



Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.

October 12, 1949 - July 24, 2025

A Celebration of Life

In Loving Memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler, Sr.

Also known as “Skip,” “Skippy,” “Gator by Day,” “Spider by Night,” and “Captain”

Sunrise: October 12, 1949 ~ Sunset: July 24, 2025

Ferman Sylvester Butler, Sr., was affectionately known by many names that captured his vibrant spirit - “Skip,” “Skippy,” “Gator by Day,” “Spider by Night,” and “Captain.” Ferman peacefully transitioned from this life into eternal rest on July 24, 2025, at the age of seventy-five (75), surrounded by love at Delaware Hospice in Milford, Delaware.

Ferman’s earthly journey began on October 12, 1949, when he was born at Easton Memorial Hospital in Easton, Maryland to the late Elsie E. and William H. Jones. From the very beginning, Ferman embodied warmth, resilience, and a generous heart. Raised in Caroline County, Maryland, he began his educational path at Jonestown Elementary School in Preston, Maryland, continued at Lockerman High School, and proudly graduated from Colonel Richardson High School in Federalsburg, Maryland in the Class of 1968. In 1969, shortly after graduation, Ferman was drafted into the United States Army, where he faithfully served in the Vietnam War until 1974 as both an

active duty and reserve soldier. Ferman wore the uniform with honor, dedicating his strength and courage to the defense of his country.

Following his military service, Ferman transitioned into a life of community commitment and hard work. He was employed with General Foods (now Kraft Foods) for an impressive thirty-two (32) years, where he was known for his dedication, work ethic, and team spirit. Even after retirement, he continued giving back to his community through his work with the Dorchester County Public Schools, where he served for three more years, proving that service was more than a job - it was his calling.

Ferman was the man you called when something needed fixing. A gifted handyman, carpenter, and jack-of-all-trades, he shared his time and talents freely. Whether it was fixing a broken step, building a bookshelf, a hand rail for a porch, or offering advice, his hands and heart were always open. His generosity reached far beyond tools and nails—he touched lives with his gift of gab, a warm smile, and conversation that could fill a room with laughter and love. He was an avid Amazon shopper, always with a package at the door or a deal to share. A fixture in his community, one of his favorite places to be was Russell's Barbershop, where he could be found enjoying good company, good conversation, and lots of laughter with his cousin and dear friend Irvin Russell. Ferman was a proud and active member of the Masonic Temple and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5246 in Federalsburg, Maryland. His commitment to these organizations reflected his dedication to leadership, brotherhood, and continued service.

In 2009, a new chapter of love and companionship began when Ferman met and married the love of his life, Mary Brooks-Ashley, on September 16, 2009. Their union was one of faith, friendship, laughter, and deep mutual respect. Together, they shared a life rich in memories, ministry, and a blended family.

Ferman's faith was the foundation of his life. He loved the Lord with all his heart. As a child, he began his spiritual journey attending Johns Church and Coppins Church in Preston, Maryland. His love for Jesus Christ only deepened with age. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and became a Lay Speaker at Mount Calvary United Methodist Church in Preston, Maryland. After relocating to Dover, Delaware, he joined Calvary Baptist Church, where he joyfully served in the hospitality ministry. In 2022, Ferman became a member of Faith Unity Fellowship Ministries, and was later ordained a Deacon. As being a faithful member of the church, if he saw a need, he was always willing to meet the need. He continued his walk with God and leading others by example, humility, and love.

During the past year of illness, when Ferman's health began to fail, his faith never wavered. He remained faithful to encourage and uplift others through social media as he would post on a daily basis, even causing some to receive salvation.

Ferman's legacy is one of faith, hard work, humility, and unwavering love. He was a soldier, a servant, a speaker, a fixer, a friend, a husband, a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a brother, and a beloved soul to all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elsie E. and William H. Jones, and siblings Larry Sharp, Donald Butler, Mable Jones, James Butler, and Doris Bolden.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his devoted wife, Mary Butler of sixteen (16) years; his children, Lori of Bridgeville, Delaware, Ferman Butler, Jr. (Cindy) of Suffolk, Virginia, Shannon Butler, Leahana Butler, and Keiyana Kinsey, all of Dover, Delaware, Nakisha (Kenny) Mayo of Suffolk, Virginia and Yalonda (De) Kerneal of Camden Wyoming, Delaware. Ferman is also survived by his

loving siblings: Deborah Jones of Easton, Maryland, Harriet Jones of Preston, Maryland, and Joni Dixon and Sadie Jones, both of Federalsburg, Maryland.

