he was a trained boxer, and it was one of his favorite sports to watch on television. After leaving the military, he attended Prairie View A&M University for two years and owned and operated a dry-cleaning business. Later, he moved to Wichita Falls, in 1950. There he worked at the Wichita Club and First Baptist Church from 1982 until retiring in 1989. He also served as a deacon at Jackson Memorial Church of God in Christ where his brother, Leroy Cleaver Jr., was pastor.

Lucky loved to dance and when he heard music, he couldn't help but move to the beat. He took great pride in his expertly manicured lawn and vibrant Christmas light display. He had an infectious laugh and never met a stranger, just a friend he hadn't spoken to yet. He could often be heard reminding his

family that “God is good” often adding, “...not some of the time, all the time.”

Born L.G. Cleaver, he assumed the name Lucky when he enlisted in the Army. He was told he could not use initials, so he chose the moniker “Lucky.” He was known as “G-Daddy” to his grandchildren. Growing up, he was called “Wee-Wee” because he was the smallest of the three brothers.

He was preceded in death by his two brothers Leroy Jr. and Emanuel, and sister Juanita.

He leaves to celebrate his legacy, his four children Loris (William Sr.) McNeel, Congressman Emanuel (Dianne) Cleaver II, Dr. Zora (Lee) Durham, and Marie Barge. He also leaves ten grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins other relatives and friends.

Private Disposition. Services conducted by Lawrence A. Jones A. Jones Funeral Chapel. Condolences may be shared on our website.