

Celebrating the Life & Spirit of
John Henry Stepney, Sr.



Sunday, February 15, 2009

Visitation: 2:00 p.m. Funeral: 3:00 p.m.

Leak & Sons Funeral Home
18400 S. Pulaski
Country Club Hills, Illinois 60478

Rev. Dr. James E. Roghair, Officiating
First Presbyterian Church of Chicago

Obituary

John Henry Stepney, Sr. was born in Chicago, Illinois to Annie Smith and Albert Stepney on March 9, 1926. He was the seventh of eight children. His sisters Mamie Rivers and Mary Francis Boyd, brothers Jimmy Stepney, Albert Stepney, Nate Stepney and Leonard Stepney preceded him in death.

John attended Wendell Phillips High School. In August 1944 he was drafted during his junior year in high school into the United States Army and served until June 1945. He completed his final year of high school upon his return home. He furthered his education by studying carpentry and electronics.

He married Shirli Alston on October 16, 1961 and had three children – daughters Christine “Chrissy” and Terri and a son John Jr. “Jon Jon”.

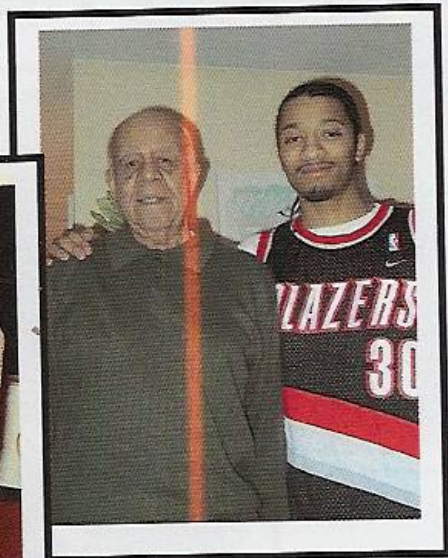
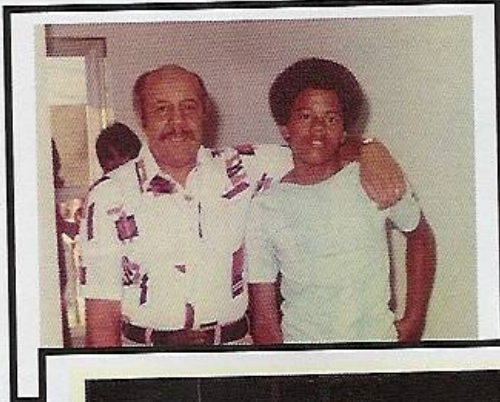
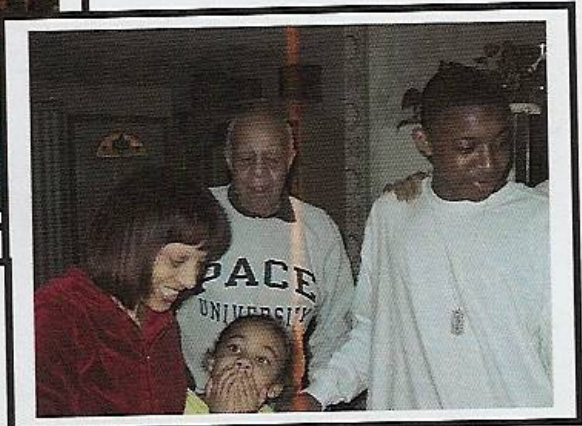
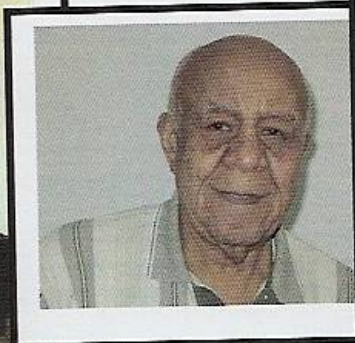
In 1953 John worked for Continental Radio where he serviced the alignment of radios. After one year he was promoted to Assistant Chief Engineer. He later worked for Penco where he manufactured instruments that measured the visibility at airports used by the United States Air Force and weather bureau.

