

News**OBITUARY: Elizabeth "Betty" Thompson", Sept. 30, 1927 - Feb. 25, 2019**

Longtime Portland civic leader, youth advocate and community supporter Betty Thompson died peacefully in her sleep on February 25, 2019 at the age of 91, after a long journey with dementia.

A tenacious trailblazer

during a time when people of color were denied access and opportunity, Betty tirelessly applied her keen intellect, organizational skills and determination to help open doors and improve the quality of life for peo-

ple of all ages. Always modest and humble- she shunned the spotlight, electing instead to share successes and achievements with everyone involved. Yet, she remained a shining star whose brightness and impact



Elizabeth "Betty" Thompson

were highly-regarded- from small, grassroots organizations to high-powered decision makers in local businesses and city and state government.

Betty's behind-the-scenes efforts in the 1980s are credited as a driving force that helped defeat intense opposition when the Portland City Council voted to change Union Avenue to Martin Luther King

Jr. Boulevard. She was instrumental in numerous sixties-era War on Poverty programs, and helped start the Foster Grandparent Program in Portland when the national program was established in 1965.

A long-time federal government employee, Betty was also a member and leader in numerous community, government and non-profit boards and organizations, including the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, The National Council of Women's Organizations, Les Femmes, The Literary Research Club, The Metropolitan Steering Committee, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Sisters Of Providence Child Center, and so many more.

Honored in the seventies as a Portland "Woman of Achievement", her dedication to equal opportunity, education, community advancement and fairness for all continues to leave a lasting impact throughout the city of Portland.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband Vernon, and their son Frank. She will be deeply missed by her loving family and countless friends.

There will be a public viewing on Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Terry Family Funeral Home, 2337 N. Williams Avenue in Portland. Service will be held on Friday, March 8, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church in Portland, where she was a longtime member.

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OBITUARY: Bloomer "Rickey" Ford, Jr.

July 19, 1948 - February 2, 2019

Bloomer Ford, Jr. (Rickey) was born July 19, 1948 in El Dorado, Ark. He departed this life at age 70 on February 2, 2019 in Portland, Ore. surrounded by his family.

A funeral mass will be held Friday, March 8, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Andrew Catholic Church.

He was the third of nine children born to Gertrude Marie Smith and Bloomer Ford, Sr.

Rickey attended Fairview Elementary School and Washington High School in El Dorado, Ark. He learned brake mechanics from Savannah Automotive Institute in Savannah, Ga. and attended Rock Creek Community College where



Bloomer "Rickey" Ford, Jr.

he earned a certificate in diesel mechanics.

After working as a brake mechanic for Sears Automotive for three years, then Brake and Wheel of Arkansas in Little Rock, he worked for Union Pacific Railroad. For the last 21 years he worked as a custodian for St. Andrew Catholic Church in Portland, Ore.

Rickey will be remembered as a Master Mechanic and a Jack-of-all-trades by his family, his friends, and his community.

In his late teens he joined his older sister, Lucille Stokes and her husband in California as a drummer in their band. Rickey moved back to Arkansas wearing sandals, socks, and an afro. At age 23, he met and married Emma Jackson. They moved to Little Rock, Ark. and later to Portland, Ore. Rickey was the father of five children and six grandchildren. He joined St. Andrew Catholic Church in 1978.

His passions were fishing and tinkering. He loved taking things apart and working to put them back together again. He fancied himself an inventor. He had such great inventions as the lip guard

and the cell phone bell. Rickey's favorite sport was boxing. Most Saturday nights were spent watching HBO featured fights on television with his sons, grandsons, and daughter.

The Dallas Cowboys was his favorite team.

Rickey loved games of chance. He bought lottery tickets weekly and kept them in a shoebox for a year. He played 2-4-6 whenever he went to the dog or horse races. He proclaimed loudly to anyone who was listening that he would one day be a millionaire.

Rickey was preceded in death by his father, Bloomer Ford, Sr., two sisters, Delores Marie Ford and Gwendolyn Lucille Stokes, two brothers, Glenn Darnell Ford and Charles Edward Ford.

He is survived by his mother, Gertrude Marie Ford, 94, (Little Rock, Ark.), his children, Trina Ford Card/Joseph of Beaumont, Texas, Demetria Ford, Shannalynn Ford, Patrick Ford and Solomon Ford of Portland, Ore. Three sisters, Pamela Ford Crew/ Larry of Jacksonville, Ark. Beverly Ford Bursey and Mary Dean Ford (Little Rock, Ark.), one brother, Bobby Joe Ford/Sharon (Magnolia, Ark.).

He leaves six grandchildren, Sherice Emma-Lee James, Isaiah Ford-Lucas, Jacob Ford-Phillips, David Darden, Patrick E Bloomer Ford, and EmmaLeigh Card.

A whole host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends will mourn his passing.

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