

*In Loving Memory  
Of*



*Percy H. Spencer Sr.*

*July 23, 1924*

*July 20, 2012*

*Services:*

*Wednesday ~ July 25, 2012*

*Visitation/Prepast: 6:00 P.M. ~ Funeral: 7:00 P.M.*

*St. James AME Church*

*9256 S. Lafayette Ave.*

*Chicago, Illinois*

*Services:*

*Saturday ~ July 28, 2012*

*Funeral: 2:00 P.M.*

*Greater Galilee AME Church*

*1133 Caseyville Road NW*

*Wesson, Ms. 39191*

*Reverend J. Leon Thorn ~ Officiating*

## *Percy H. Spencer Sr.*

Percy Harold Spencer Sr. was born July 23, 1924 to Ernest Spencer and Rose Ada (Markham) Spencer. He was the fifth child of ten siblings. Percy was reared in Wesson, Mississippi in a Christian home and he committed to a personal relationship with Christ at Mercy Seat Church.

Percy was feisty, adventuresome, and entrepreneurial. He received his early education at Mercy Seat and Greater Galilee Church Schools with excellent teachers like Thea Dorsey Markham and Prett Flowers. Throughout his lifetime, he was always creating ways to capitalize on his resources. Growing up on the family farm, Percy developed a strong work ethic, a love for the outdoors, nature, animals, bowling and cars. It also fostered a creative, inventive, and DIY (Do it Yourself) spirit. He was an excellent baseball pitcher and "didn't play or back down from challenges even in the segregated rural south. One time, two white boys, stole his bat and threw it down the ravine. Percy got it back and went to hit the brothers in the head with the bat. Knowing Percy was "dead" serious, the Lord allowed the boys to run so that Percy could tell that story and many more about his feistiness. Percy was a dapper man's man who liked poetry and creating rhymes. He was a precursor to fellow Chicago rappers, Common and Kanye.

Drafted into the United States Army in 1945, Percy served his country and awarded the WW II Victory Medal. After the army, he enrolled in Campbell College in Jackson, MS. to study radio and television repair. He later used these skills to open a radio and T.V. repair shop located on 75th and Maryland Avenue in Chicago in the 1960's. Percy was industrious often working two jobs. His many vocations included Yellow Cab Driver, Illinois Central Railroad Red Cap, Veterans Administration Clerk (He could type 60 wpm). He was awarded Best Salesman for Metropolitan Insurance. He retired after more than 24 years from United Airlines as a fueler.

Percy's first union to Mary Bingham Frances bore four children, Gloria, Carolyn, Percy Jr. and Beverly. In 1968, Percy married Loretha M. Cobb, and relocated to Los Angeles, California, where he joined Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church. Percy was a world traveler, but loved his roots. He would return to Chicago often and spend time with all of his children, brother and sister, and friends whenever he came to town. He loved Mississippi and would visit often. He always attended Homecoming at Greater Galilee AME Church each year.

In 2008, Percy's health began to decline. In September, 2011, Percy had a hard fall and was subsequently relocated to the Chicago area after a period of rehabilitation where he could receive assistance in his recovery and care by his children. He relentlessly committed to his rehabilitation despite obstacles until he yielded to the Masters call on July 20, 2012, at Kindred Hospital in Hammond, Indiana.

Percy's home going to Heaven is celebrated by: his wife of 44 years, Loretha Spencer; his children, Gloria (Richard) Brown, Carolyn Spencer (Smith), Percy (Lucia) Spencer Jr.- Brazil, and Beverly Spencer; four siblings, Othelda (Mildred) Spencer-Chicago, John (Betty) Spencer-Columbus, Ohio, Robert Spencer-San Antonio, Texas and Mary Greer,-Chicago; nine grandchildren; twelve great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.