

Vincent P. Purdy

(20 Jun 1921 - 28 Oct 2003)

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Mr. Purdy A Man of Heart

June 20, 1921 - October 28, 2003

By Janice Barrett

Everyone has a story to tell and Mr. Purdy was not an exception. The following is Mr. Purdy's account of his life as he communicated to me one spring's morning. Mr. Purdy grew up around the Navy Yard in South East Washington, D.C. As a young boy he was placed on a work farm where he learned how to take care of his needs. Mr. Purdy said that the farm taught him how to wash clothes and clean. Later in life Mr. Purdy moved to the State Institution called Rosewood. Sometime after moving out of Rosewood he married and had two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Vincent Purdy moved into our community on June 29th, 1980. He worked for Inwood House for quite a number of years. Mr. Purdy helped many of the residents throughout this community and earned some extra money by utilizing his talents of cleaning and doing laundry. At the time, Mr. Purdy's abilities were badly needed by some of the tenants. Once Mr. Purdy cleaned your apartment you knew that it was in ship shape. He was very particular about which cleaning product he would use whenever he tidied up an apartment. He would always inform a person to buy Mr. Clean or Spic & Span. Mr. Purdy told a lot of tenants that he was a Mr. Clean.

Mr. Purdy was a man of heart. He was a special man and the residents are really exceptional people for having known him. Vincent Purdy taught me the value of everyone's life. Through having known him I learned about respecting all of the residents at Inwood regardless of their disability. He also taught me that all people have feelings and it does not matter where you are or who you are in life.

Mr. Vincent Purdy was a good man and he will be missed.