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## THEODORE TOLES JR



BRACEVILLE - Funeral services will be Saturday, April 9, 2016, at 11 a.m., at the Third Christian Church, 241 First St., Warren, for Mr. Theodore Toles Jr., who departed this life on April 4, 2016, at Trumbull Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Toles was born on Dec. 4, 1925, in Braceville, a son of Theodore and Ella Barnes Toles Sr.

He was a graduate of Braceville High School, where he was valedictorian. He worked for Republic Steel/LTV Steel for over 30 plus years before he retired.

He married his wife, the former Jean Bruton on Sept. 17, 1955.

Mr. Toles began his professional baseball career in 1946, with the Pittsburgh Crawfords of the Negro Leagues. He later played for the Cleveland Buckeyes, Newark Eagles, and the Jacksonville Eagles. During his Negro League playing days, he also participated in traveling All-Star games sharing the field with, for and against many of the legends of the game including future Major League pioneers and Hall-of-Famers Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Monte Irvin, Sam Jethroe, as well as Biz Mackey and Don Newcombe.

While "Ted" never made a Major League roster he did play on the Minor League affiliates of the Cleveland Indians, New York Yankees and Philadelphia Athletics, with stints in the Middle Atlantic League with New Castle Indians, and the Provincial League with Magic Valley Cowboys, Trois Rivières Yankees and the St. Hyacinthe A's. Long after his playing days ended, Mr. Toles began receiving recognition of his prior accomplishments through speaking engagements, tributes, and appearances, most notably with the Josh Gibson Foundation in Pittsburgh, Roadway Negro League Traveling Exhibit in Akron, Buck Leonard Family in Rocky Mount, N.C., Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club in Milwaukee, Mahoning Valley Scrappers Baseball Team in Niles, Cleveland Indians Baseball Club in Cleveland, Morley Library in Painsville, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library in Warren, Baseball Heritage Museum in Cleveland, etc. He also received many citations and awards including, among others, Ebony Sports Museum Lifeline All Sport Hall of Fame, Youngstown in 2001; Trumbull County African American Achievers Association, Warren in 2007; Lifetime Achievement Award, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Lorain in 2008; his very own baseball card through the Topps Baseball Card Series in 2007;

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Harland Sports collectible statue in 2008; Mahoning Valley Scrappers bobble head in 2009, etc.

As the ultimate compliment, his life has been chronicled in the book, *Living on Borrowed Time: The Life and Times of Negro League Player Ted Toles Jr.* by Michael Swank.

He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife; six sons, Theodore III (Juanita) Toles of Braceville, Robert (Helen) Toles of Rapid City, S.D., Walter Toles of Braceville, Larry (Lucy) Toles of Fredrick, Md., and Nelson and Leslie Toles of Warren; four brothers, George (Barbara) Toles, Roscoe Toles, John Toles, and Walter (Ursula) Toles, all of Warren; one sister, Louise Toles of Warren; a godsister, Nancy Anthony of Warren; 13 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; sisters Emma Lou Alabee, Leota Toles Bruton; one daughter, Evelyn Toles Lockett; and one granddaughter, Chanelle Toles.

Friends may call from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Arrangements are being handled by the Murray-Wellington Funeral Home.

## Guestbook Entries

*"My deepest condolences for the lost of your beloved husband, and father."*

» Marie Hugley Cleveland on April 11, 2016

*"My condolences go out the Toles family. "*

» India Moore on April 9, 2016

**Mrs.**

*"I feel such sorrow for your family. I know the feeling of the loss of your parnet. God be with you all. Love Darlene Allen"*

» Darlene Allen Wood on April 9, 2016

*"My condolences to the Toles Family during this difficult time. Juanita and Ted you have my deepest sympathy!"*

» Theodore A. Brown Jr. on April 9, 2016

*"My heart-felt condolences to the Toles family for the loss of this great man.. May God be close to all of you at this time.. I am sorry I can not be there personally.. Love, Bob Keeler"*

» Bob Keeler on April 8, 2016

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