



Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair

July 3, 1948 - May 9, 2025

On May 9, 2025, Eugene "Papa/Guitar-Man" Blair received his Heavenly Wings at the age of 76. While his passing brings sorrow, we find peace knowing he is now with his Heavenly Father. Eugene was a joyful and loving soul whose legacy endures in the hearts of all who knew him. Born on July 3, 1948, in Newellton, Louisiana, Eugene was the cherished son of Percy Blair and Rosie Lee Johnson.

He graduated from Joseph Moore Davidson High School in St. Joseph, Louisiana, in 1967. Later, he moved to Saginaw, Michigan, where he began a long and dedicated career with General Motors Corporation until his retirement.

Beyond work, Eugene's life was rich with family, friendship, and music. He found joy in fishing, watching old movies and westerns, cheering on his favorite sports teams, sharing his musical gifts, and he loved the Lord and going to church. A devoted member of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church, he served faithfully in the male choir and as a musician. Eugene also played music independently with his brothers and fellow musicians.

Eugene leaves in God's care, his loving, devoted and fussing wife of 43 years Michelle Blair; seven children, Shelona (Jerome) Wilson, Devondrae Blair,

Tenesha (Devontae) Marselis, Eugenia Blair of Saginaw, MI, Latoya Blair of Memphis, TN, and Shanessa Blair of South Korea; Terrence Carter of Tallulah, LA; six grandchildren, Aariona and Shariona Smith, Jaliyah Brown, Ja'Quan Perry, Ja'Nya Moore, and Levi Marselis. Two great-grandchildren: Saraeya Brown, and Sa'Mani Frazier; one sister: Annie Blair of Delhi, LA. Five brothers: Willie(LaRonda) Blair of Houston, TX, Freddie (Connie) Blair of Monroe, LA, James Moore Blair of Dallas, TX, and Jimmy (Joretha) Blair of Tallulah, LA; Special Mother-in-law: Moselle Reed, and Alma Johnson who was like a mother to him. Two sister-in-laws: Jann Blair of Monroe, LA, Cynthia Tillman and Brenda Johnson of Saginaw, MI. Four brother-in-laws: Pastor Ernest (Tammy) Reed, Minister Kenneth (Tyrhonda) Reed of Saginaw, MI, Maurice Reed of Mount Pleasant, MI, and Demarcus Reed. Many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who he loved dearly; special friends: Clinton Tolson of Los Vegas, NV, Curtis Helton of Danville, IL, Arthur Layton Jr of Toledo, OH, Chris Jackson of Los Angeles, CA, Charles Thompson, Eric Stephenson, Katie Beecham, and Deacon James Donald of Saginaw, MI.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Percy Blair and Rosie Lee Johnson; one sister, Willie Mae "Peaches" Walker; and two brother, Isaac "Ray" Blair and James "Billy" Johnson, father-in law Willie Reed Jr.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to UofM Hospital , Covenant Visiting Nurse Association, Brian's House, Radiation Oncology Team, Dr. Lou, Dr. Chaudhry, Dr. Payne, and Nurse Theresa, Pastor Robert Corley Jr., Prince of Peace Church family, and Pastor Murray Culberson, Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church for their compassionate care.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025 at Prince of Peace Baptist Church, 725 N. 24th St., Saginaw, MI 48601. Rev. Robert B. Corley Jr., Pastor and Pastor Murry Culberson will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3210 S. Washington, Saginaw, MI 48601. Visitation

will take place on Thursday at Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 N. Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607 from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 22. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 North Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607

Funeral Service

MAY 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Prince of Peace Baptist Church
725 North 24th Street
Saginaw, MI 48601

Tribute Wall

MB

“ It's been 9 months since you left us, you are really missed, LOVE YOU



Michelle Blair - February 23 at 01:52 PM

DL

“ D. Lee sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



D. Lee - September 18, 2025 at 11:41 AM

MC

“ Mr. Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Mr. Collins - September 09, 2025 at 06:35 PM

