

Rev. Sharpton's rousing speech at Michael memorial

One of the highlights of the Michael Jackson Memorial was an amazing speech given by Rev. Al Sharpton.

Sharpton walked up and delivered one of the best speeches that cuts deep to the core reasons why many people loved and defended Michael Jackson. We publish the transcript of Reverend Sharpton's speech as a tribute to Michael Jackson the performer extraordinaire.

Here's Sharpton's rousing speech. All over the world today people are gathered in love rituals to celebrate the life of a man that taught the world how to love. People may be wondering why there's such an emotional outburst. But you would have to understand the journey of Michael to understand what he meant to all of us. For these that sit here as the Jackson family - a mother and father with nine children that rose from a working class family in Gary, Indiana - they had nothing but a dream.

No one believed in those days that this kind of dream could come true, but they kept on believing and Michael never let the world turn him around from his dreams. I first met Michael around the 1970 Black Expo, Chicago, Illinois. Rev. Jesse Jackson, who stood by this family till now, and from that day a cute kid to this moment, he never gave up dreaming.

It was that dream that changed culture all over the world. When Michael started, it was a different world. But because Michael kept going, because he didn't accept limitations, because he refused to let people decide his boundaries, he opened up the whole world.

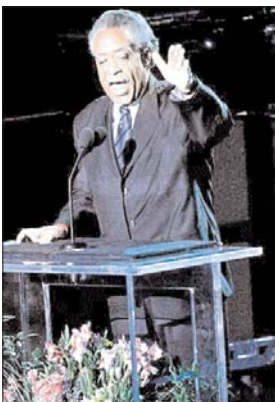
In the music world, he put on one glove, pulled his pants up and broke down the color curtain where now our videos are shown and magazines put us on the cover. It was Michael Jackson that

It was Michael Jackson that made us sing. "We are the World" and feed the hungry long before Live Aid.

brought Blacks and Whites and Asians and Latinos together. It was Michael Jackson that made us sing, "We are the World" and feed the hungry long before Live Aid.

Because Michael Jackson kept going, he created a comfort level where people that felt they were separate became interconnected with his music. And it was that comfort level that kids from Japan and Ghana and France and Iowa and Pennsylvania got comfortable enough with each other until later it wasn't strange to us to watch Oprah on television.

Thank you Michael!



Rev. Sharpton speaking at Michael's memorial at the Staples Center in Los Angeles

Michael kept going, because he didn't accept limitations, because he refused to let people decide his boundaries, he opened up the whole world.

It wasn't strange to watch Tiger Woods golf. Those young kids grew up from being teenage, comfortable fans of Michael to being 40 years old and being comfortable to vote for a person of color to be the President of the United States of America.

Michael did that. Michael made us love each other. Michael taught us to stand with each other. There are those that like to dig around mess. But millions around the world, we're going to uphold his message. It's not about mess, but it's about his love message. As you climb up steep mountains, sometimes you scar your knee; sometimes you break your skin. But don't focus on the scars, focus on the journey. Michael beat 'em. Michael rose to the top.

He out-sang his cynics, he out-danced his doubters; he out-performed the pessimists. Every time he got knocked down, he got back up. Every time you counted him out, he came back in. Michael never stopped. Michael never stopped. Michael never stopped.

I want to say to Mrs. Jackson and Joe Jackson, his sisters and brothers: We thank you for giving us someone that taught us love; someone who taught us hope. We want to thank you because we know it was your dream too.

We know that your heart is broken. I know you have some comfort from the letter from the President of the United States and Nelson Mandela. But this was your child. This was your brother. This was your brother. Never in his life Michael, who redefined dance, had moved at this pace. The mental impressions of him

showing will make you know he didn't live in vain. I want his three children to know: Wasn't nothing strange about your Daddy. It was strange what your Daddy had to deal with. But he dealt with it...He dealt with it anyway. He dealt with it for us.

So, some came today. Mrs. Jackson, to say goodbye to Michael, I came to say, thank you. Thank you because you never stopped, thank you because you never gave up, thank you because you never gave out, thank you because you tore down our divisions. Thank you because you eradicated barriers. Thank you because you gave us hope. Thank you Michael. Thank you Michael! Thank you Michael!



Paris Michael Katherine, daughter of Michael Jackson, cries as she speaks at the memorial service for her father held on Tuesday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles

The casket of superstar Michael Jackson stands at the stage during his memorial service.

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

A hearse carrying a flower-draped gold-plated casket of Michael Jackson, the performer extraordinaire made his final journey on Tuesday as nations across the globe the proceedings live on television.

Politicians, physicians, mathematicians, bar tenders, biographers, writers, singers, critics, columnists, cartoonists, celebrities, hairdressers, choreographers, journalists, dancers, instrumentalists, dermatologists, attorneys, patriots, cartoonists, communists, judges, business magnates, sound engineers, advertisers, dramatizers, cynics and chemists were left to wonder as the hearse carrying Michael's casket was heading to the Staples Center at a solemn pace.

Never in his life Michael, who redefined dance, had moved at this pace. The mental impressions of him

was so hard to suppress and they came cascading from their subconscious. Everything about Michael has been so exciting, unbelievable and even magical.

