



Michael A. Finney

October 2, 1956 - April 3, 2022

MR. MICHAEL ANTHONY FINNEY, SR.

Michael Anthony Finney, Sr. (“Mike”) was born in Flint, Michigan on October 2, 1956 to the union of Arthur Finney, Sr. and Laura Inez Jackson Finney. He was the fourth of seven children born to this union.

Michael leaves to cherish his memory beloved wife, Gina; sons, Michael, Jr., Marcus and Austin Finney; granddaughters, Maliyah and Milliana Finney; brothers, Arthur Finney, Jr. and Tony (Juliet) Finney; sisters, Inez (Larry) Goodman and Theresa Lawrence; mother-in-law, Mildred Mickels; uncle, Willie Jackson; aunts, Sarah (Moses) Youngblood and Ola Jackson; sisters-in-law, Crescenda Mickels and Cheryl Ousley; special cousins, Marion Blunt, Portia Davis, Douglas Finney, Yma McGowan, Zannie Thompson, and Hope Cooks; special brothers and friends, Charles Goss, Darrell Moore, Michael Williams, Eugene Harris, Jeffery Hawkins, and the Thomas and Walker Families, in addition to a host of beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Brenda Fields, Wanda Parham, and Shanda Chappell; father-in-law, Elon Mickels; niece, Shawana Fields, and nephew, Akil Goodman.

It was through life lessons in Flint, Michigan on Leith and Green Streets Michael learned the value of “family within a community.” From that humble upbringing, he became a nurturing professional. His journey of excellence

found initial footing when he was awarded a football scholarship to Saginaw Valley State College (now University). He was a member of the college's first football team. While at SVSU, his leadership skills became apparent. He was a charter member and president of Iota Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and president of the Student Association (1978-1979). As an alumnus, Michael continued to be recognized by SVSU for his achievements. He was awarded the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award and invited to be the Commencement Speaker for the Class of 2010. He continued to demonstrate his excellent leadership skills by serving as Michigan's State Director of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and overseeing the establishment of several undergraduate chapters.

Michael was a brilliant visionary and bridge builder. He promoted collaboration and inspired action. He spent his career assisting communities in strengthening their economies and creating pathways to prosperity. He believed everyone deserved a chance to excel. He was an observant convener, part of which made him one of the country's leading economic development professionals.

He began his professional career as an accountant for Deloitte and Touche. His professional track included serving as a manager at the JC Penney Corporation, an admission representative at Saginaw Valley State University, and an accelerating role as assistant city manager for the City of Saginaw. His efforts in soliciting new businesses lead to employment with Thompson Ball Screw Company as a HR Director. In less than ten years, he was promoted to Senior Vice President – General Manager.

Michigan's former Governor, John Engler, noticed Michael's unique business savvy coupled with extensive manufacturing knowledge and appointed him Vice President of Emerging Business Sectors. Following this role, he established two start up organizations dedicated to regional economic development.

In Rochester, New York as President/CEO of the Greater Rochester Enterprise, he built a successful organization that attracted numerous

businesses to the upstate region. In Ann Arbor, he was recruited by former Governor, Rick Snyder to create a new local entity that worked with the University of Michigan to transition research initiatives into new businesses and to assist Washtenaw County businesses. In response, Michael established Ann Arbor Spark and led as its President/CEO. The venture turned the Ann Arbor region into Michigan's Silicon Valley-esk hub. Later, as President and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, his team changed the economic development landscape by adding 300,000 jobs, raising \$13.5 billion in new investments, revitalizing exportation programs, assisting urban communities with home mortgages and insurance affordability, and creating the famous Pure Michigan Campaign. These accomplished milestones awarded him and his team numerous national awards and accolades.

In his personal efforts, Michael continued furthering his social impact. To remedy inequalities due to poverty, he founded Community Ventures Resources, Incorporated, a social impact consulting business to assist communities in developing and executing pathways out of poverty for those who were disconnected from employment resources. As an Intermittent Lecturer at the University of Michigan, he inspired the Stephen Ross School of Business students to tackle these and future disparities.

After leaving Michigan, Michael served in a variety of economic development roles. As CEO of the Miami-Dade Beacon Council, he was credited with reenergizing the council, and improving economic equity and inclusivity across Miami-Dade. He helped secure business expansions in the tech, finance, cryptocurrency, health care innovation, aviation, trade and logistics areas. Under his leadership, 32 projects were completed, resulting in 5,000 new jobs with an average salary of \$120,000. Additionally, he served as the head of the South Florida's Amazon bid, landing the region on the top 20 final list. This honor brought national attention to Miami's attributes.