DJ

“ D. Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



D. Jones - August 18, 2025 at 09:55 AM

DR

“ Dwayne Robinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Dwayne Robinson - August 15, 2025 at 03:37 PM

JF

“ Johnson Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Johnson Family - August 15, 2025 at 12:52 AM

LB

“ I will always love you DADDY, I miss you so much



Latoya Blair - August 12, 2025 at 03:34 PM

MR

“ Maurice Reed lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Maurice Reed - June 16, 2025 at 06:35 PM

PC

“ Sending our condolences and prayers to your family the Boyd, and Southward family 🙏



Pamela Clark - June 14, 2025 at 11:19 PM

CJ

“ Chris Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Chris Jackson - June 05, 2025 at 12:58 AM

MF

“ Mr. Terrance Reed & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Mr. Terrance Reed & Family - May 30, 2025 at 06:51 PM

MW

“ Maurice Marie Washington lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Maurice Marie Washington - May 23, 2025 at 06:16 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Dorothy Brown - May 23, 2025 at 12:05 PM

MF

“ Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth/Ann M. Patrick & Fam. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth/Ann M. Patrick & Fam. - May 23, 2025 at 08:52 AM

TM

“ Theresa McClellon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Theresa McClellon - May 23, 2025 at 07:20 AM

DS

“ To the Blair family. Praying your grief be short and your joy much longer with beautiful memories of your beloved Mr Blair. Sincerely Donna Shipman ❤️🙏❤️



Donna Shipman - May 22, 2025 at 08:55 PM

BR

“ *Bettina Redeemer sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Bettina Redeemer - May 22, 2025 at 11:41 AM

EC

“ *Evelyn Culberson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Evelyn Culberson - May 22, 2025 at 11:29 AM

DC

“ *Deborah Champion lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Deborah Champion - May 22, 2025 at 09:48 AM

AF

“ *Alma Johnson & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Alma Johnson & Family - May 22, 2025 at 09:08 AM

CP

“ Coach Sr & Kathleen Perry purchased the Spring time Wishes for the family of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair.



Coach Sr & Kathleen Perry - May 21, 2025 at 02:40 PM

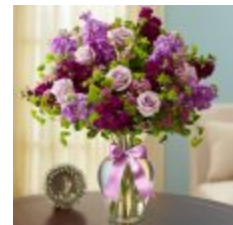


“ One of the highlights that came with playing at Rosehill was playing with Papa. He use to say "Rev. keep it simple and lets have a good time" and that we did. Forever in the key of C and always with a groove. Rest on Papa!

Travis Buckley - May 20, 2025 at 02:03 PM

RF

“ Rashaud's IBDSS Work Family purchased the Shades of Purple for the family of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair.



Rashaud's IBDSS Work Family - May 20, 2025 at 01:53 PM

CF

“ Carla Gums/Jada Bradley and Family purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair.



Carla Gums/Jada Bradley and Family - May 20, 2025 at 10:40 AM

LP

“ To the Family of Papa, we are praying for your strength. He was a good friend. He loved the Lord and he loved playing his guitar for the Lord. He loved his family and spoke of them often. He and my husband talked everyday. Larrie has been sad since he passed. You don't realize how much a person can be a part of your life until they are gone. We will miss him. Rest in Heaven Papa.

Larrie and Valerie Packard - May 19, 2025 at 08:56 PM

YL

“ Rest in peace my brother in law Papa, we had some good times together, you were really a good brother in law, always so giving, nice and not fake, when you got in church you really love ❤️ the Lord and your church family, we'll take your rest, you will really be miss



Your Brother In Law - May 16, 2025 at 10:39 PM

TH



Tara Henderson - May 16, 2025 at 01:31 PM

RB

“ Papa, you will be missed Rose Hill missionary Baptist Church will not be the same without you papa you were dedicated get your rest in paradise

Raecille Brooks - May 16, 2025 at 09:21 AM

EB

“ Elaine Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Elaine Brown - May 16, 2025 at 02:46 AM

FC

“ My condolences to Mr.Eugenefamily. He was a very nice person I am glad that I met him and got to play with him at Rosehill. He will be remembered and truly missed.