Michael was magical for he made everybody dance and sing the way he does in their minds. No body moved like Michael Jackson.

The public was not ready to believe that their heart-throb was moving in a casket at a pace of a hearse because anything that is Michael or anything that was attached with Michael's name had never without sprightliness.

But soon they realized it

Jackson's final journey

chose to mourn privately. "Michael was a personal love of mine, a treasured part of my world, part of the fabric of my life," Ross's tribute said. "Michael wanted me to be there for his children, and I will be there if they ever need me."

Mourners were greeted with a glossy commemorative brochure which chronicled Jackson's life and times and carried heartfelt tributes to the star from his family.

"God has now called for you to come home, collect your wings and to fulfill your demands in heaven and continue your magic among the angels," his sister

The King of Pop Michael Jackson was remembered at a private funeral, and then at a memorial service on Tuesday (07) at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

was the final journey of the King of Pop. Jackson's family gathered for a private service at a mortuary in the Hollywood Hills. It was then driven to

the Stapleton Centre for a public memorial.

The service began with soul legend Smokey Robinson reading letters of condolence from stars and

world leaders unable to attend, including a tribute from Nelson Mandela, which read "Michael was a giant and a legend in the music industry. We mourn

with the millions of fans worldwide."

But Motown diva Diana Ross - named by Jackson in his will as an alternative guardian to his children -

ter La Toya Jackson wrote. "Keep the magic going"

Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey and Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson were among the stars taking part in the service.



Musician Stevie Wonder performs at the service.

Singer Mariah Carey performing at the memorial service.

Actress Brooke Shields delivering a speech. Pix AFP

Michael Jackson's Death Certificate lists Forest Lawn as Mortuary

Hot on the heels of Michael Jackson memorial service held at L.A.'s Staples Center, the late singer's death certificate has surfaced online, listing in it

Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood Hills, L.A. as his mortuary. The official death certificate was issued Tuesday, July 7, the same day the memorial service

took place. It was signed by sister La Toya Jackson. The certificate, moreover, listed Michael's cause of death as "deferred" taking into account that toxicology

tests are still undergoing. Despite the fact that the document named "Forest Lawn Memorial Park" as a "temporary" home for Michael's remains, his final

resting place is not named, thus leaving question on where the late singer will be laid to rest. While there has been no official confirmation made

by Michael's camp on burial plans, rumor has it, he will be buried at Forest Lawn because his maternal grandmother, Martha Bridges, was also buried there.

Tribute to Dickson James Peiris

My father, Dickson James Peiris was born in Moratuwa on July 10, 1923. He entered politics at the age of 25, and became a member of Moratuwa Urban Council following his victory in local government election in 1951.

He was a philanthropist who treated everybody equally irrespective of race or creed. Moreover, he was a humble character committed to his task. Soon he became Deputy Chairman of Moratuwa U.C. As his daughter, I remember his dedication to the family for he never failed in his duties to us, in spite of his busy work schedule.

He worked as a Director of State Timber Corporation for more than 25 years. He never failed in his duties towards his family of five children.

He was a good husband to my mother, Lalitha and good father to us. He was a simple Christian who loved the Lord and followed Him. Late Foreign Affairs Minister

Late Foreign Affairs Minister Tyrone Fernando (then MP of Moratuwa) declared opened "Dickson Peiris Mawatha" in honour of my father.

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The Minister of Youth Affairs and Samurdi Minister then S.B. Dissanayake opened "Dickson Peiris Playground" in his memory. I thank and Praise the Lord for blessing us with a father as wonderful as you. May you enjoy the eternal rest in the arms of our God Almighty. I wish and believe that we shall meet again God's beautiful shore.

Lankika Perera
frontline singer, Golden Chimes

I'll Be There

BY MICHAEL JACKSON

C G Am Em
You and I must make a pact, we must bring
salvation back
F G C
where there is love, I'll be there
C G Am Em
I'll reach out my hand to you, I'll have faith
in all you do
F G C
just call my name and I'll be there

chorus:
Am Em
And oh - I'll be there to comfort you,
F C
build my world of dreams around you, I'm
so glad I that I found you
F G C
I'll be there with a love that's strong
F C
I'll be your strength, I'll keep holding on
- yes I will, yes I will

C G
Let me fill you heart with joy and laughter
F G C
Togetherness, well that's all I'm after
F G C
Whenever you need me, I'll be there
C G Am Em
I'll be there to protect you, with an unselfish love
I respect you
F G C

Just call my name and I'll be there
(chorus)

C G Am Em
If you should ever find someone new,
I know he'll be better be good to you
F G C
cause if he doesn't, I'll be there
C

Don't you know, baby, yeah yeah
C G Am Em F G C
I'll be there, I'll be there, just call my name, I'll be there
(just look over you shoulders honey - ooh)

C G Am Em F G C
I'll be there, I'll be there, whenever you need me,
I'll be there

Don't you know, baby, yeah yeah
C G Am Em F G C
I'll be there... I'll be there, just call my name and
I'll be there, whenever you need me,
I'll be there

Don't you know, baby, yeah yeah
C G Am Em F G C
I'll be there, I'll be there, just call my name and
I'll be there.