



Wilbert G. Russell is being remembered on what would have been his 83 birthday

## Happy Birthday! Wilbert G. Russell

Wilbert G. Russell was born Oct. 8, 1931 in Painesville, Ohio to Wilbert J. Russell and Clara Louise Russell, and died June 2, 2014 in Portland.

He was the proud and dedicated father of GeorgeAnn Russell Varnedoe, DeRon McCoy, Gregory Talton, Rickey, Janet and Tony Russell and Anthony Sparrow.

A man who believed in work and taking care of his family, he was known for holding two jobs at the same time. He was retired as a military fire chief with honors from a 26 year (1950-1976) career with the United States Air Force. Following with his last government job, he inspected embassies and consulates as a fire marshal.

Staying true to his commitment to protecting those who cannot protect themselves, he continued his career after retirement with the Office of State Fire Marshal and received a master's degree from City College. He was the first

African American president of the Fire Marshals Association. He also recently held the position of AARP Portland Chapter President.

He lived with his family in various places around the world, including Japan (Yokota, Hakata, and Itazuke), Southeast Asia and the Alaskan frontier. He also loved Jazz and to travel, visiting friends and relatives. He was a passionate Bridge card player, playing weekly.

He was loved by his late wife of 56 years, Jean Russell and current wife Lula Russell. He will be missed by his children and grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Marian Louise Laisure and son DeRon McCoy.

He was a quiet man and showed great responsibility for his work, making lifelong friends, wherever he went. He is an unsung hero, every day making our lives a little easier, a little happier, and a lot safer.

--From your Portland family

## Friday Lecture on Prison Justice

Portland State University Black Studies professor Walidah Imarisha will lead a public discussion about the prison system during a lecture, "Beyond Bars: Rethinking Our Reliance on Prisons."

Imarisha has facilitated dozens of workshops and lectures on race and Oregon history. Her background in prisoner rights activism and anti-racism will add to this ongoing discussion.

The lecture is set for Friday, Oct. 10 and starts at 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, downtown, located on the corner of South-



Walidah Imarisha

west 12th Avenue, between Salmon and Main. The program is hosted by the End Jim Crow - Healing our Justice System group and is sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

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## Join us for Worship in Pink Weekend

October 10-12, 2014

Take charge of your own breast health

More than 50 free breast health education activities will be offered over the weekend and during October Breast Cancer Awareness Month, to spread the message that early detection saves lives!

For a schedule of activities, visit [www.worshipinpinkpdx.org](http://www.worshipinpinkpdx.org).

Worship in Pink is a health program promoting breast cancer awareness in congregations of all faiths and community organizations. Worship in Pink programs are held in various cities across the country.



Worship in Pink



Worship in Pink is presented in partnership with Legacy Health and Susan G. Komen® Oregon and SW Washington