



## Jacob Walthour Sr.

September 1, 1941 - December 14, 2020

Jacob “Jake” Walthour, Sr., who became one of Hudson’s most successful businessmen with a legacy of his service and generosity to his beloved community, died on Monday, December 14, 2020. He was 79 and surrounded and comforted by his wife, Barbara Jean (Ivery) Walthour and their three children. It was also the occasion of their 57th marital anniversary.

He had a life-long love affair with his wife, soulmate, and business partner Barbara. Together they raised a family, built a business and reputation for putting others ahead of self and placing people before profit. Jacob and Barbara played a valued role in the Black community with their time, voices, and financial resources. They partnered to be agents of change in the Hudson community through volunteerism and sponsorship and without regard for social status. Together the measure of their worth was how they treated people and how people treated each other regardless of someone’s ability to reciprocate.

Jacob lived publicly but quietly and wanted to transition with tranquility to glory. He appreciated the daily outpouring of affection by those who loved him and treasured his presence in their lives. He was especially appreciative of the kind-hearted nurses and doctors at Columbia Memorial Health who left no stone unturned as they helped both he and his beloved Barbara through their recent illnesses.

Born in Waynesboro, Georgia on September 1, 1941 he was the son of Albert and Willie Mae (Godbee) Walthour. He was twelve when his father died of kidney disease. He attended public school until the seventh grade when his father's absence forced him to labor in a variety of capacities to support his family. It is at this early age that work became his passion, his pleasure, and his sacrifice for the greater good of his family and his community. He tried his hand at everything he thought would make a buck and firmly believed that if a man worked hard there was no need for luck in life.

He came to reside in Hudson, NY at the age of seventeen, his hands already hardened with thick calluses from working twelve to sixteen-hour days in the rural South. And, by his example of hard work and kindness, he became a pillar of the community. He was admired for being a proud and principled man who held his work, promises and family sacred. His family name was of utmost importance to him and he held his children accountable to the values with which that name was associated. His childhood endowed him with an irrelevance of material possessions. His trademark "Operation Unite" jacket and old blue Chevrolet pick-up truck were indicative of his frugality but also symbolic of his philosophy that everything is for the sake of others.

As we are all aware, a child's world is often bound by what they see and hear. Born into segregation, a time when racism significantly curtailed the activities of Blacks in America, Jacob refused to limit himself. He considered himself a "poor boy from Georgia" where as late as 1940's Blacks were denied the right to vote, segregated in most areas of daily life, and subject to persistent discrimination and violence. He caddied at Augusta National Golf Club, itself a bastion of segregation, and fondly remembers every member including President Dwight Eisenhower being white and every member of the "help" staff being black. Despite this rich racial history, in Mandela-like fashion, he genuinely transcended the racial passions he witnessed as a child and cultivated friendships and relationships without view of color. Through his

business endeavors Jacob had a seismic impact on race relations in Hudson.

Jacob preferred being part of the solution and not part of the problem. In the 1970's, Blacks in Hudson and surrounding areas felt disenfranchised by white-owned establishments despite being in the North and the legal end to segregation. Rather than fight with establishment owners or tolerate mistreatment, he became a founding member of the Colored Citizen's Club of Hudson which was one of the few private social clubs for Blacks ever established in New York. Known for his business acumen and integrity, he was elected the club's President.

In 1982, he co-founded Savoia Bar & Restaurant with his wife Barbara but renounced racial exclusivity in favor of inclusivity. They wanted a setting where all people, regardless of their differences, could gather under one roof. They would manage that business for 35 years, qualifying the establishment as one of upstate New York's longest-standing Black-owned businesses. The local favorite was known as "The Place to Be" and its multi-cultural clientele that cut across economic strata was uniquely their own and a testament to their courage and open-mindedness. Many a Hudsonian or visitor will have their own stories of the life Jacob and vividly recount their memories of Savoia which are often evidenced by the countless photographs posted on social media.

More often than not, Jacob was a serious and contemplative spirit – his smile and laughter rarely pierced the clouds of daily life. To him, life was a serious matter and his haunting experiences in early life stifled his ability share his internal happiness. He constantly worried about the safety, security, and success of his children and grandchildren. However, Jacob's enthusiasm and inner child could be found in his passion for sports including baseball, football, and horseracing. His life-long dedication and loyalty to the Los Angeles

Dodgers and Pittsburgh Steelers ran deep and these were more than sports teams to Jacob – they were a source of his identity. In 1947, the Los Angeles Dodgers broke the color barrier and invited Jackie Robinson to be the first negro to play Major League Baseball which created an unbreakable bond between Jacob and the current 2020 MLB World Champions. He was employed at Independent Cement Corporation and Atlas Cement for two decades and to him the Black and Yellow Steeler Nation represented the working men in America's factories, mines and mills who were all grit and no flash like himself.

Ray Charles's 1960 hit single Georgia On My Mind always captured his attention and brought back his most pleasant childhood memories of family barbecues in his home state of Georgia. Just as his ancestors barbecued to unify his family, he too saw family barbecues as intrinsic to the survival of familial bonds, friendships, and tradition. He routinely manned the pit, at 586 Joslen Boulevard, from sunup to sundown, without occasion, just so that he could appreciate the love and laughter among those he loved. As each unifying experience grew with new friends and family members, he grew more content with the tradition. Inevitably, he would break from the sweltering heat of the pit only to be showered with the screaming affection of the clan's youngest members who could reach into his gentle soul and produce the kinds of smiles his childhood rarely knew. They will miss him most of all. He concerned himself with all of them the most. They would become his legacy.

With Barbara, Jacob Sr. had one daughter, Nona Marie Walthour (Lockridge) and two sons, Jacob Walthour, Jr. and Marcus Alger Walthour, who survive him, as do his in-laws Holly Walthour and ShawnDya L. Simpson, six grandchildren, Kenneth Lockridge, Jr., Shariah Walthour, Sharidan Walthour, Jacob Walthour III, Sharis Walthour and Harper Marie Walthour and a host of nieces and nephews. They include Danielle Walthour, Tyrone Walthour, Rachel Robinson-Collins, Nicholas Ortega, Nicole Ortega, Heather Johnson,

Crystal Merritt, Brice Ivery, Corey Ivery, Marlon Ivery, Chelsea Ivery, Kennedy Ivery, Ja-lisa Ivery and Ja-Naiya Ivery. He is also survived by dozens of surrogate sons and daughters, who have taken his lessons and example to heart, that are too numerous to list but not forgotten.

The eldest of ten children, born to Willie Mae, Jacob worshipped his siblings with paternal affection and beamed with pride at their educational, military, career, and personal achievements. He is survived by two sisters, Monica Ortega-Porras and Barbara "Teppy" Walthour and three brothers, Donald Walthour, Gene Walthour and Douglas Walthour. He was predeceased by three sisters, Paulette (Walthour) Robinson, Alberta (Sue) Walthour and Nora Walthour and one brother, Lloyd Sullivan. Affectionately and honorably mentioned, Jacqueline Merritt and Francis Hughes have personified sisterhood to Jacob for over sixty years.

# Tribute Wall

GL

“ You were always the father figure in our families lives...you had the love and respect from all of us...sorry I did not know that you were being finalized today..I understand due to the current situation we all couldn't be there to say good-bye...but I just want you to know that I loved you like the big brother you had become in my life and will..I'm so glad I got a chance to see you when you said you wanted me to come over...I just didn't know that would be our last time...I'm so crushed that I will not see you around I love you Cousin Jake and will miss you terribly.

---

**Gail Lee** - December 28, 2020 at 11:00 AM

JH

“ Jake please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your father It's obvious where you developed your work ethic, kindness, and generous spirit. Sending prayers to you all. 💕💕

---

**Jill Butterworth Hanley** - December 26, 2020 at 11:11 AM

TA

“ Tamirah lit a candle in memory of Jacob Walthour Sr.



---

**Tamirah** - December 23, 2020 at 01:54 PM

TB

“ Jake never greeted me without giving me a kiss on the cheek. I had and still have the upmost respect for all you guys. You will forever be missed by the both of us.



Tresa Bryan - December 23, 2020 at 11:31 AM

BB

Barbara. U and the children have my condolences. I came to know Drake because of kindness and his respect he had for those around him. I'll never forget those values from him. My God Bless his soul.

Bertie Belle - December 27, 2020 at 06:51 PM

KE

“ Great looking man. My father, Emery James, and I shared our memories of your dad. He was so pleased to have had the opportunity to chat a bit at Rachel's and Daren's wedding. He made mention that he would have made it to pay his respects at a service no matter what. R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Kessa - December 22, 2020 at 10:26 AM

AW

“ Payers to the Walthour family! What a great man!



Alfred Walker - December 21, 2020 at 07:59 PM

AB

“ My heart goes out to you my beautiful friend Jacob !! I I didn't get to know your dad, but I know his son and he everything they say about his dad!!! ❤️ 😭 🙏



antonia batista - December 21, 2020 at 06:41 PM

VL

“ Valerie Lowe lit a candle in memory of Jacob Walthour Sr.



valerie lowe - December 21, 2020 at 06:37 PM

MB

“ Melissa Brandt lit a candle in memory of Jacob Walthour Sr.



melissa brandt - December 21, 2020 at 06:10 PM

JS

“ I remember when Jake senior told Jake junior to teach me how to drive, the big blue caddy!! I remember Jake senior teaching me how to drive a ride on lawn mower, and from that day on every time I went to their house that was my duty, I'd just go in the garage start up the mower and get ta riding!!! Thanks Jake for being like another dad to me, now you can drive that big blue caddy on heaven's highways!! Love you old man!! See you on the other side!!

Jarrett Starr - December 21, 2020 at 03:54 PM

KK

“ *Condolences to the Walthour family.*

Kriss Kemp-Graham - December 21, 2020 at 02:51 PM

,P

“ *Jake always treated us well and made us feel like family. I always felt welcome in the savoia and had a great time their with many of my good friends. Thanks for the wonderful memories you will be missed.*

,Bobby Pough - December 21, 2020 at 01:51 PM

JM

“ *Je'Nessa Moore lit a candle in memory of Jacob Walthour Sr.*



Je'Nessa Moore - December 21, 2020 at 01:23 PM

TD

“ *Condolences to the Walthour Family* 🙏



theresa decker - December 21, 2020 at 12:08 PM

BJ

“ *Barbara Jones lit a candle in memory of Jacob Walthour Sr.*



---

**Barbara Jones** - December 21, 2020 at 11:41 AM