Mr. Joseph Wise, Jr. was born in McDonough, Georgia on February 10, 1931 to the late Joseph Wise, Sr. and Nellie Humphrey Wise. He was the oldest of eight children.

After moving to Atlanta, Georgia at an early age, he was educated in the Atlanta Public School System. He graduated from David T. Howard High School in 1949. After completing high school, Joseph entered the United States Army and served from 1951-1953. While in the Army, he earned the National Defense Service Medal, the German Occupational Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. After an honorable discharge from the Army, Joseph worked for the VA Hospital. He also worked for J.N. Hirsch Cigars for seven years and Genuine Parts for five years. Joseph spent the majority of his career at the Lakewood General Motors Plant where he was an assembler, facilitator and an inspector. He retired from General Motors in 1990 after 27 years of service. After leaving General Motors, he worked part-time at the Atlanta Braves Stadium Club as a cocktail waiter. He really enjoyed this job because he loved to talk and meet new people.

Joseph also had an entrepreneurial spirit. He owned Wise BP Service Station on what is now known as Ralph McGill Boulevard. He also drove cabs through Rogers Cab Company and later had three cabs driving for him. His pride and joy was his Checker cab that he bought brand new. He drove a cab for 19 years in addition to his regular job. He was a dedicated and hard worker.

Joseph met the late Dorothy Ivory Wise at Big Bethel AME Church. They were joined in holy matrimony in 1954. To this union, three children were born, Marilyn, Joseph L. and Sharnell. He was married to Dorothy for 21 years until her untimely death.

Joseph joined Big Bethel Church in the early 1950’s and remained a member until his death. He loved his church and served faithfully on the Men’s Usher Board until he became ill.

Joseph was a proud man. He prided himself on looking good, smelling good and feeling good. He kept in shape by walking 5 miles daily. He liked to line dance and square dance. Joseph loved to dance and liked being the life of the party. He was known by his friends as “Joe Wise”. He loved to entertain and hosted many cookouts at his home through the years. He was famous for that delicious “Joe Wise” barbecue. Joseph loved life and loved to travel. His favorite place to travel was Las Vegas. He loved it so much that he bought a time share there. He loved working in his yard and planting flowers. He departed this life on January 17, 2013 after a lengthy illness.

He was preceded in death by his oldest daughter, Marilyn Wise Roberts and brothers, Alfonso Wise and Elijah Wise.

He leaves to cherish his memory, a loving and devoted wife, Jean Salter Wise; son, Joseph L. Wise; daughter, Sharnell Wise Reynolds (Kobi); son-in-law, Bruce K. Roberts; grandchildren, Courtney Roberts, Kira Reynolds and Anayah Reynolds; sisters, Kate Sims and Elizabeth Pealer (William); brothers, Robert Wise, Samuel Wise and Lorenzo Wise; cousins and a host of other relatives and friends.