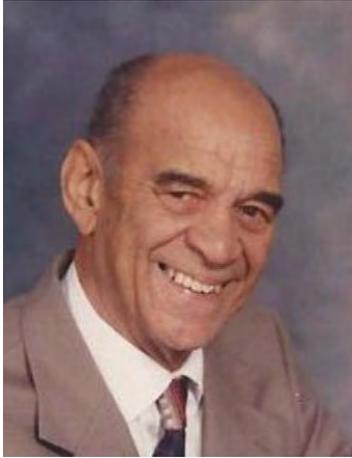


Obituary

Stanman B. Robottom

January 13, 1921 - September 5, 2012

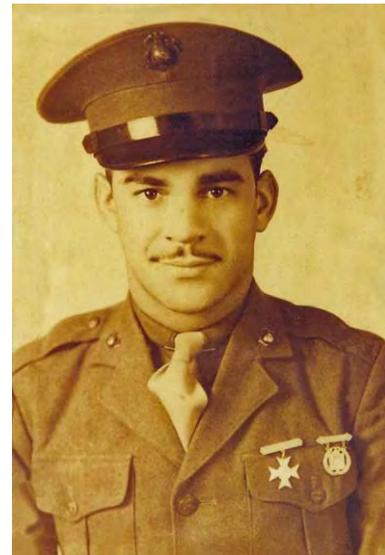


Stanman Barnaby Robottom, Sr. (Stan) was born on January 13, 1921, to Henry and Odelia Robottom in Hahnville, Louisiana. Henry and Odelia had six children: Eva, Gloria, Elsa, Hubert, Harry and Stan. Stan was the youngest, and his parents and siblings preceded him in death. Stan was known and loved by several nicknames. For those friends and family in the Los Angeles area he was called Rocky while his family in Louisiana knew him as Riff.

Stan attended school in Hahnville and entered the working world as an auto mechanic at a local repair shop in Hahnville until he joined the United States Marine Corps in June 1942 at the height of World War II. He trained at Montford Point Camp in North Carolina until his unit, the 51st Defense Battalion, was sent to the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific in Dec 1943 where he was stationed until Dec 1945. He was honorably discharged in January 1946. The historical significance of this service was unknown to members of his family until recently.

Prior to World War II, the USMC had denied African Americans the opportunity to serve. However in 1942 President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African American men the opportunity to be recruited. Stan was a member of the first recruits to join the Marines, train at the segregated Montford Point Camp and serve overseas. Stan, along with other living Montford Point Marines, was recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his contribution to changing the face of the US military.

Following his military service, Stan worked as a truck driver and it was during this time of his life that he met and married Gloria Marie Ferrier, the love of his life, on June 4, 1947. To this union four children were born: Gwendolyn Marie, Stan, Jr. who preceded him in death, Suzette Ann and Gerard Kennedy. They lived initially in New Orleans however in search of both a drier climate to help Stan Jr.'s asthma and different job opportunities, Stan moved his wife and three oldest children to Los Angeles, California in 1951. Stan was hired by the Department of Water and Power in 1955 and worked as an equipment operator for twenty-eight years, until he retired in 1983.



He was always busy with some project or some activity that he enjoyed. There was nothing he could not fix and no project that he would not try. He could work magic with electrical tape and baling wire. He added rooms on their homes in L.A. and Perris doing all the work himself, routinely repaired cars until the newer cars "had too much junk under the hood" to work on. He poured concrete for new driveways, built fences and took on just about any project he could find. Just weeks before he passed, as he lay in the bed he said that he was feeling better and maybe next weekend he could start work on building a back porch for Gwen's house. He never slowed down.

Stan was a faithful member of Transfiguration Catholic Church since 1951 and like Gloria was very active in the Parish. He was involved in many church services and charity functions and served for years as a church usher until his recent illness kept him from those duties.

The Lord called Stan home on Wednesday morning, September 5, 2012. He leaves to cherish his memory: Gloria Robottom, his wife of 65 years; daughters Gwendolyn Wheat and Suzette Robottom; son Gerard Robottom (Eileen); seven grandchildren; Nicole Robottom, Theodore "Tre" Wheat, Jimmeness Robottom (Keisha), Marcus Nance, Danielle Robottom, Cameron Robottom and Jaylin Kyle-Robottom; five great grandchildren; Jason, Jasmine, Jimmeness, Demetrius and Riley; two great-great grandchildren; Jason and Jacob, along with a host of nieces, nephews and other loving family members and friends.