

# **Remembering**

# **Jack & Sammie Lou Gilbert**

## **\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**



**JACK GILBERT JR. 1918 - 1999**

**SAMMIE LOU GILBERT 1919 - 2013**

Both Sammie and Jack experienced many hardships in their lives, not unusual for those living during their era. Originally from Albany, Georgia, they came to Detroit, Michigan, in 1942 to make a better life for themselves. Both were raised by their grandparents and valued family and friends. Like so many others, Jack worked several jobs (Budd Company, Hudson Car Factory, Master Pie Company, State Fair), serving in the US Navy during World War II as a physical education instructor. It was during this time that Sammie worked for Fisher Body, putting in screws for airplanes. Having worked several jobs, Sammie landed a job working for Detroit Orthopedic Clinic, where she worked for

Twenty-five years were working as the assistant to a renowned physical therapist retiring in 1981. Jack began working for the Budd Will Company in 1942 as a laborer, Chief Steward, and in 1967 was elected to Executive Bargaining, eventually became a member of the Budd National Negotiating Committee. He retired after 38 years in 1980.

Education and Community were essential to both Jack and Sammie. Volunteer work was viewed as a way of giving back and was instilled in their children at a young age. From Sammie's participation and development of grass-roots organizations such as Four Corners Community Center, 4 H Club, Focus Hope, Project Go, etc., to Jack's work with the NAACP Civil Rights Marches and participation in Coalition of Black Trade Unionist, volunteerism and involvement was considered essential for community growth. Although neither Jack nor Sammie achieved college degrees, they both encouraged following through with degrees, certifications, and any form of higher education that would catapult one to get to their next level of accomplishment to position oneself to help others achieve their goals. Through all of the racism, financial hardship, and general life frustration, Jack and Sammie had many good days with family and friends. They clearly understood that it was their responsibility to do their personal best, remembering that power belongs to God. They accepted God's provision for them to have eternal life through the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ to pay the debt that had to be paid for our sin. Join us in remembering their Legacy of Commitment to God and Family to always do one's best to encourage others.