



## Ray Culpepper

February 13, 1935 - February 5, 2011

Mr. Culpepper passed away at the age of 75 years. He was born February 13, 1935 in Saginaw, MI, the son of Walter and Ruby (Pitts) Culpepper. Mr. Culpepper was a graduate of the Saginaw High School class of 1953. He worked at the Grey Iron Foundry for a short time before joining the U. S. Marine Corps. In 1952, he became a volunteer with the Lutheran Charities Neighborhood House Community Center in Saginaw, MI, a place he often went to during his early teenage years. In 1959, he was hired as a full-time staff member and in 1964, Mr. Culpepper became the Program Director. He retired on January 10, 1997 after 45 years of exemplary dedicated service. Mr. Culpepper received numerous recognitions, including the 1980 Man of the Year Award from the Saginaw Business Women's Association, the Southside Community Award and Black History Month Civic Achievement Award in 1981, the Educational Commitment to the City of Saginaw Award in 1982, the President's Award from the Lutheran Social Services of Michigan in 1993 and the Southwest Saginaw Village Community Service Award in 1996. Mr. Culpepper was a mentor to many, many young people and will be greatly missed. He leaves to cherish his precious memory, three brothers, Robert (Alberta) and Lanary Ralph (Shirley), all of Saginaw, MI and Russell (Edna) of Lancaster, TX; one sister, Brenda (Carl) Galvin of Saginaw, MI; many nieces, nephews and cousins; three sisters-in-law, Prestine of Detroit, MI, Jean of San Antonio, TX, Edna of Maryland and Dorothy of Saginaw, MI; the many young people he mentored and helped to raise, and numerous co-workers and

friends. Mr. Culpepper was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Millard, Eldridge, Richard and Raymond; three sisters, Lamurel Johnson, Bernice Jones and Barbara "Boots" Smith; and a sister-in-law, Leora "Red Top" Culpepper. Per his request, Mr. Culpepper has been cremated. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 25, 2011 at The Neighborhood House, 3145 Russell Street. Elder Dempsey Allen will officiate. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Neighborhood House in memory of Ray Culpepper.

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ To the Culpepper family I'm sorry for your lose.Ray was a loving and caring person I thank God for his life and legacy,for everything he showed and taught me as I grew up threw the neighborhood house.RIP Pep love you.

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**Anthony Redeemer & Family** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I wish to offer my deepest condolences to the Culpepper family in the loss of your loved one. I didn't know Mr. Culpepper, but from the tributes sent by those who did know him, he must have a wonderful person. And I look forward to meeting him in the resurrection. For Acts 24:15 says "there is going to be a resurrection of the righteous..." And John 5:28-29 says in part "all those in the memorial tomb will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life...". So just think of him as sleeping peacefully, waiting for Jesus to wake him up. I hope that these words will give you some comfort. And may the God of tender mercies continue to bless you and strengthen you through this very difficult times.

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**Mary Ann Crayton** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ RAYS LIFE WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A LIFE WELL LIVED. HE FULFILLED HIS LIFE PURPOSE BY NOT ONLY BEING A GREAT EXAMPLE TO MANY CHILDREN FROM THE SOUTHSIDE, BUT HE ALSO TAUGHT US TO BE BETTER PEOPLE. WHEN WE NEEDED ENCOURAGEMENT HE WAS THERE TO PUSH US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. HE GAVE US ALL A FUN, SAFE PLACE TO GROW UP TOGETHER. THANKS FOR ALL THE MEMORIES. IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD, AND WE WERE ALL BLESSED BECAUSE PEP WAS A PART OF OUR VILLAGE. RIP

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**THE SLAUGHTER FAMILY** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ *To The Culpepper Family*

*We, the (late Nathaniel) and Dorothy Kemp family, send our sincere condolences to you. Living on the Southside in the 60's, (and visiting family and friends who still live there) we all have great RESPECT for Ray and his work at the Neighborhood House.*

*May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of happy times together as you celebrate a life Well-Lived.*

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**Vyethel Kemp Peterson** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *What a great loss the city of Saginaw has suffered. The Community from all sides of town where welcome at the Neighborhood House because of Ray. No one he knew of would be hungry or not go to Ceader Point because they didn't have the money. He helped so many young people. God Bless His Family, The Southside, And All Of Us Who Remember Ray.*

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**Doretta Williams** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Ray has touched the lives of many. Our family will always remember the impact Ray had on us through his work and commitment to the neighborhood. We offer our condolences to the family.*

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**Derle Barnes** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

E[

“ *TO RAY, I TRULY WILL MISS YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR WARM, FRIENDLY PERSONALITY. I WILL NEVER FORGET THE PINK DISC CANDY YOU ALWAYS GAVE ME; IN MEMORY OF YOU I WILL BUY SOME TODAY. YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. THANKS FOR THE MENTORING YOU GAVE ME IN MY BALL PLAYING YEARS. MAY HEAVEN KEEP YOU. GOD BLESS!!!!N*

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**EDWARD J KEMP [E.J.]** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EC

“Wow! how do my mind rush back as a child living on the southside of Saginaw and back to the Neighborhood House in the early 60's. Mr. Neighborhood himself(Brother Ray Culpepper). There are many day me and my many cousins played on them grounds and took part of actives at the Neighborhood House. Talking about some good memories of the Southside where everybody was family. Not all these unhappy things you hear about the southside now & Saginaw,MI. Mr. Culperpper played a role in all of our lives he touch it one way or another with positive enegry. I grew up on Russell Street my family coming from Forrest City, Arkansas to just meet other families from other parts of the south, which became ONE big family. I remember the small Neigborhood House with 2 stories and part of the new one even though we had move to the other side of Saginaw, the SOUTHSIDE was home where many of my cousins Cousins( The Cooper's, McMurren,Pinkston,some of the Nettles(Alma & John)VanZant & friends were. Jimmy Cork, Billy Ray Ware, Bonnie Price,Judy Davis, and many more just to name a few childhood friends, tell Bonnie she was bad when she was a little girl...lol. Ray you will be missed! May God bless the entire Culpepper family.

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Elder, William D. Cooper(Peter) - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MR

“To the Entire Culpepper Family: Words cannot express the sorrow I felt when I learn Pep had passed. From my mother to her great great grand children, Ray & the neighborhod house was our 2nd home. if our kids was at the nabe we did not have to worry, unlike this day & age we knew they were in good hand. My brother Edd worked for Issm for meny years also, & Pep was his mentor. That's what Pep was to so many of the children growing up on the south side. A MENTOR. WE LOVE YOU PEP RIPIH

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Ms. Barbra J. Roberson - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *The Jackson family (South-Side) would like to extend our most sincere condolences to the entire family of the late Ray C. Culpepper, may he rest in peace.  
(Elnora, Sam, June, Norvell, Joseph, and Ronnie)*

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**Ronnie Jackson** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *I will always Love you Uncle Ray! the memorys I have of you keeps me smiling, you did what God had you to do for so many people, your job down here was done! Great Job Uncle! I know you are in heaven looking down at us all! I hope to see you someday! I truly Love you Uncle Ray! Kiss Grandma and Grandma for me! I can still see they're smiling faces too! I hope they are smiling back saying they are proud!*

*Love Demarias & John Jackson*

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**Marvin Walker** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Praying for the family. Ray was well loved on the southside. We lovingly called him "Pep"! Rest Pep!*

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**Janice Reason** - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM