



## Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr

April 9, 1936 - April 25, 2020

Reuben James Pettiford III, affectionately known as Sonny, was born at 6:00 am on April 9th 1936 in Harlem Hospital in the City of New York to the late Reuben J. Pettiford and Julia Rascoe Pettiford. Reuben was educated in the NYC Public Schools attending P.S. 68 and 89 and Fredrick Douglas Junior High School. He then attended Commerce High School; which later became The Met. After high school Sonny went into the army where he did his basic training at Ft. Jackson in 1955. He then was trained as a medic at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas and Ft. Lewis, Washington. He finished his service at Ft. Polk, Louisiana.

Upon leaving the service Sonny returned to New York City, he went to work at the Manhattan VA Hospital. He then began employment at the NYC Jacobi Hospital and Albert Einstein College in the Bronx. After six years Sonny went to work for the New York City Transit Authority and soon after, he decided to transfer to the New York Police Department. He graduated from Rockland Community College in New York, Ramapo College in New Jersey, and New York University in New York City where he received his MPA. Upon graduating from NYU with honors, Sonny was awarded a fellowship by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation in New Jersey, then taught at Texas College.

Reuben was also one of the original members of the National Action Network

under the leadership of the Reverend Al Sharpton in the Village of Harlem. Since moving to Fayetteville, North Carolina, his civic involvement continued at the City Hall information desk; Fayetteville Technical Community College. He served as a note taker for special needs students; Citizens on Patrol (COPS Program), and playing music for veterans at the Ramsey Street VA Hospital.

Preceded in death by his loving parents, sister Ruby Pettiford and son Michael Gary Pettiford, Reuben leaves behind to cherish his memory; his wife Ann Pettiford, son Reuben Pettiford IV (Lisa Pettiford), daughters Glenda Pettiford, Julia Josey (Chris Josey), Rhoda Sexton (Joe Sexton). His grandchildren; Sajuan Pettiford, Sidale Wise, Nasia Wise Rogers, Robert Pettiford, Jennifer Pettiford, Christopher Pettiford and Joseph Sexton. He also leaves behind; his only great grandchild, Julissa Rogers, his special niece Valarie Pettiford and a host of nieces and nephews, valued church members, family and friends.

We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name. In life, we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you but, you did not go alone; for part of us went with you the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide, and though we cannot see you, you are always by our side. Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

-Lovingly Submitted by the Family

# Previous Events

## Livestreaming

MAY 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

@ColvinFuneralHomeCORP  
2010 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28301  
hmcolvin@aol.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr.*



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June 02, 2020 at 11:32 AM



“ *Sonny... thank you for stepping in and for caring for me when my own father wouldn't. For loving me even when I was a brat and pushed you away. Thank you for your support and encouragement all these years. For being the only grandfather my kids knew. And thank you for ALWAYS being there for me and mommy. I promised you we'd get back to our favorite spot, Rodizio ... and I'm heartbroken that will never happen. Love you... and I will always miss you! Please tell God, "Helllooooo!" for me. :-) Adrianne*



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**Adrianne Flores** - May 03, 2020 at 02:03 PM

CM

“ I wish to extend my sincere condolences to the Pettiford Family. Cousin Uncle Reuben. That’s what I called him and his face would just light up as he flashed that infectious smile. He earned that name because he became a bona fide family member to me immediately after we met 8 years ago. Bro. Reuben was a cool, suave and dapper man. He was always pleasant and kind to others! I looked forward to his warm and personal greeting every Sunday morning as he was the first person I’d see when I arrived at church! He was a great man and I’m going to miss him dearly! He will always hold a special place in my heart.

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**Cynthia Moseley** - May 02, 2020 at 11:20 PM

RJ

“ Ruby C. Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr



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**Ruby C. Jones** - May 01, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr.



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May 01, 2020 at 07:39 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr.*



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May 01, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ *Buffy And Gloria Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr*



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**Buffy and Gloria Sanders** - May 01, 2020 at 12:42 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr.*



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May 01, 2020 at 09:02 AM



“ *Sending our condolences and love. From Haiden and Jackie Johnson*

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**Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan** - May 01, 2020 at 08:16 AM

AS

“ Adreinne Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr



Adreinne Smith - April 30, 2020 at 11:55 PM

ML

“ Mr.Reuben was always smiling and full of happiness. His bright personality will be missed I am sending prayers for your entire family. He was a Beautiful light . We love you and will miss u at bible study. May Hod comfor the family



marsha Lucas - April 30, 2020 at 10:18 PM

JH

“ Jacqueline Johnson And Haidan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr



Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan - April 30, 2020 at 09:02 PM

JH

“ Jacqueline Johnson And Haidan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr



Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan - April 30, 2020 at 09:00 PM

JH

“*Jacqueline Johnson And Haidan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr*



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**Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan** - April 30, 2020 at 08:57 PM

RR

“*Reuben and Lisa, know that Michelle and Robby Russell stand with during this time. We love you*



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**robby and michelle russell** - April 30, 2020 at 08:12 PM

SB

“*I pray for God's peace to be on you and with you and your family. Praying for you.*



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**Sherry Blair** - April 30, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“*Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr.*



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April 30, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ *What a nice gentleman always smiling. Bro. Reuben always had a kind word. You will be missed. L Hurst Tokay family.*



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**Lin Hurst** - April 30, 2020 at 06:21 PM



“ *Jackie and Ivy Green*

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**Jackie Green** - April 30, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ *I met Reuben while I was attending FSU in 2005 . I recognized immediately that he had one of the kindest spirits I have ever known. Although I only spent a short time getting to know him, I will never forget his easy laughter and his gift of making everyone around him feel special. My prayers go out for the family of this very dear, gentle man.*

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**Sandy Akins** - April 30, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ *Such a humble man. Blessings to the family. Reverend James and Minister Carolyn Allen*



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**Carolyn Allen** - April 30, 2020 at 04:06 PM

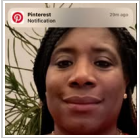
BS

“ *Buffy & Gloria Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr*



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**Buffy & Gloria Sanders** - April 30, 2020 at 04:04 PM



“ *Daphane Rush lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr*



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**Daphane Rush** - April 30, 2020 at 03:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr.*



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April 30, 2020 at 03:56 PM

JH

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy to the pettifor family with love to you from Asheville North Carolina your sister in Christ Jackie Johnson and Haiden Norris.*

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**Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan** - April 30, 2020 at 03:25 PM

SW

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Mr. Reuben Pettiford Sr. during this most difficult time. Please accept my most sincere condolences and may God ease the pain of your loss.

Sheriff Burnis Wilkins - April 30, 2020 at 02:39 PM

PI

“ My condolences to the family. Glad I was able to chat with Sonny when I did. Wish we had more time to chat when we did speak.

Preston James IV - April 30, 2020 at 02:01 PM

JH

“ Jacqueline Johnson And Haidan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr



Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan - April 30, 2020 at 02:00 PM

JH

“ Jacqueline Johnson And Haidan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr



Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan - April 30, 2020 at 01:59 PM

JN

“*Jacqueline Johnson And Haidan Norris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr*



Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan Norris - April 30, 2020 at 01:05 PM

JN

“*Jacqueline Johnson And Haidan Norris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr*



Jacqueline Johnson and Haidan Norris - April 30, 2020 at 11:57 AM

IF

“*Iris Greeley And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Reuben J Pettiford Sr*



iris greeley and family - April 29, 2020 at 03:15 PM

TL

“*Brother Rueben was so very kind! He greeted my family almost every Sunday at church. He would always ask about any family member who was not in attendance and kindly asked to tell them, “hello.” He was a beautiful person and kept everyone safe, while we attended services. God bless you brother Rueben. You will be greatly missed. The LaMotte and Davis families.*

Trasey LaMotte - April 28, 2020 at 08:26 PM

RP

*Reuben was the 1st man to attend the Annual Women's Conference at New Mission Baptist Church. Reuben and I were in the line dancing class at Tokay Recreate vCenter , and he heard me talking about the Women's Conference and asked if he could come ? That's how he became a regular at the conference and also joined our Bible study on Wednesday nights. He was ,as he would say , " getting to know GOD better ". We all loved Reuben , very warm and respectful person . His smile and huq will be greatly missed .*

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**Rosa Parham** - April 30, 2020 at 03:26 PM

TM

*My deepest condolences to my family. Uncle/cousin Sonny will definitely be miss. RIP. Love y'all. Shawn & Tina 🥹🙏❤️*

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**Tina Matthews** - April 30, 2020 at 10:34 PM

CM

*Sending my prayers and condolences out to the Pettiford family. Cousin Uncle Reuben!!! That's what I started calling him after the first time we met about 8 years ago! He became a bona fide family member to me instantly after our initial encounter. He was such a cool suave, and dapper gentleman. I looked so forward to his infectious smile and pleasant greetings every Sunday morning! He was a jewel and always a joy to be around. He will always hold a special place in my heart! We will all miss him dearly!*

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**Cynthia Moseley** - May 02, 2020 at 06:14 PM