Michael initiated a Miami Community Ventures Program which connected low-

income workers and highly unemployed neighborhoods with employers and jobs paying a living wage. This was the focus of his endeavors, uplifting citizens to a better life.

Michael adapted well to Miami. He enjoyed living in an ocean high rise. His leisure time was spent cruising in his 71 Corvette, riding electric scooters, bike riding, playing year-round golf, relaxing on the beach, eating empanadas, drinking mojitos, and enjoying all the local fun activities.

Michael was a Godly man and his last church affiliation was Bethel AME Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Michael was a blessing from God. He understood his assignment was to care for others, improve his community and leave the world better than he found it. Heaven has gained another angel!

Previous Events

Strolling Visitation

APR **20**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Family Hour

APR **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hope United Methodist Church
26275 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48076

Funeral Service

APR **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hope United Methodist Church
26275 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48076

Tribute Wall



“ *To whom it may concern: I thought that I would have been working for this guy one day. I would have told him to keep doing it. Thank you. Very truly yours, Aaron Johnson, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer*

Aaron - August 13, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ *Michael A. Finney*

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Michael A. Finney*

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM

PR

“ *Michael Finney was, is, and forever will be, one of the greatest individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing! He was a true friend of sixty plus years and a contributor to countless projects, from the embryotic stages to full manifestation! Originating and orchestrating many of the ventures, Michael helped, mentored and was a vessel in making this world more economically sound! Michael's visionary prowess was second to none! A man's man, from Leith St. throughout our nation and most parts of the world! He was highly respected, well liked, and a consummate professional that created an outstanding legacy and a dynamic blueprint that is needed, appreciated, and I hope consistently emulated. You'll be sorely missed but never, ever forgotten!*



Gina, Mikey, Marcus, Austin and the grandkids, we're holding you up in prayer,

Rest In Peace

*Pete and Mattlon
Roberts*

Pete Roberts - July 19, 2022 at 04:29 PM

PR

“ *Pete & Mattlon Roberts sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael A. Finney*



Pete & Mattlon Roberts - July 19, 2022 at 03:05 PM

DK

“ *This was one of the most down to earth dudes you would ever meet. I have deepest sympathy for his family, and pray that he is kept in God's memory.*

Dave Knight - May 02, 2022 at 09:33 PM

JB

“ *He was a great leader and Mentor. May God Bless him in heaven.*



Jodi Baldassin - May 02, 2022 at 11:14 AM

YT

“ *Yvonne Turner lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Finney*



Yvonne Turner - April 23, 2022 at 11:54 AM

JB

“ *James And Lisa Blakley sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael A. Finney*



James and Lisa Blakley - April 21, 2022 at 10:11 AM

MR

“ Gina, Austin, Marcus, and Mikey, we are so very sorry for all of your losses. Mike was such an incredible husband, father, grandfather, and person. He will be greatly missed. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Mary, Thomas, Mark, and David Rozycki



Mary Rozycki - April 21, 2022 at 08:50 AM

SJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Steven R. Jones - April 21, 2022 at 12:49 AM

SJ

1974 Flint Northern Varsity football team Michael Finney #85

Steven R. Jones - April 21, 2022 at 12:52 AM

SJ

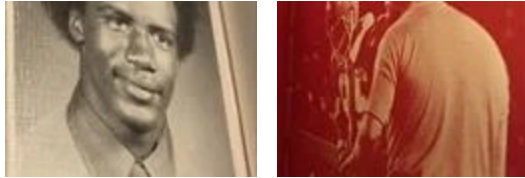
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Steven R. Jones - April 21, 2022 at 12:46 AM

SJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Steven R. Jones - April 21, 2022 at 12:37 AM

LB

“ To Michael's family... May God continue to bless and keep each and every one of you in perfect peace during this most difficult time... I pray there is comfort in knowing to be absent from the body is to be present with God... and also to the believer's... you shall see Michael again at his new address where there are many many mansions and street's paved with gold... Hold on tight to the promise given by God for an eternal life with Him... In the day's to come remember all of the great times you shared with Michael and the impression his life and legacy left upon the earth and everyone that encountered him... I love each one of you with the love of the Lord... (LaMont Bond)



LaMont Bond - April 20, 2022 at 06:47 PM

GJ

“ George W. Jackson Jr. purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of Michael A. Finney.



