



Al-Kareem Abdullah

April 14, 1948 - January 30, 2026

Al-Kareem Abdullah, also known as Percy Lee Ricks, Jr., was born on April 14, 1948, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Percy Lee Ricks, Sr. and Louise “Penny” Lawson Ricks. Al-Kareem answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army, where he served honorably as a combat medic during the Vietnam War and in Cambodia. His service was recognized with three Bronze Star Medals for heroism in ground combat, the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight, the Combat Medic Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal. He was also named October Veteran of the Month by the United Veterans Organization at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. A proud veteran, he wore his Vietnam hats throughout his life.

Following military service, Al-Kareem completed his education, graduating from Riverside High School, earning an associate degree from McKenzie College, and later completing associate and master’s degrees from the North Carolina College of Theology. He was employed by the Tennessee Correctional System and later by FedEx before retiring.

Al-Kareem later settled in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he met and married his beloved wife, Florence Abdullah. Together, they founded Grace and Mercy Church and Ministries. He served as Chief Elder, President of the

Trustee Board, Director of the Men of Honor Men's Ministry, and mentor to the Young Lions Mentoring Ministry. He enjoyed maintaining an active lifestyle and valued discipline and health.

On Friday, January 30, 2026, while at his home in Middletown, Pennsylvania, surrounded by his loving family, he peacefully entered into eternal rest at seventy-seven years of age. He was preceded in death by his son, Marlon Ricks; his parents, Percy and Penny Ricks; his sister, Margaret H. Burts; and his brothers, Norman Ricks, Johnnie Lee Ricks, Anthony Lebron Ricks, and David Earl Ricks.

He leaves to honor and cherish his memory his wife, Florence Abdullah; his children, Francine (Christopher) Burts, Percena (Malik) Anderson, Terry (Kristin) Martin, Penny (David) Smith, Al-Kareem Abdullah II, Al-Kareem Rafiel Abdullah, Jamila Abdullah, Jameel Abdullah (Rosa), Michaela Burrell, and Kamillah Abdullah; his brother, George (Maria) Ricks; his sister, Regina (Michael) Edwards; seventeen grandchildren; and a host of nephews, nieces, godchildren, extended family members, church family, and friends.

Al-Kareem will lie-in-state on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, from 1-5 p.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. Funeral service will be Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 12 noon in the Chapel with Pastor Randy Petersen as the Eulogist. Burial in Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Chattanooga National Cemetery

1200 Bailey Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

FEB 17. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Funeral Service

FEB 18. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Burial

FEB 18. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Tribute Wall



“ *Al Kareem was a phenomenal substitute teacher. Always dependable and the HJH students never missed a day of learning under his leadership.
To Al's family, take joy in knowing God has another Awensome Angel!*

Dr. Lonita Davidson

Toni Davis - February 26 at 02:49 AM



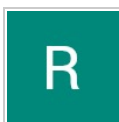
“ *He Is Gone
You can shed tears that he is gone, or you can smile because he has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back. Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.*

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him, or you can be full of the love that you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday. Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember him and only that he is gone. Or you can cherish his memory and, let it live on. You can cry and close your mind be empty and turn your back. Or you can do what he would want smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

David Harkin

Regina Hickman - February 18 at 04:48 PM

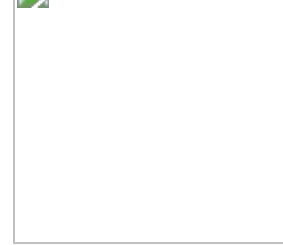


Van E Hickman & Regina Patten Hickman

Regina Hickman - February 18 at 04:53 PM



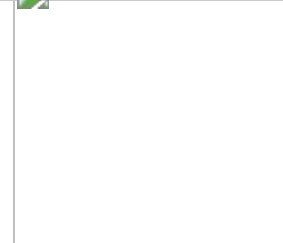
“ *Sadie Pruitt lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah*



Sadie Pruitt - February 17 at 07:41 PM



“ *Sincerely Condolences to the family
Your friend Angela Johnson Hicks
May God Give Peace beyond all
understanding*



Angela Johnson - February 17 at 02:05 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Regina Edwards - February 13 at 03:46 AM