He leaves behind a proud and beautiful legacy through: his grandchildren, Brianna, Devin, Elijah, Kayla and Khalil; twenty-seven (27) bonus grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; one sister in law, Rose Sharp; 3 brothers-in-law, Donald (Liz) Brooks, Bishop Glenn (Faith) Brooks and Elder Terrance (Tanya) Brooks, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, church family, neighbors, and friends whose lives he touched deeply. Among those closest to his heart were his lifelong friends, Sherman Sharp and Maurice Sharp, both of whom remained by his side through life's hills and valleys.

Ferman's memory will forever live on in the countless lives he impacted. He walked humbly, loved deeply, and served wholeheartedly. Though our hearts ache with his passing, we rejoice knowing he is at peace with the Savior he served so faithfully. We will miss your voice, your hands, your laughter, and your strength—but we know that "Captain" has simply moved on to higher orders.

"Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord."
— Matthew 25:23

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Hurlock
516 S. Main St.
Hurlock, MD 21643
(410) 943-4488
info@benniesmithfuneralhome.com
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

AUG 2. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Faith Unity Fellowship Ministries
116 Liberty Lane
Chestertown, MD 21620

Funeral Service

AUG 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

Faith Unity Fellowship Ministries
116 Liberty Lane
Chestertown, MD 21620

Live Stream Broadcast on Facebook

AUG 2. 12:00 PM.

Bennie Smith Funeral Home MD / VA

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - August 01, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ *Bennie Smith Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.*



Bennie Smith Funeral Home - August 05, 2025 at 12:18 PM

EN

“ *To the Butler Family.*

I am so sorry for the loss of your husband, father, brother and extended relative. I've known Skippy since the mid-seventies. We lived in the same apartment building for a while. He was a good friend that kept me laughing and always looked out for my safety. I will miss him dearly. I didn't know that he had been sick and just heard of his passing.

Words cannot express how saddened I am by your loss. But please know that I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. Please accept my deepest sympathy and condolences. My heart goes out to the family during this most difficult time. Sending you strength and much love.

May God keep you in his mercy and love

Sincerely,

Elreta (Reet) Skippy's little Sister and Friend ❤️ 🌸

Elreta Northrop - August 05, 2025 at 12:42 PM

MB

“ *Eternal blessings and peace to you, Skippy.*



Marilyn T Barton - August 04, 2025 at 01:00 PM

FC

“ *Frances Cephas-Coulbourn*
My condolences to the family. Memories are precious because "Skippy" loved the Lord and encouraged others to do the same. He had a personality and sense of humor that reached out to everyone he met. You fought a good fight and now you are resting in peace.

Frances Cephas-Coulbourn - August 01, 2025 at 01:43 PM

DM

RIP Skippy DENNIS and Bernice Murray

Dennis Murray - August 02, 2025 at 06:18 PM

EF

“ *Elisa Adams-Wise/ Friend lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.*



Elisa Adams-Wise/ Friend - August 01, 2025 at 01:08 PM

HK

“ *PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF "FERMAN", WE'VE KNOW HIM FOR MANY YEARS AT KRAFT FOODS. JUST AN GREAT GUY AND KEPT YOU IN STITCHES LAUGHING, ABOUT SO MAMY THINGS. HE WOULD CALL US FROM TIME TO TIME, AFTER WE ALL RETIRED, JUST TO MAKE SURE WE WERE OK. OUR PRAYER IS THAT, GOD KEEPS HIM CLOSE IN HEAVEN, BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW, FERMAN WILL HAVE THE ANGELS SITTING AROUND LISTENING TO SOME OF HIS "STORIES", AND CRACKING UP.*



DEAR FRIEND, REST IN HIS ARMS, YOU WILL BE MISSED.

Herb & Jennie Mills and Jean Knowland - August 01, 2025 at 08:56 AM

DJ

“ I will remember you as kind and helpful with a great sense of humor. To the family sorry for your loss. