



Donald Lee Whittington

September 13, 1933 - April 22, 2018

Obituary

Donald Lee Whittington was born September 13, 1933 in Crisfield, Maryland. Donald was the son of the late Eldridge and Angenetta Whittington and the eldest of three children.

Donald went to school in his early years in Marion Station, Maryland. He attended junior and high school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from John Bartram High School in 1951. Upon graduation at the age of 18, he started his baseball career by going to Winston Salem, North Carolina. After being accepted, he went on to play for the Negro American League, which took him to 48 states and 13 provinces in Canada. He played 3rd base and short stop for the Philadelphia Stars 1952, East–West Game 1952, Memphis Red Sox 1953-1954, Yankee Stadium in Brooklyn, New York, Shibe Park, later called Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and many more stadiums that accepted Black players. Oscar Charleston was his manager.

He endured the prejudices of the deep South of that era but by now, Donald had started studying with Jehovah’s Witnesses and sharing his Bible-based beliefs with others. When he did well in a game, the headlines would read, “The Preacher Did It Again.”

He ended his baseball career in 1954 with the Memphis Red Sox, leading with a .357 batting average. The following year he was to go to the Detroit Tigers Pro.

Donald was baptized as one of Jehovah's' Witnesses on February 6, 1954. He had a deep love and zeal for Jehovah God. He was privileged to serve in the Christian Congregation as a Presiding Overseer and Coordinator in the Body of Elders. He served in the Woodland and Cobbs Creek congregations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Westover congregation in Westover, Maryland.

Donald married his lovely wife, the love of his life, Rhoda Dolores Howard on June 9, 1956. They enjoyed 62 years together. From this union they were blessed with two daughters, the late Cheryl Anita and Angela Victoria.

Shortly after his marriage, he faced a test of his faith. He took his stand of Neutrality as a conscientious objector and served 9 months out of his 3 year sentence in Danbury, Connecticut prison. Because of the good conduct of Jehovah's Witnesses, they were allowed to conduct their meetings. He would often write home for the family and friends to remain strong for Jehovah's kingdom.

He worked at Merck and Company Pharmaceutical as a technician.

We remember Donald for singing with his guitar, his jokes, riddles, laughter and saying thanks for being my brother, sister, friend and family.

Donald is survived by: his wife Rhoda; daughter Angela; brother Bernard Whittington; sister Brenda Walker; eight grandchildren, David, Jared, Joshua, Jeffrey, Marcus, Jolan, Nikkia and Christopher; great grandchildren; five sisters-in-law, Eleanor Green, Esther McNeely, Yvonne Neal, Barbara

Whittington and Olive Howard; three brothers-in-law, Joseph “Joe” Howard, Kenneth “Kenney” Howard and Otis Walker and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, cousins and friends.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Donald Lee Whittington, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

LP

“ *My sincere condolences for the families loss. May these words of John 5:28,29; Revelation 21:4 be a source of comfort for you all during your time of bereavement now and in the days to come. He is resting now waiting for Almighty God to fulfill his promise. Nothing is impossible for Him to do(Matthew 19:26). Your family will remain in my thoughts and prayers.*

LP - April 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss!
Jesus Loves Me!*

Thomas & Libby Widgeon - April 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. All of us have experienced the pain of death in some way sad to say. And, so, at difficult times like this we are confronted with the stark reality of how precious and fragile life can surely be (James 4:14). So, my wife and I send this condolence to you with the hope that we can in some small way comfort you as it has comforted us with what the Bible reveals to us about GOOD NEWS from Almighty God.

As recorded in the Bible, God's only-begotten son, Jesus promises that one day he is personally going to bring back to life all those who have died, just as he did when he was on earth as a man (John 5:28, 29; 11:43, 44). Just as death is an enemy to us, it is also an enemy to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). For that reason, as well as others, He promises to remove FOREVER all the pain, suffering, wickedness, and DEATH that mankind has had to endure for thousands of years (Revelation 21:3-5; Psalm 37:10, 11, 29). What a glorious and almost unbelievable day that will be! It's a reality and a sure hope we can rely on because it is absolutely impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Isaiah 55:10, 11).

It is our hope that you NOT take our word for what has been written in this condolence; but that you read and accept what God's Word, the Bible says. We encourage you to please take a moment to read and meditate on all these referenced scriptures in your own Bible (1 Timothy 4:15, 16). My wife and I are confident you will be encouraged and comforted by the marvelous hope God has in store for us (Psalm 1:1-3; John 17:3). Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - April 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ Sorry for the passing of your love one. Read Isaiah 61:1,2 for words of comfort and peace.

Irene - April 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I would like to offer my sincere condolences for your loss. In such difficult time, many families appreciate the comfort offered by the Bible of the time when no one will lose a loved one in death and we will be able to enjoy life again with our loved one. (Isaiah 41: 10). I hope these thoughts comfort you also.

JoyceA - April 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM