


































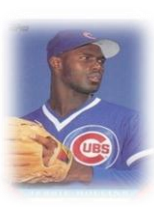





## 2009 OBITUARIES

	<p><b>Ben Ali, 82</b> was a Trinidadian-born American businessman and restaurateur. Ali co-founded Ben's Chili Bowl, a landmark restaurant located on U Street in Washington D.C., with his wife, Virginia Ali, in 1958. Ben's Chili Bowl has since attracted presidents, celebrities and politicians. He died at his home on October 7, 2009 of natural causes.</p>		<p><b>Willie King, 65</b> was an award-winning blues guitarist and singer from Alabama, known for shunning fame and playing at a local bar in Mississippi. He first came to prominence outside west Alabama with his critically acclaimed 2001 CD, "Freedom Creek," on the Rooster Blues record label. He died March 8, 2009 of a heart attack.</p>
	<p><b>Betty Allen, 82</b> an American mezzo-soprano who transcended a Dickensian girlhood to become an internationally known opera singer and later a prominent voice teacher and arts administrator. She died June 22, 2009 of complications from kidney disease.</p>		<p><b>Eddie Logan, 98</b> ran a shoeshine stand at Santa Anita Park from the day the horse racing track opened in 1934 until his death. In his younger years, he was a boxer as well as a baseball player in the Negro Leagues. He died at January 31, 2009 after suffering a seizure and stroke.</p>
	<p><b>Helen Anglin, 80</b> founder of the legendary Soul Queen restaurant on the South Side of Chicago. Her legendary buffet fed everyone from Ali to MLK. She died of health complications at her home in on September 8, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Huey Long, 105</b> was an African American singer and musician. He began his musical career in 1925 playing banjo for Frank Davis' Louisiana Jazz Band, based in Houston, but he will best be remembered for his time as a singer and guitarist with the most influential of all black vocal groups, the Ink Spots. He died June 10, 2009.</p>
	<p><b>Gertrude Baines, 115</b> the world's oldest person. She was the oldest African American to vote for President Obama in 2008. She passed away at the Western Convalescent Hospital on September 11, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Frank Manning, 94</b> was an American dancer, instructor and choreographer. Swing dancer extraordinaire, he was a leading dancer at Harlem's legendary Savoy Ballroom where, in the mid-1930s, he revolutionized the course of the lindy hop with his innovations, including the lindy air step and synchronized ensemble lindy routine. He passed away April 27, 2009.</p>
	<p><b>Ernie Barnes, 70</b> was an American Neo-Mannerist artist and former professional football player. Americans became familiar with his art via the television show "Good Times," and his appointment as the Official Artist of the XXIII Olympiad at Los Angeles. But his work gained critical acclaim and collector strength through Manhattan's prestigious Grand Central Art Galleries.</p>		<p><b>Judi Ann Mason, 54</b> successes as a playwright brought her to network television as one of the first female African-American sitcom writers and one of the youngest television writers of any race or sex. Her television writing credits include <i>Good Times</i>, <i>Sanford and Son</i>, and <i>A Different World</i>. She died July 8, 2009 of a ruptured aorta.</p>

	<p><b>Gloria Bennett, 78</b> graduate of Most Pure Heart High School, she received a degree in journalism in 1953 from Marquette University's College of Journalism, where she won a number of journalism awards. A pioneering Black journalist, she later joined the staff of Jet Magazine as associate editor. She died June 12, 2009 of complications of asthma.</p>		<p><b>Steve McNair, 36</b> was an American football quarterback who spent the majority of his NFL career with the Tennessee Titans. McNair played college football at Alcorn State in Lorman, Mississippi, where he won the 1994 Walter Payton Award as the top player in NCAA Division I-AA. He passed away July 4, 2009</p>
	<p><b>Edwin Joseph Bocage, 79</b> known to music lovers around the world as 'Eddie Bo', was the legendary piano giant of New Orleans. In a career that spanned well over five decades, Eddie Bo made more 45's than any artist had in New Orleans other than Fats Domino. He passed away March 18, 2009 of a heart attack.</p>		<p><b>Buddy Montgomery, 79</b> was an American jazz vibraphonist and pianist. He was the youngest brother of Wes and Monk Montgomery, and together they recorded a number of albums together as the Montgomery Brothers. He died May 14, 2009 of a heart attack.</p>
	<p><b>Ruth Bowen, 84</b> was a pioneering booking agent for many of the nation's top African-American performers. She guided the careers of such entertainment luminaries as Aretha Franklin, and Ray Charles. She died April 21, 2009 after a long battle with a brain tumor.</p>		<p><b>David "Fathead" Newman, 75</b> was a jazz saxophonist and key member of Ray Charles' band for a dozen years. Always a musicians' musician he is best known for his hard bop style that influenced whole generations of saxophone players of different genres. He passed away January 20, 2009 from pancreatic cancer.</p>
	<p><b>Anne Brown, 96</b> was an African American soprano who created the role of "Bess" in the original production of George Gershwin's folk opera <i>Porgy and Bess</i> in 1935. She was also a radio and concert singer.</p>		<p><b>Fayette Pinkney, 61</b> was an original member of the Three Degrees who lent her strong, soulful voice to the 1970s hits "When Will I See You Again?" and "T.S.O.P. (The Sound of Philadelphia)," the theme song of the television show "Soul Train. She passed away June 27, 2009 from acute respiratory failure.</p>
	<p><b>Mel Brown, 69</b> was an American-born blues guitarist. Best known for his decade-plus stint in support of Bobby "Blue" Bland, Brown channeled elements of soul, funk, and jazz to create one of the most distinctive guitar styles in contemporary blues. He passed away March 20, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Andree Layton Roaf, 68</b> was an Arkansas lawyer and jurist. She was the first African-American woman to serve on the Arkansas Supreme Court. A 1996 inductee to the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, Roaf distinguished herself in the fields of biology, law, and community service. She passed away July 1, 2009 after losing consciousness in her Little Rock office.</p>

	<p><b>Randy Cain, 63</b> was a Philadelphia soul singer and a founding member of the Rhythm and Blues music group The Delfonics. They established a soulful-style of music and defined what became known as the "Philadelphia Sound", also heard in such groups as Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes and The Stylistics. He died April 9, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Michael Scott, 60</b> was President of the Chicago Public School Board and Michael Scott &amp; Associates, LLC. He was appointed to the Chicago Board of Education on three separate occasions. His service to the Board is part of a larger body of service to the City of Chicago that spans three decades and four different mayoral administrations. He passed away November 15, 2009.</p>
	<p><b>Johnnie Carter, 75</b> was an American doo-wop and R&amp;B singer. He was a founding member of The Flamingos and a member of The Dells. Both groups have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, making Carter one of the few multiple inductees. He died August 21, 2009 of complications from lung cancer.</p>		<p><b>Naomi Sims, 61</b> was a model, businesswoman, and author. She is widely credited as being the first African-American supermodel. Her appearance as the first black model on the cover of Ladies' Home Journal in November 1968 was a consummate moment of the Black is Beautiful movement. She died of cancer on August 1, 2009.</p>
	<p><b>Carol Cole, 64</b> was an American actress and music producer as the CEO of King Cole Productions. She was the daughter of Nat King Cole and sister of Natalie Cole. She died May 19, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Wilbert Tatum, 76</b> was the often provocative former publisher and editor. He was a newspaper executive who variously served as the editor, publisher, chairman and chief executive officer of the <i>New York Amsterdam News</i>, a weekly newspaper that serves the African American community of New York City. He passed away February 26, 2009 of multiple organ failure.</p>
	<p><b>Hank Crawford, 74</b> was an American R&amp;B, hard bop, jazz-funk, soul jazz alto saxophonist, arranger and songwriter. He was musical director for Ray Charles before embarking on a solo career, during which he released many well-regarded albums. He died January 29, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Wayman Tisdale, 44</b> was an American professional basketball player in the NBA and a smooth jazz bass guitarist. A three-time All American at the University of Oklahoma, he was elected to the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009. He passed away May 15, 2009.</p>
	<p><b>Altovise Davis, 65</b> was an American entertainer, best known as Sammy Davis, Jr.'s third wife. She was a trained actress and dancer who worked as a chorus-line dancer in various musical shows in London and on Broadway before joining her husband's nightclub act. She died March 14, 2009 of complications from a stroke.</p>		<p><b>Dempsey Travis, 89</b> was a pioneering African-American businessman, Civil Rights activist, and author. As a developer on the South Side of Chicago during the 1950s, he fought to increase mortgage availability for blacks. His realty company became one of the nation's biggest black owned businesses. The self-made millionaire died July 2, 2009.</p>

