



## Mr. Onzie Melvin Cole Sr.

June 11, 1936 - August 25, 2020

Onzie Melvin Cole Sr. was born on 11 June 1936 to the late Rowena “Rena” Carrie Bond and Theron Thomas Cole in Jackson Tn. Onzie Sr. was the middle child of three sons. His oldest brother Jim Cole (Oakland, California) his baby brother Earvin Cole (Woodbine, New Jersey) and both parents preceded him in death.

Onzie Cole Sr. comes from humble beginnings where he was raised in Madison County working the cotton fields with his family. He was an active member at Bethlehem Church where he accepted Jesus Christ as a young boy. He sang in the choir and taught Sunday school as a young man. Onzie Sr. graduated from West High School in Jackson Tn. Onzie Sr. was also an accomplished, talented singer and musician. He traveled extensively with different Gospel Quartet groups and sang background for several famous artists during his musical journey. He was fondly referred to as the “silky voice” He remained a member of Bethlehem Church until he entered the military. Onzie Sr. left his humble beginnings and entered the United States Army as a young man. After serving Honorably on Active Duty in the military, he attended Barber College and became a licensed Barber. He relocated to Decatur Illinois where he barbered for over forty years within that community until he retired. He was a transport driver with different trucking companies briefly, after his retirement.

Onzie Sr’s favorite hobbies were cooking, gardening, traveling, chess and singing. He was an avid gardener and could grow anything that came from the

ground or on a tree. He personally coordinated the construction for a state-of-the-art greenhouse and garden for an assisted living facility in Fayetteville NC. Onzie Sr. came from a line of excellent cooks as he and both his brothers Jim and Earvin could compete with any top chefs. He volunteered to cook signature dishes on occasion for the facility's residents and a local homeless shelter before his health declined. Onzie Sr. was an exceptional bowler and chess player. He played chess often with military servicemembers at the Wounded Warrior Support Center on Ft Bragg North Carolina. Onzie Sr. loved all sports, but baseball was his favorite. He enjoyed playing Cornhole with his village as they grilled out on Friday nights.

Onzie Sr. had a magnetic personality and did not know any strangers. During his eleven year stay in North Carolina he was fondly referred to as "Pops" and had a large loving village. He became the adopted father and grandfather amongst the many friends that loved him dearly. Several restaurants owners designated him their VIP where he frequented, and he was always provided complimentary meals on the house for his entire stay in North Carolina. The restaurants would often deliver meals to him on Saturdays, where he always shared his meals with his favorite nursing staff.

Onzie Sr. was a true warrior as he fought several health battles. He departed this life peacefully on 25 August 2020.

Onzie Sr. leaves behind a loving wife, Constance Cole of Denver Colorado. Onzie has ten children.

Steve Styles, Sebrina Franks (late Larry Franks Sr), Rowena Andrews, Onzie Melvin Cole Jr, Sharon Walker, Flossie Cole, Eric McCullough (Kreda), LaShauna Hightower ( Brian), Dion Stanback, Brandon Stanback, twelve grandchildren, and four great grandchildren, a host of nieces, grand nieces, nephews, grand nephews, and many cousins.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Onzie Melvin Cole Sr.*

---

January 28, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ *My condolences to the family and loved ones. I want to share a memory that always and forever stand out to me. Jack and my cousin Sebrina were in town for my mother's wedding and they had to trail me to the rehearsal. Once we got there Jack give me a beautiful compliment, he told me, "Girl I can tell who your grandfather is he taught you how to drive well". I was so happy to be paid such an awesome compliment. He will always be remembered and never forgotten.*

*Love,  
Erica*

---

**Erica Blackwell** - October 13, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ *We will forever miss Pops. A beautiful spirit inside and out. I loved that he made you feel so special . Even though he made everyone feel this way. But you felt you were the only one. He was a wonderful father in law to my brother ( late Larry Franks Sr.) but we the Franks family claimed him as our own. Rest in Peace Pops until we meet again.*

*Charlene Marshall*

---

**Charlene Marshall** - September 28, 2020 at 02:52 PM

TG

“ Friends of mine gifted these in remembrance of you, Papa. Pray you are resting in heaven. ❤️




Tiara Gomer-DeGomez - September 12, 2020 at 09:39 PM

LJ

“ This is my daddy I want the world to know I was bless with you and nobody will take my place I love you Daddy with all my heart! I will always remember your smile and the way you sing “My Girl” cause I am your girl! Rest In Peace with the Lord! I love you Daddy!



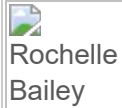
Lajoyce Jacobs - September 08, 2020 at 05:29 PM

 Rochelle Bailey

“ Rochelle Bailey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Onzie Melvin Cole Sr.



Rochelle Bailey - September 05, 2020 at 10:47 PM



“ Rochelle Bailey sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Onzie Melvin Cole Sr.



