



Sam Athalone

May 9, 1939 - December 5, 2020

Sam Henry Athalone was born May 9, 1939 to Henry and Elnora Athalone in Sunflower County Mississippi. He moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1956 where he graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in 1958. Sam served in the US Army January 1963 - December 1964. Sam married Mary Hargrove in July 1964.

Sam always liked cars and began working for Ford Motor Company in 1969. An accident that damaged his right foot and ankle, forced him to retire from his job as an inspector after 38 years of service. Sam was always known to have a warm, friendly spirit. Upon his retirement, his workmates asked his children who were present "if he was always like that?" They commented that "even if you see him a few times a day, every time he sees you he speaks as if it is the first time". Sam truly loved people and good conversation. If you ever felt down or invisible, his genuine greeting and laughter could light up your day.

In 1968, Sam began studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses and in 1969, dedicated his life and symbolized it by baptism. Over the years he continued to develop a reputation as a loving and kind shepherd, willing to give of himself and put the needs of others ahead of his own. On many occasions he would receive a phone call, put on a suit and tie and go take care of someone in need. Even if late at night he would always answer the

phone. Over the years he assisted many to come to a better understanding of scripture, teaching not only in word but by example. He was always welcoming, treating everyone, especially his children's friends as part of the family.

Sam's priorities were his family and ministry. Once asked why he stayed at a very hard job that he didn't like, he responded "It allowed him to take care of his family and didn't interfere with his ministry". It was funny that despite working in a factory, many of the children in the neighborhood thought he was a teacher because he was always seen in a suit.

Despite having to endure dialysis, pneumonia and heart surgery, he was always a joy to be around. After coming home from the hospital, Friday, December 4, and seeing his wife of 56 years, he lay down for the night and continues to sleep. He now awaits the call of the one who can awaken him. (John 5:28,29)

Sam was preceded in death by his father Henry Athalone 1995 and sister Luevnia Pickett April 2020.

He is survived by his mother Elnora Athalone; spouse Mary Athalone; children Sametta Athalone, Pamela Rainey (Tommy), Patricia Harris (Tony) and Michael Athalone (Latanya); grandchildren Cameron Patterson, Rachel Rainey, Jennifer Patterson, Christopher Rainey and Thomas Rainey; sisters Edna, Rosie, Daisy, Martha and Denise; along with a host of other family and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

McCullough Funeral & Cremation Services
851 East 75th Street
Chicago, IL 60619
(773) 488-8900
info@mcculloughfuneralservices.com

Visitation

DEC 18. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Online via Zoom

Service

DEC 19. 2:00 PM (CT)

Online via Zoom

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Athalone*

October 04, 2023 at 06:11 PM



“ *Sam worked with John for years at Ford. When John retired we had a dinner and Sam did the honor of praying for us. He had an infectious smile and caring. We will miss him.*



Vanessa Stevenson - December 19, 2020 at 04:58 PM



“ *Brother, Athalone I am very sorry for the loss of your beloved father. Remember him fondly and smile. May you feel the love of those who gently lift you up in prayer. Sincerely, Sister Blevins*

Claristine Blevins - December 19, 2020 at 04:24 PM



“ *Condolences to the Athalone Family and Friends*

V. Janice Kirkham - December 19, 2020 at 03:59 PM

TS

“ I remember Sam as a warm and kind and friendly person with a good sense of humor.
from Thomas Simpson.

Thomas Simpson - December 19, 2020 at 01:16 PM

NB

“ Hey my other family. I just want you know you're in my prayers. I didn't stay far from your folks so a few times I ran into your dad at the park taking his walk. He was always friendly & cheerful. He acted like I was really an elite runner. 😊 Verta B 8028 S Champlain -60619

Nevertha R Brooks - December 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM

SE

“ It was fun for our family to be living around the corner from your family.

Schultz (Edwards) - December 18, 2020 at 10:40 PM

RB

“ Reggie & Sandra Baker purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Sam Athalone.



Reggie & Sandra Baker - December 18, 2020 at 02:43 PM

MA

“ *Michael A. purchased the Adoration Casket Spray for the family of Sam Athalone.*



Michael A. - December 18, 2020 at 06:47 AM

DS

“ *D. Michelle, Denetris, Renata & Shana purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sam Athalone.*



D. Michelle, Denetris, Renata & Shana - December 17, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



McCullough Funeral & Cremation Services - December 15, 2020 at 11:27 PM

AO

My condolences to the family and friends of the family... this is a loss for all.

Angelique Owens - December 18, 2020 at 01:48 PM

HF

*Eagerly seated on train to new world
With sleepers securely in tow
Reached destination awakens that car
Through promise we currently know*



Humphrey Family - December 19, 2020 at 07:43 AM

HC

From Henry & Carol Bradford, our deepest sympathies to the entire Athalone family on this temporary lost of our friend Sam, we along with you await that "Brighter Day" when there're be no more experiences such as this!

*By Extension we can say this regarding Sam's (brighter day)
2Tim. 4:8 "From this time on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me as a reward in "that day", yet not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his manifestation.*

Henry & Carol - December 19, 2020 at 04:29 PM