



Charles James McKeithan Edmonson Sr.

March 21, 1929 - January 24, 2022

Charles James McKeithan Edmonson Sr passed away at home on January 24, 2022, at the age of 92. He was born in Detroit, in 1929, to Georgia (McKeithan) and John Henry Edmonson and was raised on the east side of Detroit with seven siblings. He married Clara Bolton and raised one child, Charles Edmonson, Jr. He later married Patricia Ann Smith (Johnson) and together, raised a daughter, Tracey Smith.

Charles graduated from Cass Technical High School with a major in chemistry. While attending Wayne State University, he studied pre-law and was a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He continued his studies at Wayne while working multiple, simultaneous jobs, including property management and parks maintenance for the City of Detroit, before beginning his first career as a health inspector for Wayne County. While at the Health Department, he also served as a Hospital Corpsman in the US Naval Reserve.

In the late 1960s, Charles joined the newly-formed Michigan Department of Civil Rights to investigate complaints of illegal discrimination. While working for the State, he completed Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Urban Planning from Wayne State University. He retired from the Civil Rights Department in 2002.

In retirement, Charles served on the board of directors and as a president of

the Children's Center of Detroit, and as a president and treasurer of the Detroit Renaissance Lion's Club. He also pursued life-long interests in photography and woodworking. He had a profound dedication to his family and hosted many reunions and large family gatherings at his home, in fulfillment of his promise to help keep the family together.

Charles was preceded in death by his siblings: Lois (Hepburn), Elizabeth (Calloway), Florence (Jackson), Betty (Price), John II (Mary), William (Adrienne) and David (Virginia). He is survived by his wife, Patricia; son, Charles Jr (Karen); daughter, Tracey Smith; and a very large extended family.

A memorial will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Children's Center of Detroit, by visiting: <https://www.thechildrenscenter.com/individuals-families/honorariums-memorials/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Edmonson will always be remembered as a respectful and honorable businessman and gentleman by those who worked with him at the Department of Civil Rights, like my mother Marta Lee, and the children of his co-workers who he positively influenced, who were lovingly referred to as "department babies" with the MDCR, like me.*



Dr. Crystal Jackson - April 03, 2023 at 11:11 PM



“ *Charles James McKeithan Edmonson Sr.*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Charles James McKeithan Edmonson Sr.*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Yvonne Sloan sent a virtual gift in memory of Charles James McKeithan Edmonson Sr.*



yvonne sloan - March 16, 2022 at 12:17 PM



"Mr. E" was that wise committed leader at MDCR when I arrived in the '70's. After his retirement he continued to serve his community - a solid man and a kind person. RIP -

yvonne sloan - March 16, 2022 at 12:31 PM

SJ

“ Steven, Kimberly, Erin&Alexandria Jones lit a candle in memory of Charles James McKeithan Edmonson Sr.



Steven, Kimberly, Erin&Alexandria Jones - February 18, 2022 at 05:17 PM