



## John Leslie "Big Les" Montgomery Sr

November 17, 1929 - July 21, 2021

John Leslie Montgomery, Sr. was born November 17, 1929 in Homestead Hospital to Fred R. Montgomery and Lily Simmons. John has two older siblings - Fred S. Montgomery and Louise Montgomery-Blue. The family resided on 13th Street in Homestead, PA. John graduated from Homestead High School, while working at Kitsler's Cleaners in Homestead. John was also a member and started the Youth Usher Board at Park Place AME Church.

\*Les then married Barbara F. Coughman. They were the proud parents of two boys - John Leslie Montgomery, Jr., and Melvin D. Montgomery (deceased). Les then worked for U.S. Steel Mill, then worked at Westinghouse Bettis Plant in West Mifflin. Not long after he went into business with his brother-in-law, Gene Rouse, and established the Gene and Les Bar in the Hill District, the Gene and Les Bar in Braddock, PA, and Band Box on downtown Pittsburgh, PA.

\*Les was one of the organizers of the Pittsburgh chapter of the NULBA. Les was also a lifetime member of the NAACP. Les also went into business with his late brother, Fred Montgomery - B & M Janitorial Cleaning Company. After that, he went back into the bar and tavern business, purchasing the Name of the Game on Center Ave and Top of the Game on Penn Ave in Pittsburgh. During this time Les was a cofounder/organizer of the Name of the Game Annual Golf Tournament, an event whose proceeds were given out as scholarships.

\*Les acquired a new opportunity to purchase the historic Crawford Grill in the

Hill District. That led to many more business adventures, such as bringing in live music, catering for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and specializing in soul food. \*Les wanted to expand, so Big Les and his son "Newt" and one other business partner opened up The New Crawford Grill on the Square, in Station Square, and remained there until 2006.

\*Les leaves his beloved son, John L. Montgomery ("Newt"); five grandchildren, Darcy Register, Mina Forte, Tia Montgomery, John L. Montgomery III, Mira Montgomery, and four great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

\*We as the family know that he is resting in peace and we will see him again.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Tunie Funeral Home, Inc.  
218 E. 11th Avenue  
Homestead, PA 15120  
(412) 462-6466  
lisajohnson@tuniefuneralhome.com  
<http://www.tuniefuneralhome.com/Default.aspx>

## Service

JUL **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Park Place A.M.E. Church  
215 East 10th Avenue  
Homestead, PA 15120

## Interment

JUL **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Allegheny Cemetery  
4734 Butler Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

**Repast ( In lieu of flowers, cards and condolences may be sent directly to the family)**

JUL 30. 2:30 PM (ET)

Westwood Golf Club  
825 Commonwealth Avenue  
West Mifflin, PA 15122  
<http://Events@westwoodrg.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Leslie "Big Les" Montgomery Sr*

January 29, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *John Leslie "Big Les" Montgomery Sr*

January 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ *Condolences to the Family.*



**brenda keys** - August 05, 2022 at 09:16 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of John Leslie "Big Les" Montgomery Sr.*



July 28, 2021 at 05:27 PM

JT

“ *John, Mike and Reggie, Brothers of TAU. purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of John Leslie "Big Les" Montgomery Sr.*



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**John, Mike and Reggie, Brothers of TAU.** - July 27, 2021 at 06:54 AM

RF

“ *My condolences to the family of Les, he was a respectful and wonderful person that I had the pleasure of working for, he will be truly missed 🙏*

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**Rita Ford** - July 26, 2021 at 05:40 PM