



## Mr. Charles Leroy Robinson

July 31, 1933 - May 11, 2015

Charles L. Robinson died at peace after a long illness in Oakland, CA on May 11, 2015, at the age of 81. Charles "Chuck" L. Robinson was born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 31, 1933, to his parents Margaret "Marge" Anderson and Richard Palmer. A fourth generation "Baltimore Catholic", he was baptized and later served as an altar boy at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Baltimore).

Charles graduated from Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School (Baltimore, 1951) and later received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Science and Masters of Science in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from California State University in San Francisco.

He later met and married Martha R. Robinson in San Francisco, CA. From this union was born son Joseph L. Robinson and daughter Sybil M. Robinson. In 1979, he married his wife of 36 years, Sarah Washington Robinson.

In the 1950's, Charles served as a Red Cross Certified Water Safety Instructor at De Fremery Park in Oakland, CA. He worked for the State of California as a rehabilitation counselor and supervisor then later worked in Oakland, Richmond, and San Francisco as an employment program manager for the State of California. In the 1960's, he served as a staff photographer for the Monterey Jazz Festival. As a jazz aficionado and jazz photographer, in honor of his 75th birthday, he realized his dream in 2008 when he published a jazz photography book of his intimate photographs of famous jazz musicians entitled *Jazz Idiom: Blueprints, Stills, and Frames: the Jazz Photography of Charles L. Robinson* with bluesy riffs of poetry by former California

Poet Laureate Al Young. While his heart was with the Baltimore Orioles, as a devout baseball fan, Charles adopted the Oakland A's as his team and attended spring training in Arizona with

Sarah until his health failed. His other interests included music appreciation, swimming, auto repair, commemorative postage stamps, and biographies.

As an active community leader in Berkeley (affectionately known to many as the "Mayor of

South Berkeley") and Oakland, California, Charles served as a lector at Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Board member with the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union, Board member and former President with the South Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation (SBCHDC) (Byron Rumford Senior Plaza), member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, volunteer Ombudsman for the Alameda County program overseeing long term care facilities, advisor to the Oakland Mayor's Summer Youth Job Program, and was actively involved with the Over 60 Health Clinic now part of Lifelong Medical Care. In addition, his community engagement included his membership of the following organizations: the Berkeley Gray Panthers, City of Berkeley Personnel Board, Resources for Community Development, and Kaiser Hospital Senior Advisory Committee. This just scratches the surface of Charles' commitment of service to the community.

Charles L. Robinson is predeceased by his mother Margaret "Marge" Anderson, father Richard Palmer, uncles Ellwood Robinson, Vernon Robinson, Joseph Robinson, Adrian Robinson, Charles Palmer, Bernard Palmer, and aunts Mildred Vinson, Eleanor Taylor, Delores Robinson.

Charles L. Robinson is survived by those he touched to live out his legacy: his wife Sarah Washington Robinson , son Joseph L. ( Barbara) Robinson, daughter Sybil M. Robinson, granddaughter Jasmine Robinson, daughter Alyce M. Nash and Clarice R. Nash, granddaughter Tamicka Green and Toni Eisley, dear cousins Ben Robinson and Elaine Witcher, sister in laws Ethel (James) Haskins and Laura McDonald, brother in law Jeff Washington, dear niece Theresa Austin, dear nephew Yule Caise, dear friends Charles Sykes and Bill White, great-grandchildren, Ameer Green, Tamiko Gillion, Nasir Green and Trinity Carter and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and other relatives and friends. Special thanks to his long-term caregivers Lucy Adutwumwaa and Evelyn Hollier for their devoted care.

# Cemetery

# Events

Private

CA,

- MAY

18

Visitation

11:30AM - 04:30PM

Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home

3665 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA, US, 94609
- MAY

19

Service

10:00AM

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church

1640 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA, US