



Renzie Ellis Hurse Jr

June 8, 1936 - September 21, 2024

Renzie Ellis Hurse, Jr., 88, died unexpectedly Saturday, September 21, 2024, at Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital. He was born June 8, 1936, in Caruthersville, Missouri, the son of Renzie Ellis Hurse, Sr. and Clara Pearl Seawood.

Mr. Hurse previously resided in Houston, Texas; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Benton Harbor, Michigan prior to relocating back to Houston, Texas in 2019.

He attended school in the Benton Harbor School District and was raised a Christian. He worked many years as a truck driver and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. He also drove buses for the City of Milwaukee and the City of Cleveland. As a young adult, he worked for Thayer Paper Company and various other employers in Benton Harbor.

He was an esteemed individual to know and a vital resource in seeking employment, due to his positive work ethics and being a workaholic. He was very well known and influential with local businesses throughout Benton Harbor and the surrounding local areas. He was an experienced journeyman and this led to him becoming an excellent carpenter. He was an avid sports fan who enjoyed basketball and football. His passion was collecting coins and silver dollars as a hobby.

He was known to many as “Uncle Junior”, a flamboyant character who loved life and enjoyed telling his life stories to whomever was close by. He never missed an opportunity to share his stories with family and friends; he was a great storyteller. There was never a dull moment or a lull in conversation when you were in his presence. He made a difference in the lives of his sons’ and nephews’ and they looked-up to him and hung-on-to his every word. He wasn’t always easy to please due to his high standards and expectations, as his sons’ and nephews’ will confirm from their own experiences. He was a sharp shooter never mixing his words, he was quick to notice, hear, understand, or react to things by stating his opinion. But most of all, he was preparing these young men to take a stand for something, plan for their future and be ready for what lies ahead.

They learned how to dress and develop their manly swagger under his tutelage. His three main statements were take note of “who’s teaching”, “who’s telling,” and “what’s there to learn”, because you did what you were told. His comeback was always his distinctive laugh and enthusiasm. His continual and unselfish giving of himself and his wisdom will truly be missed.

Mr. Hurse is survived by six children: three daughters: Renee Hurse-Hayes-Isom of Ypsilanti, MI; Theresa Hurse-Alvarez and Patrina Echols-Hurse both of Milwaukee, WI; and three sons: James (Jimmie) Hurse of Kalamazoo, MI, Ryan Hurse of Milwaukee, WI and Benjamin Hurse-Walker of Cleveland, OH; and twelve grandchildren, six great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; two sisters: Jettie P. Hurse of Benton Harbor, MI and Erma J. Hurse of Corona, CA and one brother Theotis (Ted) Hurse of Spring, TX; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He’s preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Mae (Echols) Hurse, son Charles Darnell Hurse, daughter Cynthia Hurse and their mother Christine-Alexander Hurse and grandson Willie Edward Renzie Hurse, Jr. III.

His father Renzie Ellis Hurse, Sr. and mother Clara Pearl Seawood preceded him in death as well as eight siblings: four sisters: Lillian Mae Hurse, Florence Conway, Marie Barnes and Loraine Forest; and four brothers: James (Bud) Hurse, Benjamin (Ben) Hurse, Lennon (Lennie) Hurse, and Lonathan (Lonie) Hurse as well as other relatives including aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Celebration of life

OCT 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of Christ
1451 East Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49085

Burial

OCT 12 (ET)

North Shore Memory Gardens
5027 M 63 N
Coloma, MI 49038

Tribute Wall

JF

“ So sorry for your loss. You have our love and heartfelt sympathy. God bless the Hurse family.



Josephine Rand Doss Smith & Family - October 16, 2024 at 08:59 AM

MG

“ Uncle Jr, you will be truly missed. I will miss all the stories and advice you provided over the years. Rest now. Love you.

Marla Hurse Grundy - October 12, 2024 at 11:01 AM

JF

“ Jarold and Dorothy foriest planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Renzie Ellis Hurse Jr.

Jarold and Dorothy foriest - October 10, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Renzie Ellis Hurse Jr.



October 10, 2024 at 08:51 PM

GB

“ My sincere condolences to the entire Hurse family. I first met Uncle Jr. in 1978 when I married his nephew Lynnell Barnes. He told me he would never forget my name, because Glenda wasn't a name you hear often, and he never did. Uncle Jr. will be missed and never forgotten.

Glenda Barnes - October 08, 2024 at 09:59 AM

MG

“ 22 files added to the album *Family*



Marla Grundy - October 07, 2024 at 12:30 PM

MG

“ 4 files added to the album *Hurse*



Marla Grundy - October 07, 2024 at 12:27 PM