Rochelle Bailey - September 05, 2020 at 10:46 PM



To Sebrina my dear friend with deepest sympathy

Rochelle Bailey - September 05, 2020 at 10:46 PM



To Sebrina my dear friend with deepest sympathy

Rochelle Bailey - September 05, 2020 at 10:46 PM



Rochelle  
Bailey

“ Sebrina,

*I am so sorry for your loss. You spoke so highly of your dad, I felt like I knew Mr. Cole. You two had such a special bond and hearing about your conversations days prior to his transition warms my heart. Mr. Cole singing “My Girl” to you lets me know he thought so highly of you. Those memories will carry you on the days ahead when your friends, colleagues and family have gone back to living life...reflecting on the time when you two Face-Timed and you hear him singing “My Girl.”*

*It is my prayer as you are bringing closure to his final business affairs you can share in the honor of Mr. Cole serving and protecting our country as an honorable Army WW 11 Veteran. I salute your dad for defending our great nation against foreign and domestic enemies. I recall you sharing with me all the funny antics your dad did at the healthcare facility in Tennessee. OMG, I know the staff will really miss your daddy, The Great Mr. Cole! I can see him making them laugh from the time he awakened in the am until he was nestled in his bed at night...Mr. Cole was a man who lit up the room and made others smile, chuckle and yes they had to be on their toes! I never met your dad Sebrina, but I knew him through you. As friends we have always had great dialogue and I hope that continues as you go through this life’s journey. With deepest sympathy, Love Rochelle*

---

**Rochelle Bailey** - September 05, 2020 at 10:37 PM

SS

“ *I know and understand that life has no script I want you to know I thank you for giving me life and may you rest in peace until we meet again Love you Daddy*

---

**Steve Styles** - September 04, 2020 at 04:09 AM

SW

“ *Sharon G. Watkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Onzie Melvin Cole Sr.*



---

**Sharon G. Watkins** - September 01, 2020 at 07:24 PM

SM

“ *Rest in Peace, Dad.*



---

**Shauna McCullough-Hightower** - August 31, 2020 at 07:51 PM

SF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



---

**Sebrina Franks** - August 31, 2020 at 02:54 PM

PK

“ *Your contagious smile and hearty laugh will be remembered. I considered it a blessing to have known and loved you. Rest In Peace my dear friend!  
With lots of love Pam / affectionally named by you as “little short Pam”*

---

**Pamela Kelly** - August 28, 2020 at 08:36 PM

MO

“ Big daddy, yes! big daddy is what I call him, the news of your passing came to me as a big shock. I remembered vividly the last time I saw you, you were full of smile and excitement of moving back home to be close to family and I was so happy for you. I worked with you for almost three years and you were ones of the best resident on my hall, always smiling with everyone that come across you. There is a saying that when you lose a loved on earth, you gained an angel in heaven. May we all take solace in knowing that you are now our guardian angel. As you travel to be in the bosom of the Lord, I will miss your physical presence but the imprint and memories you created in my hear will always remain. Farewell big daddy 🥹🥹🥹

---

**Macelina Okojie** - August 28, 2020 at 12:22 PM

GW

“ My Deepest Sympathy to the Family. Dad, we've shared a lot of Life experiences, and a lot of laughter over the years. I'm forever grateful, for the many times that You, Shag & I spent on the phone together laughing and singing. Thank You, for allowing Me to take Sebrina's hand in marriage, and for always being a Dad to Me. May You forever RIP. You are remembered with Love, Respect, & Honor. As a fellow Veteran, thank You for Service. Love Your Son-In-Law.  
Gary

---

**Gary Walker** - August 28, 2020 at 10:36 AM

SF

“ 1 file added to the album Onzie M Cole SR



---

**Sebrina Franks** - August 28, 2020 at 01:19 AM

LU

“ I just want to send my deepest condolences and prayers.. For Mr. Cole Daughter Mrs.Sebrina Also to all family.And Truly wanted to say it was an honor knowing him, He was truly loved and a kind person who will be missed. He always kept a smile on his face.. Love You Mr.Cole

-----  
**lucretiajolliffe** - August 27, 2020 at 05:45 PM

YB

“ My fondest memories are of going on family vacations to Decatur Illinois and visiting with my uncle Jack and cousins.

-----  
**Yolanda Cole Broughton** - August 27, 2020 at 03:38 PM

BB

“ My fondest memories of my uncle Jack is when he would tell stories of his childhood with him and his brothers I remember his smile and his laughter and him singing "float on"with my dad. My grandma said he gave me the nickname Baldie.

-----  
**Brenda Cole Brown** - August 27, 2020 at 02:04 PM

AJ

“ Just want to share my deepest condolences From my families.. the Jones and Watkins's Pops as my husband use to call u ,and of cause the name grew on me as well u will be missed by your family and the ones who new you.. and I didn't mine cooking u one of your favorite speckled butter beans with okra and ham hawks.. u were my husband buddy whenever he was in your present I noticed your eyes always lite up.. he has now passed on I hope you both will get to c each other again 🙏👤👩🏻👤 Rest In Peace Pops you will forever be in our 💕💕

-----  
**alene jones** - August 27, 2020 at 01:49 PM

LT

“ My fondest memory of Uncle Jack is listening to him and his brother, my father, Earvin, sing. They had the best harmony. Also, the way they laughed together even if you didn't hear what they were laughing about, the sound of it made you laugh.

---

**Linda F Toney** - August 27, 2020 at 01:41 PM

SF

“ To my daddy, You are FREE daddy!! Though I am truly saddened I know God's will shall be done.

GOD was ever Merciful as he gave you his promise of three score and ten plus more!!

You were loved by many and never met a stranger.

Your journey has moved from Labor to Rest as you wait upon our GOD.

Loving Memories will always be in my heart.

I LOVED YOU THIS MUCH..... Shag



---

**Sebrina Franks** - August 27, 2020 at 11:56 AM