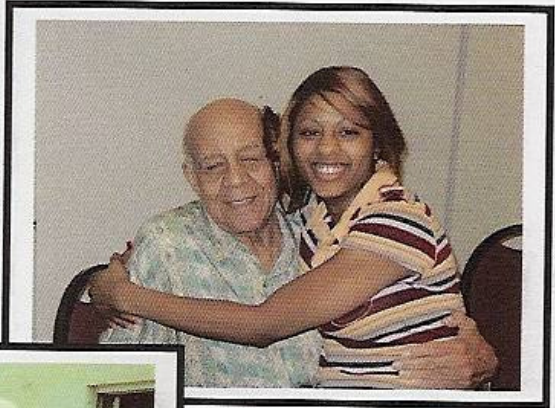
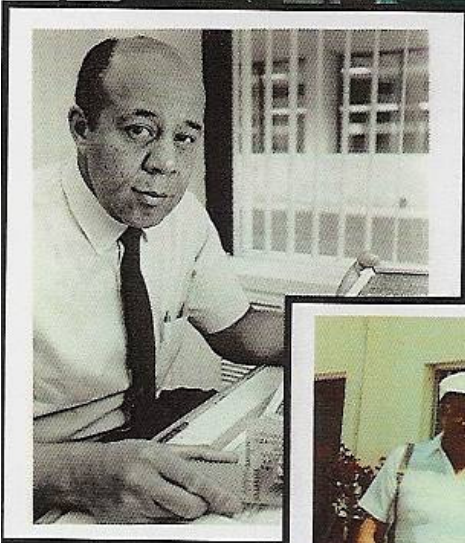
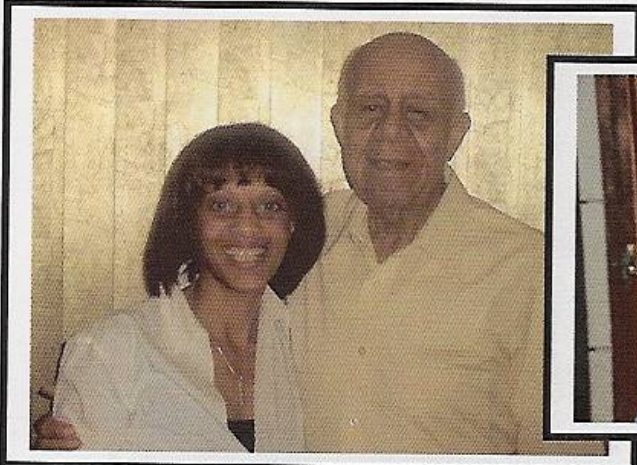
In 1959 he took a position at the University of Chicago in the Midway Labs which was later renamed the Laboratories of Astrophysics and Space Research. While at the University he built 30 space instruments, one of which was the Surveyor. In 1983 he built another instrument that was used on the space shuttle.

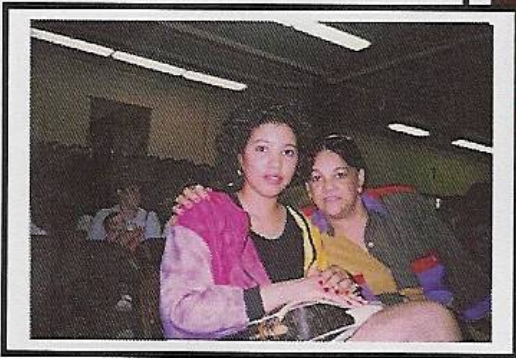
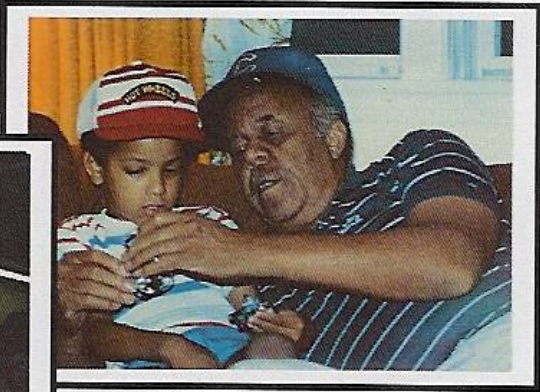
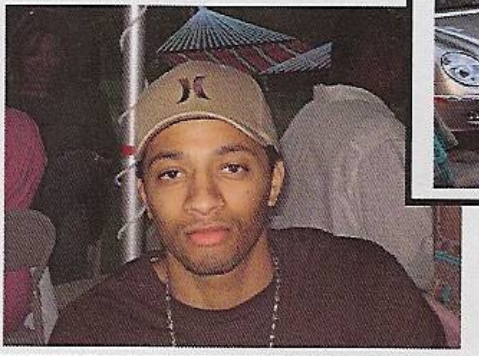
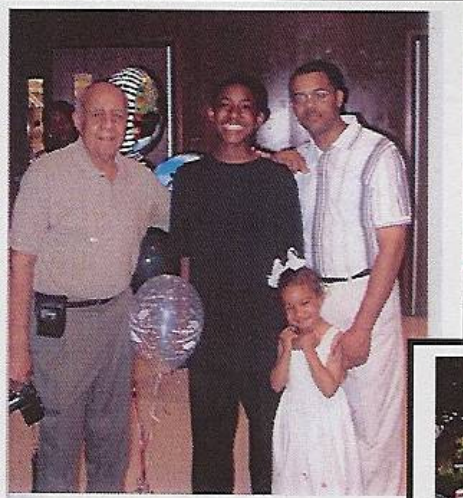
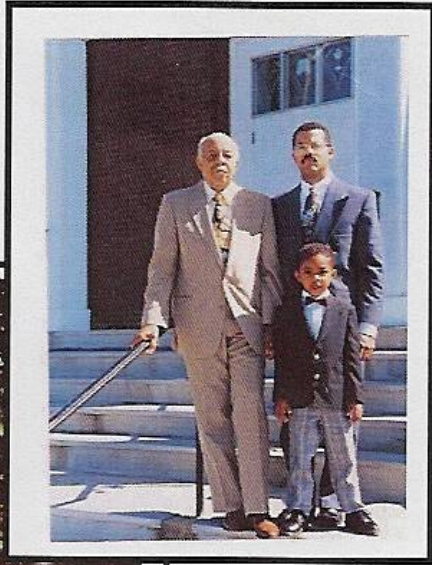
In 1984 he worked for Sonicraft. He retired in 1987.

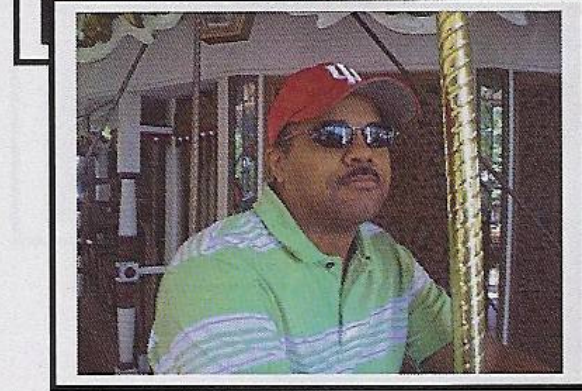
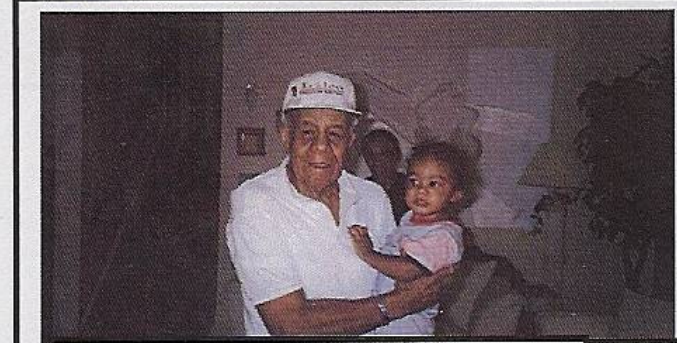
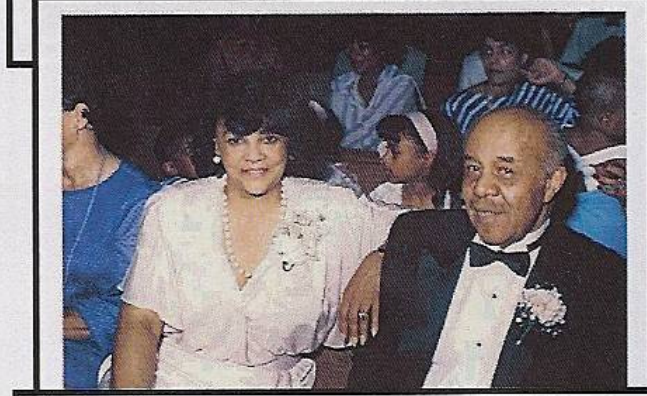
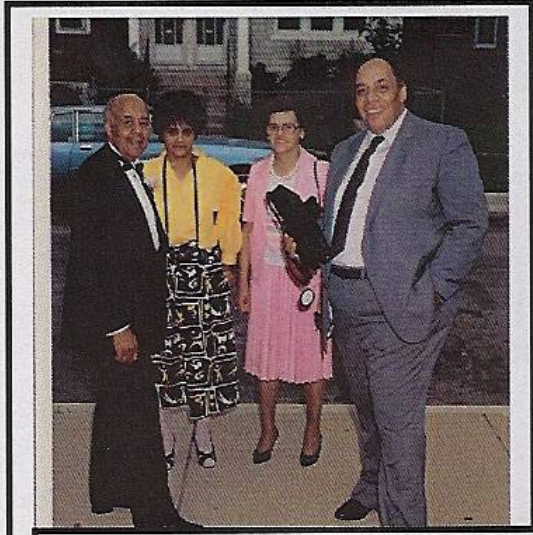
After a long battle with heart failure, on Sunday, February 8, 2009 John was called home to rest.

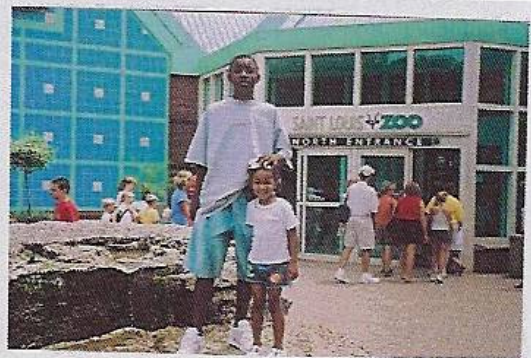
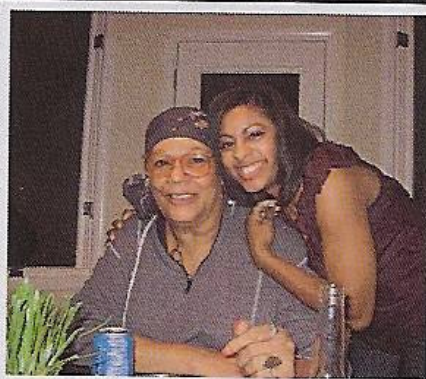
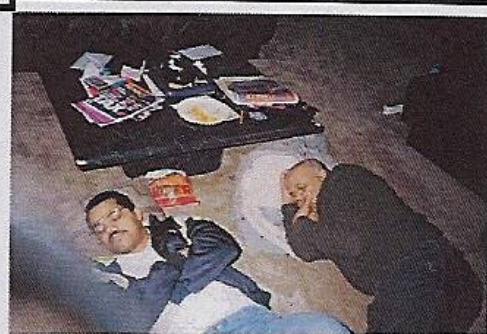
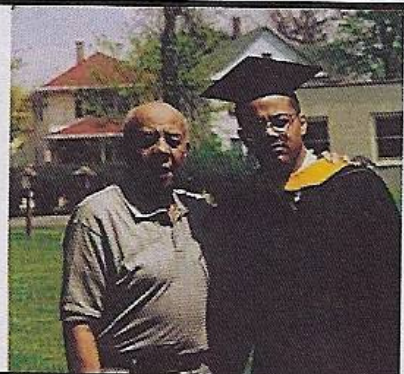
He leaves to cherish his precious memory: wife Shirli, brother Raymond Sr. (Bakia); children: Christine “Chrissy”, Terri and John Jr. (Linda); grandchildren: Jeneya (Malik), Monique “Nikki”, Eric “EJ”, Brandon, Brandi and Alyssa; great-grandchildren: Rahsaan “Lil Man” and Baby Hampton; and a host of extended family and friends.