George W. Jackson Jr. - April 20, 2022 at 03:27 PM

BC

“ Sorry for your loss praying for your family God Bless. Mike and i went to school together Northern Vikings class of 74.

Beverly (Johnson) Cummings - April 20, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Michael A. Finney.



April 19, 2022 at 03:28 PM

ES

“ Dear Gina,

So sorry for your loss. I will never forget our times at Thomson Saginaw Ball Screw Company and the great time we spent at the America's Cup Raises in San Diego. No challenge was ever too big for Mike. I'm hoping all your good memories together will get you through these tough days. I will keep you in my prayers.



Elaine Sobieray

Elaine Sobieray - April 19, 2022 at 02:50 PM

RT

“ Rick, Sue and the Snyder admin team purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Michael A. Finney.



Rick, Sue and the Snyder admin team - April 19, 2022 at 12:13 PM

GR

“ Sending my deepest sympathy and prayers to his family/friends. He was a phenomenal man.
May he rest in eternal peace.



Glynis Rice - April 19, 2022 at 08:44 AM

JJ

“ Mike was an all around good person whom I had the pleasure of working with at the City of Saginaw. His many accomplishments speak to the level of his commitment to making the world a better place. I will always remember him as a true visionary and also a doer. My heartfelt condolences to his wife Gina and to their families.

Judge Darnell Jackson - April 18, 2022 at 09:25 PM

DT

“ My heartfelt condolences go out to Michael's family & his very close friend Eugene Harris. Mike's impact on creating opportunities for the communities in which he lived is impressive. That he used his skills & talents to improve the quality of life for so many is to be admired! Prayers for his family & close friends. Clearly a great man has gained his wings 🌹❤️

Debra Taylor - April 18, 2022 at 08:45 PM

KR

“ *Kermit & Genell (Crain) Reeves lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Finney*



Kermit & Genell (Crain) Reeves - April 18, 2022 at 01:39 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Michael A. Finney.*



April 18, 2022 at 11:20 AM

KS

“ *You were a selfless man who thrived on making others thrive. You gave of your resources, intelligence, love, and support. You were a distinguished black man with a reputation of excellence. You were a family man that loved seeing his family members do well. I was blessed to be an adopted niece that was shown the generosity of your gifts. This world was better because you were in it and it will never be the same now that you are gone. Your shoes will NEVER be filled. Love you "Uncle" Mike, you will be missed, but NEVER forgotten.*



Kimberly Skipper-Davis - April 16, 2022 at 08:47 PM

KJ

“ Thank You Finney Family for sharing Michael with The World...Michael's development may not have seen in his early years, however God designed him for Greatest.. Here's hope that younger Generations stay faithful to their Divine Design in Jesus Name...Elder Keith Jones , FLINTSTONES ROCK!

Keith Jones - April 16, 2022 at 01:27 PM

SJ

“ First and foremost my condolences to the Finney family. My relationship with Micheal began in 1962 at Parkland Elementary School we had some wonderful mentors in our early development ie. Miss Ruth VanZandt. We played flag football together, we were The Parkland Cougars. Then on to Emerson Junior High School, MOTT Football at Atwood Stadium on Wednesdays and Thursday nights under the lights. Then on to the Master Mentor Coach Ken Waters 9th. grade football. Our last chapter was playing varsity football at Flint Northern High School home of the Vikings, we won that Big Thanksgiving day game in 1973. We parted our ways after high school he stayed in Michigan and I went out west to Washington state. I am proud to say that I was with Michael in our earlier developments to become successful men in our lifetime. I'm sad that he is gone but boy what a wonderful ride he had he was "Quite" the trailblazer with all of his accomplishments. I salute you Michael as a little boy from Flint Michigan You are the Best Of Best.

Steven R. Jones
Production Director of Entertainment
New York City, New York

Steven R. Jones - April 16, 2022 at 12:19 PM

GP

“ *Gloria Proby lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Finney*



Gloria Proby - April 16, 2022 at 12:00 PM

SH

“ *Sondra Huddleston lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Finney*



Sondra Huddleston - April 15, 2022 at 10:06 PM

BC

“ *Billy And Karen Cork lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Finney*



Billy and Karen Cork - April 15, 2022 at 09:13 PM

GT

“ *Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Team purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Michael A. Finney.*



Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Team - April 14, 2022 at 01:35 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Michael A. Finney.*



April 11, 2022 at 12:45 PM