	<p><b>Roy DeCarava, 89</b> was one of the world's most renowned photographers. He was known as the first African American photographer to win a Guggenheim Fellowship and was awarded a National Medal of Arts in 2006. He passed away October 27, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Exodus Tyson, 4</b> was the four-year-old daughter of former boxing champion Mike Tyson. She died May 26, 2009 after an accident in her home.</p>
	<p><b>John Hope Franklin, 94</b> was a <a href="#">United States</a> historian. He is best known for his work <i>From Slavery to Freedom</i>, first published in 1947, and continually updated. More than three million copies have been sold. In 1995, he was awarded the <a href="#">Presidential Medal of Freedom</a>, the nation's highest civilian honor. He died of congestive heart failure on March 25, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Norm Van Lier, 61</b> was an NBA basketball player and television broadcaster who spent the majority of his career with the Chicago Bulls. The fiercely competitive Bulls guard best known for teaming with Jerry Sloan in one of the NBA's toughest backcourts. He passed away February 26, 2009 after being found unresponsive in his apartment.</p>
	<p><b>E. Lynn Harris, 54</b> was an American author best known for his depictions of African American men who were on the down-low and closeted. He authored ten consecutive books to make The New York Times Best Seller list making him among the most successful African American or gay authors of his era. He died while on a business trip July 23, 2009.</p>		<p><b>Elsie B. Washington, 66</b> was an American author whose 1980 work <i>Entwined Destinies</i> has been considered the first romance novel written by an African-American author featuring African-American characters. She died May 5, 2009. The cause was multiple sclerosis and cancer.</p>
	<p><b>Jessie Hollins, 39</b> was a professional baseball player who was a pitcher in the Major Leagues in 1992. He played for the Chicago Cub. He died of an apparent drowning accident while fishing in Texas on July 10, 2009.</p>		<p><b>David "Pop" Winans, 74</b> was one of the founding fathers of American gospel music and the patriarch of perhaps the most popular family in gospel music. He launched the careers of his sons, The Winans, and watched as they won six Grammy Awards and became one of the most popular gospel quartets of all time. He died April 8, 2009.</p>
	<p><b>Rev. Ike, 74</b> was an American minister and electronic evangelist based in New York City. He was best known for the slogan "<i>You can't lose with the stuff I use!</i>" He died July 28, 2009, two years after suffering a stroke from which he never recovered.</p>		<p><b>Rev. Timothy Wright, 61</b> Grammy-nominated gospel singer and composer known for his up-tempo praise songs and powerful mass choir sound. He released more than a dozen gospel recordings, writing many of the songs. Wright was critically injured in a car crash on July 4, 2008. He died April 24, 2009 as a result of those injuries.</p>



**Michael Jackson, 50** was an American singer, dancer and entertainer. Referred to as the King of Pop, he is the most commercially successful entertainer of all time, and one of the most influential. His contributions to music, dance and fashion,<sup>[1]</sup> along with a much publicized personal life, made him a global figure in popular culture for over four decades. He passed away June 25, 2009.