Felecia Cole - May 16, 2025 at 02:22 AM

AF

“ Apral D. Maner & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair

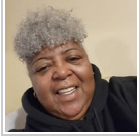


Apral D. Maner & Family - May 15, 2025 at 08:21 PM

CW

“ My condolences to the Blair family..May God give you strength

Carolyn Stewart Wicker - May 15, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ *Thelma Prescott sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Thelma Prescott - May 15, 2025 at 05:51 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences and prayers to Michelle and the Entire Family.*

Dec. Charles & Share' Patrick



Mrs. Share' Patrick - May 15, 2025 at 04:03 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the entire Blair family. Let us all hold on to God's unchanging hand. My thoughts are with you all. Cuz will surely be missed but loved always.*

Jacqueline Blaylock



Jacqueline Blaylock - May 15, 2025 at 08:23 AM



“ *Dr. Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Dr. Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. - May 14, 2025 at 11:10 PM

LI

“ Linda(Arnett)Taylor sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Linda(Arnett)Taylor - May 14, 2025 at 09:57 PM

LR

“ To the Blair family: I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr.Blair. May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding be with you all. Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning.



Linda Robinson - May 14, 2025 at 09:45 PM

CW

“ Carolle Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Carolle Walker - May 14, 2025 at 08:43 PM

RT

“ Rest well my Friend Poppa

Rev Dexter Thomas - May 14, 2025 at 03:58 PM

DH

“ *Dholmes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



dholmes - May 14, 2025 at 03:00 PM

FB

“ *My condolences & prayers to the Blair family .*



Faye Burt - May 14, 2025 at 02:46 PM

CP

“ *Carrie Polk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Carrie Polk - May 14, 2025 at 11:40 AM

CC

“ *Carey Cargile lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Carey Cargile - May 14, 2025 at 11:01 AM

MF

“ *Mosella Reed & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Mosella Reed & Family - May 14, 2025 at 01:30 AM

LB

“ *Eugene Bair was a good hearted person. God has taken a good friend and a good soul. Linda Buckley Bolton. Rest in peace my friend.*



Linda C Bolton - May 14, 2025 at 12:31 AM

MB

“ *Rest in peace*



Malina Barlow - May 13, 2025 at 11:21 PM

PS

“ *Fly Away My Friend Going to Miss You God needed You More Get Your Rest Gods Solider*
💜🙏💜



Phyllis Scarbrough - May 13, 2025 at 08:29 PM

SC

“ Sam Culberson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Sam Culberson - May 13, 2025 at 07:47 PM

SS

“ Rest well you was the coolest grandad ever 😊



Shariona smith - May 13, 2025 at 07:23 PM

JB

“ grandad rest in peace for sureee will b missed !!



JB - May 13, 2025 at 07:16 PM

DM

“ Sending Condolences, Prayers and Love. The Tillman Family

Delphine Martin - May 13, 2025 at 06:27 PM

WF

“ Wanda Faye Reynolds And The Reynolds Fam lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Wanda Faye Reynolds and the Reynolds Fam - May 13, 2025 at 04:26 PM

LC

“ Lavern Chandler sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Lavern Chandler - May 13, 2025 at 03:45 PM

GG

“ Our condolences to Michelle and Family.
Georgia & Lester Genwright



Georgia M Genwright - May 13, 2025 at 03:40 PM



“ MB MB lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



MB MB - May 13, 2025 at 02:07 PM

MM

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Wyvonne Murray lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Mr. & Mrs. Wyvonne Murray - May 13, 2025 at 01:46 PM

CH

“ *Cynthia Hood lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Cynthia Hood - May 13, 2025 at 11:33 AM

IY

“ *Praying for you during this difficult time*



Isabel Yrlas-Wilson - May 13, 2025 at 11:29 AM

CF

“ *Clint Tolson & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Eugene Blair.*