R

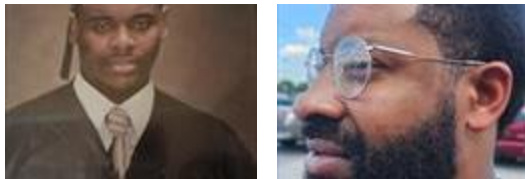
“ Love you Uncle Al
From your nephew Jamar
Tell Grandma Penny & Grand Daddy Percy I said hello miss you all
so much God Bless 🙏💕



Regina Edwards - February 13 at 03:43 AM

R

“ Sending love to my uncle Al we will miss you from your nephews
JaMichael and Jamar



Regina Edwards - February 13 at 03:26 AM

BE

“ Blattner Energy purchased the Strength & Solace
Spray for the family of Al-Kareem Abdullah.



Blattner Energy - February 12 at 11:09 PM

V

“ *Our sincere condolences and prayers are for the Ricks family. May comfort and peace be with each one during is very difficult time.*
Vincinetta P. Brown and Family

Vincinetta Brown - February 12 at 08:10 AM

V

“ *Vincinetta Brown lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah*

Vincinetta Brown - February 12 at 08:04 AM

V

“ *Vincinetta Brown lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah*

Vincinetta Brown - February 12 at 08:03 AM

JH

“ *My condolences to the family my friend rest in peace amen*



John Hudson - February 12 at 02:42 AM

ES

“ *May GOD HOLD
THIS FAMILY
In HIS
LOVING ARMS..The
WADLEY,SHROPSHIRE&STARKEY
FAMILIES 🙏🙏*

Edie Starkey - February 10 at 02:43 PM

B

“ *Beverly Sales lit a candle in memory of Al-
Kareem Abdullah*

Beverly Sales - February 10 at 02:52 AM



“ *Carol, Nikki, and Dee Dee*

Maria Greene - February 10 at 01:07 AM

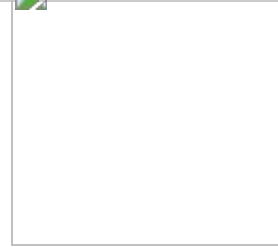


“ *Tracee Careathers lit a candle in memory of
Al-Kareem Abdullah*

Tracee Careathers - February 09 at 12:14 AM



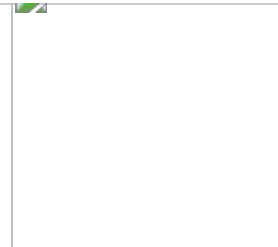
“ *Cardella Cummings lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah*



Cardella Cummings - February 07 at 01:55 PM



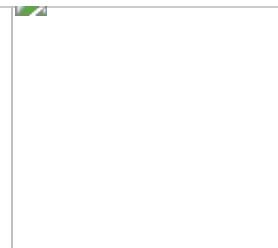
“ *Robert Carroll lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah*



Robert Carroll - February 06 at 08:57 PM



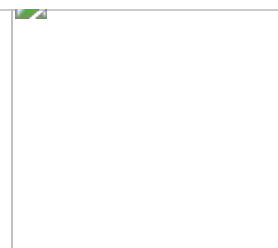
“ *Marva Taylor lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah*



Marva Taylor - February 06 at 06:05 PM



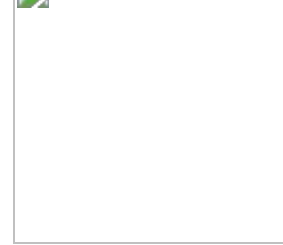
“ *Frederick McClendon Jr lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah*



Frederick McClendon Jr - February 06 at 03:38 PM



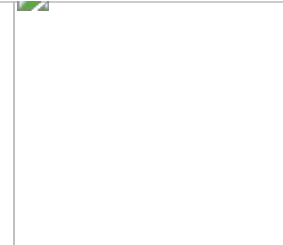
“ Kenneth Kelly lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah



Kenneth Kelly - February 06 at 02:05 PM



“ GLORIA DANIELS lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah



GLORIA DANIELS - February 06 at 04:23 AM



“ Gloria Daniels lit a candle in memory of Al-Kareem Abdullah



Gloria Daniels - February 05 at 11:29 PM



Condolences to George (Maria) and family in the loss of your beloved brother. Prayers of comfort and peace to you all. Nettie Wright

Nettie Wright - February 13 at 03:49 PM