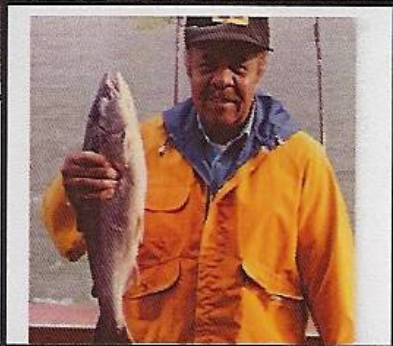
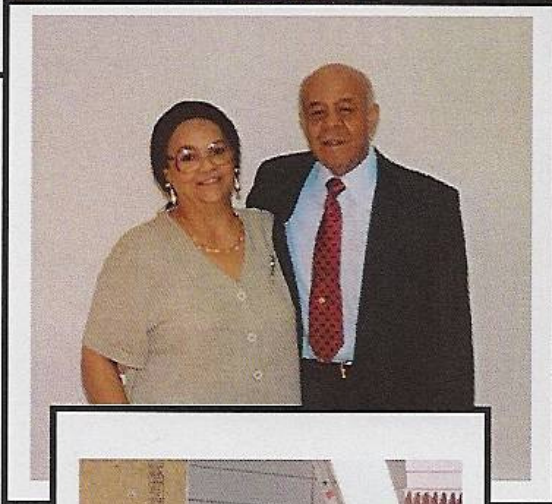
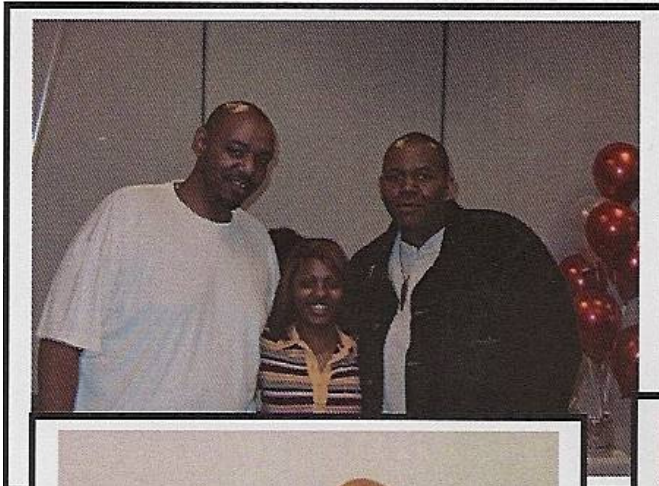
For the years you have always been there for me with
your patience and wisdom.