Clint Tolson & family - May 13, 2025 at 09:32 AM

CF

“ *Clint Tolson & family purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair.*



Clint Tolson & family - May 13, 2025 at 09:32 AM

CJ

“ *My best friend forever, going to really miss you, all the fun we had bye my friend*

Clint Tolson

CLINT TOLSON JR - May 13, 2025 at 09:28 AM

RR

“ *Sleep Well*



Rev. Ernest Reed - May 13, 2025 at 09:13 AM

DA

“ *Deborah Aytch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Deborah Aytch - May 12, 2025 at 11:26 PM

ST

“ Sheryl Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Sheryl Thomas - May 12, 2025 at 10:02 PM

OT

“ Oliver Tucker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Oliver Tucker - May 12, 2025 at 09:57 PM

YC

“ Yvonne Corley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Yvonne Corley - May 12, 2025 at 09:55 PM

FR

“ Friend sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Friend - May 12, 2025 at 09:51 PM

FM

“ *Fay McKinnie sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Fay McKinnie - May 12, 2025 at 06:57 PM

RB

“ *My condolences to the family papa you will be missed.*

Raecille Brooks - May 12, 2025 at 06:37 PM

MM

“ *Marcellus Mahone lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Marcellus Mahone - May 12, 2025 at 06:21 PM

MH

“ *Ms. Mary Harvey*

Ms. Mary Harvey - May 12, 2025 at 05:04 PM

TR

“ *Terry&Emma Richard&family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Terry&Emma Richard&family - May 12, 2025 at 02:56 PM

RT

“ *Rachida Tucker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Rachida Tucker - May 12, 2025 at 02:53 PM

MJ

“ *MR.&MRS. MARION W GRIFFITH JR. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



MR.&MRS. MARION W GRIFFITH JR. - May 12, 2025 at 01:47 PM

OC

“ *Ona Chaney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Ona Chaney - May 12, 2025 at 12:07 PM

DF

“ *Dear Friend sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair*



Dear Friend - May 12, 2025 at 11:23 AM

SH

“ My deepest condolences to Michelle and the family of Eugene (Papa) Blair. May God give you strength through this most difficult time.



Shelaine Hankins-Parrish - May 12, 2025 at 11:18 AM

YS

“ My Heartfelt Prayers and Condolences to the Family of Eugene aka Papa Blair



Yvonne Sanders - May 12, 2025 at 10:12 AM

JC

“ Jeanette B Champion lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Jeanette B Champion - May 12, 2025 at 06:31 AM

WF

“ Wanda Faye Reynolds And The Reynolds Fam lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Wanda Faye Reynolds and the Reynolds Fam - May 11, 2025 at 06:17 PM

IY

“ My deepest condolences to his wife and his family may the Lord give you strength during this difficult time.



Isabel Yrlas-Wilson - May 11, 2025 at 09:13 AM

CF

“ Close Friend lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Close Friend - May 10, 2025 at 11:23 PM

AB

“ Angela Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Angela Brown - May 10, 2025 at 09:19 PM

JW

“ JAMES Winston lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



JAMES Winston - May 10, 2025 at 02:44 PM

CM

“ To the family of Eugene Blair (Papa). I pray that God give you strength, grace and mercy to endure your loss. "Earth has no sorrow, that heaven cannot heal" It is with sadness I received the news. His soul is resting now but it was a blessing to know this man of God, he fought hard to the end. Sleep well my friend.



Carol Mitchell - May 10, 2025 at 08:10 AM

DG

“ Deborah Gordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eugene "Papa Guitar-Man" Blair



Deborah Gordon - May 09, 2025 at 08:26 PM

FV

“ A good soul & neighbor.

Fr.Frank Voris - May 09, 2025 at 08:09 PM

CM

“ Sending condolences & prayers to Michelle & her family and love ones.
May the Lord comfort you during this difficult time.

Charles & Debroah Metcalfe - May 09, 2025 at 06:01 PM