



Maurice Orando Coes

July 9, 1949 - August 1, 2023

Maurice O. Coes was born July 9, 1949, in Eastman, Georgia (Dodge County) to Eufaula and Lee Coes. He was reared under the watchful eyes of his grandparents, Clara and Mack Smith along with a long line of uncles, aunts and extended family. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, grandmother, and his father.

Maurice spent his early years laughing, playing, and going to church with his grandmother. Later he moved to Miami, Florida, where he would matriculate through the Miami Public School System. Maurice joined the band while in junior high where he was introduced to the trombone; this kindled his love of music. He then went to Miami Jackson High School and became a drum major. He graduated in 1968.

He attended Paine College in Augusta, Georgia where he would pledge Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and was initiated in the Gamma Beta Chapter in May 1971. He was the President of his line and held many leadership roles during his matriculation at Paine College, from which he graduated in 1973. He gained the nickname, Socrates during his pledge period when the frat brothers discovered that much like the Greek philosopher, Socrates he had a philosophical opinion on everything. Maurice attended and completed Tyler Barber College in Chicago, IL on July 9, 1969, and worked for a time as a professional barber.

Maurice served his country by joining the United States Army in 1975, where he worked as a Medical Specialist (Medic). He was honorably discharged in 1978. Maurice had a wide variety of past times, including playing chess, watching his favorite TV westerns and sports. He also enjoyed bowling, traveling, listening to his beloved music and had a passion for teaching stepping classes; later he specialized in teaching stepping classes for seniors.

Maurice was a dedicated State employee. He began his career in 1978 with the Illinois Department of Public Aid as a case worker III. In 1979, he traveled on to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, beginning as a Social Worker I, at the East Area Office. His initial DCFS team was composed of ALL new hires, and they were a tight knit bunch! He remained friends with most of them "till the end." He served the next 16 years as a case worker and was promoted to Child Welfare Specialist III.

In 1995 he left the Department of Children and Family Services. However, he returned to work there from 1998 until 2004. His final employment with the State was with the Department of Human Services, which he retired from in 2008.

Maurice leaves to cherish his memory, his mother, Eufaula Frazier, the love of his life, Ruby McGahee, his brothers Nolan Frazier (Debbie) and Edwin Frazier and sisters Michelle Frazier and Sherrene Johnson, nephews, Nolan Bob Frazier Jr., Trevares Frazier Charles Johnson, Martavis Frazier, nieces, Margette Stovall (Nathaniel), Melissa Frazier, Markiva Frazier, Ebony Frazier, Joy Frazier, Renea Johnson and Shontay Stanley (Tyron), aunts, Dorothy Larkin, Gladys White and Maxiel Thomas, God children, Paul Thomas (Latisha), Andre Scott (Diana), Aisha Smith, Tarik Smith (Iris), Daniel Smith Jr., Shani Walton (A.C.),

bonus nephews, Quintin Mitchell, David Johnson, Michael Mitchell, Tyrell Clavalle, bonus nieces, Shezelle Mitchell, Nicole Johnson, and Jasmine Mitchell and a host of cousins and friends.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG 15. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Other

AUG 16. 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Fraternity Ceremony
7046 S Halsted St
Chicago, IL 60621

Visitation

AUG 16. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Funeral Service

AUG 16. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Calahan Funeral Home - Legacy Center
7046 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60621

Burial/Interment

AUG **16**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 W Hoff Rd
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall



“ Maurice Orando Coes

October 09, 2023 at 04:52 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Maurice Orando Coes.



August 18, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Maurice Orando Coes.

August 18, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ Margaret Coes Burnett purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Maurice Orando Coes.



Margaret Coes Burnett - August 17, 2023 at 04:24 PM

RO

“ *What a kind soul. Rest easy Maurice 🙏🙏.
Robin from the old DCFS EAO.*



Robin - August 16, 2023 at 01:59 PM

AS

“ *Alex S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maurice Orando Coes.*

Alex S. - August 15, 2023 at 10:40 PM

TH

“ *Trini, Mae, Rae.MUCH LOVE AND HARMONY purchased the Full Heart for the family of Maurice Orando Coes.*



Trini, Mae, Rae.MUCH LOVE AND HARMONY - August 15, 2023 at 02:53 PM

TH

“ *Trini, Mae, Rae.MUCH LOVE AND HARMONY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maurice Orlando Coes.*

Trini, Mae, Rae.MUCH LOVE AND HARMONY - August 15, 2023 at 02:53 PM

PB

“ To The Family of Maurice O. Coes. My sincerest condolences concerning your loss.

I met Maurice Coes in 1991 as co-workers with the Department of Children and Family Services. Maurice was inspirational in that he encouraged and advised us newly hired employees. Maurice was an intelligent, helpful and fun loving individual. Rest in peace "Reece". Respectfully, Patricia Belk

Patricia Belk - August 14, 2023 at 04:44 PM

BS

Maurice you will be truly missed Maurice you were a inspiration to my mother your aunt dot she enjoyed the many times she spent in Chicago with you and Ruby you will be truly missed love always aunt Dot,Bobbie,Antron,Dj,big Darrell 🙏🙏🙏💕💕💕

Barbara smith - August 15, 2023 at 08:08 PM



To the Coes and Frazier family. Our sincere condolences to you as we all will miss the life he so beautifully lived and a heart so deeply loved by many. From Curtis, Alex, Laretha, and Lucille Smith. Sons and Daughters of the Late Cleven and Lucy Smith family from South Florida.

Alex Smith - August 18, 2023 at 03:42 AM



“ To the Coes family, Deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences.

For those of us who were fortunate to engage with Maurice, it's been a blessing. Maurice was a joy and inspiration to watch on the dance floor.

Thank you for spreading the joy of "Stepping" thru the ages and for future generations. We know you still dancing.

Miss Connie.

Conni Richardso - August 14, 2023 at 03:29 PM

MB

“ The first time I met my cousin Maurice was at our last family reunion in Georgia. He gave each of us a sun visor with the name "Coes" on the visor, something that I will always have to remember him by. So Rest In Peace my cousin, will miss you not being here.

And to our family, love, prayers and sympathy at this time.

Margaret Coes Burnett, Cousin

San Antonio, Texas

Margaret Coes Burnett - August 11, 2023 at 03:06 PM

KL

I am beyond words of the lost of Cousin Maurice "Mo" Coes. First time meeting him was such a joy because there are a lot of Coes family members we did not know about and Mo was one of them. He loved family and his big thing was getting reunions together for our family since we really have never had one. After that first reunion, he kept in contact and whenever he came to his other family reunions, he didn't hesitate to call or drop in on us. We will surely miss him. Sending prayers and comfort to all of the family on behalf of his Coes family in Georgia.

Kim Lester - August 11, 2023 at 07:49 PM

TR

Bro. Coes was a kind and gentle Soul. He was always willing to help me and my daughter when he could. His transition was a shock, a lighgtening bolt of sad and regrettable news. Even though we remember him with great smiles, he will be greatly missed. Big bear hugs to you Mama Gahee.

Love and Harmony...Trini and Magda

Trini - August 15, 2023 at 01:47 PM

ST

Wow. I'm shocked and sadden. Yesterday while scrolling on line, I learned of Maurice's passing. I met Maurice back in 1979. He was my neighbor--we lived in the same apartment building. He was always a gentlemen. My condolences.

Sharon Terrell - Nov. 24, 2025

Sharon Terrell - November 24, 2025 at 01:47 PM