



## Joseph Harrison

October 25, 1919 - August 11, 2015

Joseph Harrison Photographer, bookkeeper, gardener, NAACP lifelong member & founder, Man of God, Mason Joseph Harrison died peacefully in Vancouver, Washington, at the age of 95. He is preceded in death by his mother Celia Harrison, and his grandparents, Albert and Martha Harrison of Jerusalem, Alabama. Joseph Harrison was born October 25, 1919, in a log cabin in Wilcox County, Alabama. His grandfather, Albert Harrison, raised Joseph until he was about 15 years old. Joe learned to read and write from his grandparents, and he also learned some very important life lessons guiding him to become resourceful in a number of important life skills. Joseph attended Paul Hammer Vocational School in Birmingham Alabama from 1943-44. Upon graduation he had an opportunity to move to Mobile, Gulfport or New York and he choose to come to Portland because of the good jobs that were being offered by Kaiser in the shipyard of Oregon. He got a ride from a friend who had a pickup truck and left Birmingham for Vancouver Washington in search of a better life - and he found one! After working a number of jobs working in the Portland ship yard, in the timber industry as a logger and finally joining the Washington State Department of Transportation as a gardener in 1952, Joe retired in 1982 after 29 years of service with the state. Over the years, Joseph devoted his time to working with the NAACP chapter in Vancouver. He also helped charter the branch of his Masonic Lodge and was active in his camera club. He was a devoted 50 year member of the First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver. Joseph met and forged a true and

everlasting love with his partner for life, Betty Nelson; they were soul mates and inseparable. Services will be held on Tuesday, August 18 at 1pm at First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver. A reception will follow the service. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, gifts in Joseph's honor should be directed to First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver or to the Vancouver NAACP.

# Tribute Wall



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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 07:18 PM



“ RIP Mr. 'Joe' whom I known since the 4th grade when family moved to the "Hill"/13th Street since 1959

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**Charles L. Simmons** - August 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM