



The gravesite of soul icon Isaac Hayes is adorned with flowers at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis. He died of a heart attack at age 65.

Matthew Crigg / Commercial Appeal/Landow

## Thousands Remember Isaac Hayes At Memphis Memorial

By Clarence Waldron  
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Isaac Hayes loved his fans. And he always gave them the best of his music and his time.

That's why more than 3,000 of them, including friends and family, came out to celebrate the life of the soul icon during a four-hour memorial service near his hometown of Memphis.

Like Hayes' big hit *Never Can Say Goodbye*, fans came from around the country, not to say farewell but to say thank you to the man who gave the music world something it had never heard before—funky, jazz-flavored “hot buttered soul.”

His daughter, Veronica Hayes, recalled for JET magazine the close bond that her famous father shared with his fans. “He never, ever would turn down giving an autograph or taking a photograph with anyone... We felt so blessed to have the support of his peers and other



Greg Moore

▲ Veronica Hayes, one of Isaac Hayes' 11 children, recalls how much her father appreciated his fans during the tribute at the Hope Presbyterian Church in Cordova, TN, near Memphis.



Jill Waugh/AP



Karen Puffer Forth/Landow



Jill Waugh/AP



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The Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson (top) reminisce about Hayes' music with the Rev. Frank Thomas of the Mississippi Blvd. Baptist Church in Memphis, as they leave the memorial at Hope Presbyterian Church in Cordova, TN. Also attending the tribute are Bootsie Collins (above, l-r), David Porter and Earth, Wind & Fire's Maurice White and Richard Roundtree (l).

celebrities. But it was the fan base that made him larger than life...He truly loved his fans and I saw that growing up and I absolutely know what they meant to him.”

Hayes, 65, was found unconscious at his Memphis home near a treadmill that was run-