



## Mr. James Edsel Parker Sr.

June 29, 1924 - May 12, 2015

James Edsel “Popsicle” Parker, 90, died May 12, 2015 in Mobile, Alabama. A life-long resident of Bessemer/Hueytown, he was preceded in death by his parents, Hobert and Leola Parker, his brothers, Cecil, Elzie, and Kelly Parker, and his loving wife of 62 years Evelyn Robertson Parker.

He is survived by his son, James E. Parker Jr. (Gaynell) and daughter Dianne (Jimmy) Herring; his six grandchildren, Stefanie, Britt, Bob, Valerie, Greg, and Chris; ten great grandchildren, and one great, great, grandchild; brother-in-law, Donald Robertson (Martha); sister-in-laws, Faye Parker and Ila Jean Anderson and so many other close family members and friends, just too numerous to mention.

Edsel was a decorated World War II Army veteran and retired co-owner of Bessemer Tobacco Candy and Company. He was an avid fan of Alabama Football and Atlanta Braves baseball. In, his younger years, he loved square dancing and playing softball, and was later inducted into the Central Alabama Softball Hall of Fame. He passed his love of sports to all his children and grandchildren and continued to participate in sports as a coach or spectator once he could no longer play himself. He was a gifted salesman and was always quick with a joke. He could put a smile on anyone’s face.

Edsel was a long time member of Calvary Baptist and North Highlands Baptist Churches. Upon moving to Mobile seven years ago to be with his daughter, he became an active participant of Heron Bay Baptist where he met many new friends and made lasting memories. He loved family, fishing, food and fun. He

touched many lives in his 90 years and will be remembered and missed by all! The funeral service honoring James Edsel Parker Sr.'s life will be on Friday, May 15, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at McCalla Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, McCalla, AL. Pastor Robert Kurisko of Heron Bay Baptist Church will officiate. Burial will follow at Valhalla Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Chapel prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, you may wish to send donations to Heron Bay Baptist Church, Coden, AL 36523 or Hopewell Baptist Church, Bessemer, AL 35022.

# Cemetery Details

## Valhalla Cemetery

839 Wilkes Road  
Birmingham, AL 35228

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ *Becky Moore And Ginger Lowery lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Edsel Parker Sr.*



---

**Becky Moore and Ginger Lowery** - May 16, 2015 at 06:51 PM

BL

*Of course, we lit a RED Candle for Mr. Parker in memory of his love for BAMA! We also want to tell Emmy what a wonderful memorial video she created for her "Papaw" and know that it will be a most valued treasure of family and friends for many years to come. Our deepest sympathy goes out to you all. May God comfort you and may your cherished memories of the man who meant so much to so many sustain you through this most difficult of times.*

*All our love,  
Becky Moore and Ginger Lowery*

---

**Becky Moore and Ginger Lowery** - May 16, 2015 at 07:11 PM

HS

“ Papaw, Mr Parker, was the one who introduced Valerie and I almost 40 years ago on Sterling Drive in Hueytown. See Papaw was wise like that! I believe he knew how much we would need each other throughout our lives and it did not surprise him at all that we were still the best of friends almost 40 years later. Over the past several years it became a new tradition for Jason and Papaw to "go to the store" for anything anyone needed or forgot for our many holiday meals or get togethers. We all knew they were escaping to get out of any work or craziness from all the kids, but to them it was there time for telling jokes and stories. Sometimes they would go to 2 or 3 stores, just to make the trip a little longer I think, but to them they were on the hunt for whatever was needed. Jason sure is going to miss those trips to the store! We all loved Papaw and Papaw loved us! Always a hug, always a laugh and a smile, always something for the kids, Papaw was always there! Jason, Heather, and Luke Seagle

Heather Seagle - May 15, 2015 at 09:21 AM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



McCalla Memorial Funeral Home - Traditions - May 14, 2015 at 05:46 PM

SC

“ To the family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Parker was a wonderful man and a joy to everyone he met. We had such great times with him when the kids were growing up on Sterling Drive. Bryan often tells his boys about the wonderful childhood he had on that street. The Herrings and Parkers were a big factor in that happiness. Mr. Parker was always there for us. Oh, how he loved those grandchildren and teasing the boys! He once did told me about Hubert, "That boy is talented. Is there anything he can't do." I told him that I started listing Hubert's talents on one side of a piece of paper and mine on the other. Hubert's took two pages while mine said, "I read well. "He laughed and smiled with that unmistakable smile he always had. You could always count on him to make you laugh! He enjoyed life and people. He will be missed!  
Love,  
Sharon Conwill

---

Sharon Conwill - May 14, 2015 at 10:57 AM

VF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

Valerie Fisher - May 14, 2015 at 10:18 AM

AP

Emmy, you did a fantastic job on the video... What very special memories you have captured! Papaw was like family to me and so are you. May God bless you and comfort you and all the family. Love you, Amy.

---

Amy Parsons. - May 14, 2015 at 06:31 PM

VF

“ 1 file added to the album James E. "Popsicle" Parker



---

Valerie Fisher - May 14, 2015 at 09:29 AM

MR

“ Edsel or Popsicle as we call him was a great man that we all loved very much. Popsicle and his wife Evelyn, who was my husband's sister, helped raise my husband. Not to long after me were married we went to their house for dinner . I was helping with the cooking, peeling potatoes when Popsicle told everyone that I was going to be a good wife because I was peeling the potatoes without wasting any.

Another time Duck (my husband)and Popsicle were playing in a softball game. Popsicle was up to bat, he pretended that he was hit by the ball and fell on the ground.. Of course, that made the other teams visitors mad. He rolled around like he was really hurt. He was really proud of that little incident. He was always teasing someone.

He was so good, we never went to his house that he didn't give us something, It was usually candy. He did a lot of things for us and everyone else. We haven't been able to see him to much since he moved to Mobile but we thought of him often. He will surely be missed. We love you Popsicle.

---

Martha and Duck Robertson - May 13, 2015 at 10:37 PM