

Raymond Mitchell, the eldest son of Odessa and Veodom DeBose, was born on September 9, 1931, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. On Sunday, August 3, 2014, at the Norman Veterans Center after a long frustrating battle with health issues God ended his suffering and called him home. While he grew up in the Baptist church, Raymond later became a member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

In his early years, a time of which he speaks fondly, Raymond also lived with his Grandmother, Leola and his cousin, Philomene, who called him "Lookie". He graduated from Douglas High School in Oklahoma City where he excelled in basketball, track and music. As he grew older, Raymond was re-nicknamed "Stick Horse", due to his height and lanky build.

He was member of the Army, fought in the Korean War, received medals for his service and was honorably discharged. After returning from the war, Raymond graduated from Wiley College. Later he met and married Janis Hayes. To this union, Raymond had three sons, Terrence (Rhonda), Kameron, and El Fairo (Nicole).

Raymond had a wonderful career as an educator who taught and was a principal at many schools in the Oklahoma City area. Having many interests in life, he was also a professional musician, who played the drums, trombone and sang with local jazz groups. He maintained a connection with sports by refereeing numerous high school sports. Also, he loved a good laugh, good food, a great party, being a sharp dresser and telling an interesting story. He will be missed deeply, but never forgotten.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Veodem Jr., Jerome, Francis and Sydney. He is survived by his sons, grandchildren Chandler, Addisen, Christian and Chase; and siblings Leonardo, Navarro, SanToi, Aaron, Veretta, Dwight, Michael and Andre and their spouses. He told his sons that his siblings were also the best friends he could have and he loved them all very much. He is further survived by a multitude of loving nieces, nephews, their children and grandchildren, his cousins, other relatives, many friends and former students whose lives he impacted.