



## Mr. Richard West

December 4, 1935 - June 1, 2017

Richard Alfonso West began his life journey on December 4th 1935. He was the first and only child of Alberta E and Temple West. He grew up in the Brewster Projects in Detroit Michigan. Richard attended Salesian Catholic High school in Detroit Michigan. He was baptized and attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church where his family worshiped as well. Richard was an altar boy from grade school through high school. While he was in high school he met and married Nancy Edmonds. To this union two children were born. A son named Richard A West Jr and a daughter Cheryl Willis they both reside in Detroit Michigan. Richard met Patricia L Spurrier his soul mate at the age of 19 at Harper Hospital. They fell in love were married and have been together for over 60 years. In July of 1957 they were blessed with the birth of their first child Ronald A West. Their second blessing, Crystal R Turner was born in November 1964. Richard lived in Atlanta Georgia with his daughter Crystal and son in law William Turner until the Lord called his beloved son home on June 1st 2017. Richard was an intelligent man who liked to laugh and joke with his friends and family he enjoyed his pet Chinese Pug Sarge. He loved to dance and listen to jazz music with his wife. His favorite pass time was cruising on Woodward Ave in his convertible red 2000 mustang. Starting in 1964 Richard worked at the Unirol tire company as a foreman for 16 years. He then began to work for the Michigan Department of Correction for the next 20 years. During this time he worked in the absconder unit as a Sargent. He retired from this position at the age of 65. Over the course of his life, Richard

developed an interest in running marathons and half marathons. He ran in the Boston marathon up until the age of 70. He Participated in Triathlons in the city of Detroit and the Detroit Free press marathon. Richard ran a grand total of 48 races from 1984 to 2003. Richard is survived by his beloved wife Patrica L West.; 4 children, Richard A Jr West, Cheryl Willis, Ronald A West, and Crystal R Turner, (William Turner ); Eight grandchildren Fatimah, Toni, Richard 3rd Raymond , Terrance, Ebony, Ashley, and Kim and many great grandchildren.; His cousin, Oranglo Perkins and Eloise Abrams.; as well as lifelong friends, Thad Jones , Donald Gilmore, Ronnie Davis, Tonya Thaxton, Joe Jericho and James Hubble. Richard was a giving and loving human being he had a zest for life which was reflected in his outgoing personality. He had a huge smile and a hearty laugh that we all enjoyed hearing. He was an original, one of a kind man who lived life to its fullest!

Funeral: Saturday, June 10, 2017, 11am in our chapel.

Visitation Friday, June 9, 2017, 10am-8pm

Burial Hillandale Memorial Gardens

# Cemetery Details

**Hillandale Memorial Gardens**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**JUN 9.** 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.  
Decatur, GA 30034  
(404) 241-5656  
info@levettfuneralhome.com

### Celebration of Life

**JUN 10.** 11:00 AM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.  
Decatur, GA 30034  
(404) 241-5656  
info@levettfuneralhome.com

### Interment

**JUN 10** (ET)

Hillandale Memorial Gardens  
6201 Hillandale Drive  
Lithonia, GA 30058  
(770) 981-1144



# Tribute Wall

HH

“ One of my favorite memories of Dick was of him running the Free Press Marathon. We had arranged to meet at the 21 mile mark and I would join the race and run with him the last 5 miles until we got near the finish line. As we ran side by side I noticed that he had this look of absolute determination on his face. He glanced over at me and said hi and continued on. At the finish, I ran around and met him at the end of the chute after he had finished and had some water. He looked at me and said (somewhat angered) Herbie, why didn't you meet me at the spot we had arranged? I asked him who did he think he had been talking to those last five miles. He laughed and gave me a hug. He was so far in "the zone" that he had no recollection of me being there. I remember thinking at the time, "Man, this guy is one tough old bird". And he was. RIP Sgt. West. - Herb Hummer

Herb Hummer - June 05, 2017 at 04:53 AM

CT

WOW I'm just reading this. Yes we was tough and my daddy ...R.I.P. Dad I will always Love You❤️

Crystal Turner - October 23, 2018 at 02:38 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard West.



June 04, 2017 at 09:25 AM

JJ

“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Joseph Jereckos - June 04, 2017 at 08:02 AM

JJ

“ I met many Dick years ago while working with the Michigan Department of Corrections in Detroit. Always friendly and professional with a contagious smile and upbeat manner, he could be counted on to handle even the most difficult situations. After we both retired, Dick continued to remain in contact with many former Corrections co-workers in a group we called “The Big Orange”, meeting monthly, reminiscing about old times, and maintaining lasting friendships. Dick was a great man, with a kind heart who lived a full life, and will be sadly missed by me and his many friends. May he now rest in peace.



Joseph Jereckos - June 04, 2017 at 07:46 AM

CT

Thank You Joe, Bless You.

Crystal Turner - July 06, 2017 at 10:49 PM

CG

“ I worked with Dick for most of my 30 years in Detroit. He had tough jobs, but always a smile and a "can do". He will always be missed.  
Chuck Green

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**Chuck Green** - June 03, 2017 at 09:03 PM

YF

“ Your Sister Margaret (Marcie) and Family..  
purchased the Dearest One Casket Insert for the  
family of Mr. Richard West.



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**Your Sister Margaret (Marcie) and Family..** - June 03, 2017 at  
11:07 AM

NB

“ I first met Dick while conducting a search for contraband at a large downtown Detroit Correction Center. He was conscientious and thorough, and expressed his interest to transfer to the Absconder Recovery Unit. He was experienced in life, showed good intelligence, and willingness to try new experiences. Years later, after his promotion to Sergeant, he fulfilled all expectations. He became the "go to guy" who could be entrusted to do all the responsibilities for the Department in the Regional Transportation Unit, be the "point man" dealing with other agencies, and reliably accomplishing all his work requirements on a very high level. He never once showed reluctance to something unfamiliar. Our office spaces were next to one another, and I enjoyed working with him until my retirement. I know others did as well. He led by doing and was a great example to others. Be at peace in Heaven, Dick. "36 Chevy" OUT.  
Neil Ballmann

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**Neil Ballmann** - June 03, 2017 at 10:38 AM

JH

*"Dick. and I worked together for many enjoyable years with the Mich. Dept.of Corrections. For many of those years, as Dick was in charge of transportation, we would meet every morning to identify the location of all parolees in custody, to determine which would be moved, and to where. This was most often an exercise in crisis management, finding beds for violators, when the jails were all full. But Dick never complained, rather faced every day with a smile on his face and a most positive attitude.*

*Dick was "old school". He was truly a caring man, possessing a tremendous work ethic, a man of faith, and sincere devotion. He was dedicated to caring for his aging mother, was inseparable from his loving wife Pat, and had a most loving bond with his daughter Crystal.*

*Most importantly Dick was a friend to all and was loved by everyone. His smiling face and uplifting attitude will be sorely missed, but he leaves everyone he touched with wonderful memories, never to be forgotten.*

*Jim Hubble - June 08 at 4:30 PM"*

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**Jim Hubble** - June 08, 2017 at 03:50 PM

CT

*Thank You Mr Hubble.*

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**Crystal Turner** - July 06, 2017 at 10:53 PM