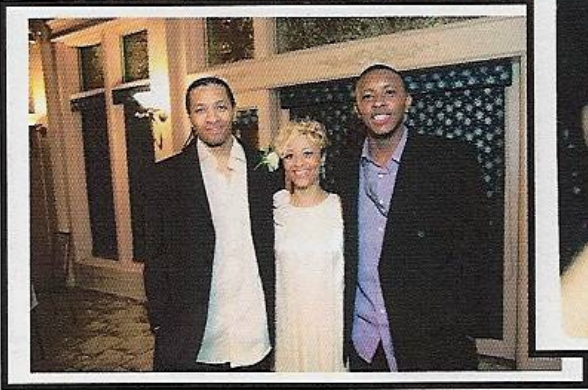
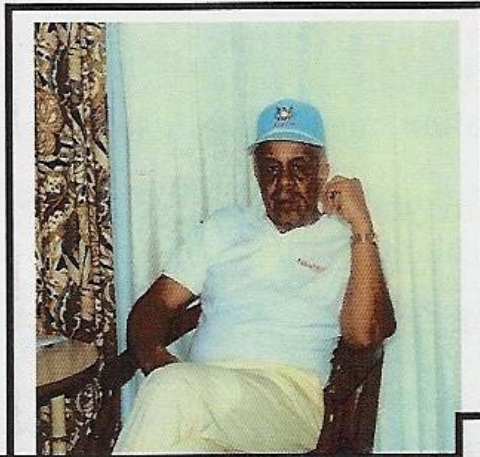
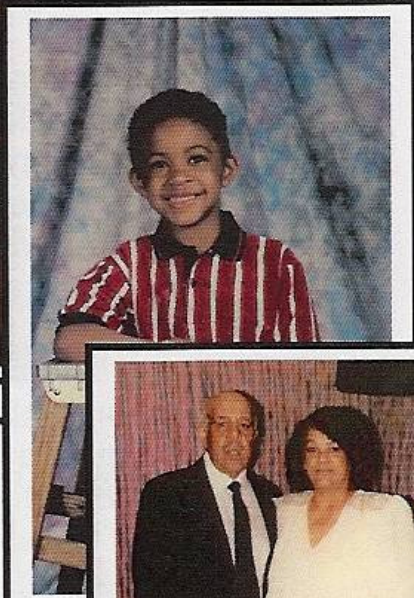
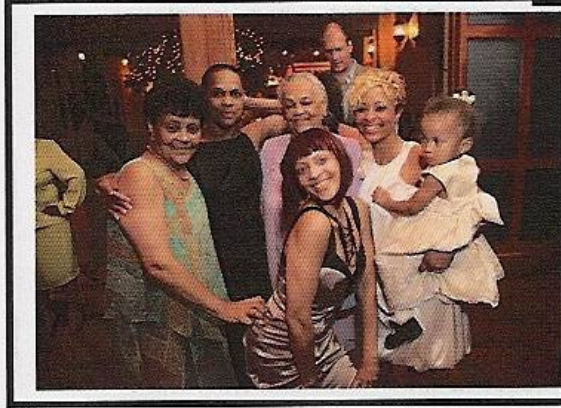
You have guided me
then stood in the background as I made my own
mistakes, but never turning away.

For your faith that I would find my own way,

I love and honor you more than words
can express, and I will always be proud to call you
My Dad

Love Always, Terri





Daddy My Guiding Light

Daddy, you were like the sun to me,
a sure thing, always there,
beaming light and warmth on my life.

Whatever is good in me today,
I owe to your wisdom, your patience,
your strength, your love.

You taught me by example,
as a role model,
how to be my own person,
how to believe in myself,
you instructed me without controlling me.
Even when we disagreed,

you held us together,
so our bond was never broken,
I understand what you did for me,
and I am so grateful that you were
my solid foundation, my rock.

I respect you, I admire you, I love you,
my guiding light, my Dad.



Love Chrissy



Order of Service

Prelude: *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

Call to Worship (Psalm 90:1-4)

Prayer

Scripture Readings

John 14:1-7

Romans 8:28-35, 37-39

Psalm 121

Psalm 23

Homily: *"Come and See"* (John 1:35-46)

Music: *"In This Very Room"* James Mack arrangement

(Ms. Maureen Mullally, Musician)

Remarks from Family & Friends

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Gift of John Stepney's Life

Benediction

Postlude: *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

~ *Repast immediately following* ~

Leak & Sons Funeral Home
18400 S. Pulaski
Country Club Hills, Illinois

~ *Interment* ~

Abraham Lincoln Cemetery
Elwood, Illinois

Ballbearers

Raymond London, Jr.
Malik Hampton
Stephan London

Eric Simpson, Jr.
Brandon Stepney
David London

Honorary Ballbearers

John Stepney, Jr.

Kyle Davis

DAD

Thanks for being someone I could talk to
and share my soul with.
Thank you, Dad for your praise and patience,
for teaching me what you could
and letting me learn a lot on my own.

You encouraged me to believe in the best
and to keep walking tall.
That's a quality I hope I'll always have,
because it will always remind me
how close I am to you...
The best Dad of all.

Love, Jon Jon

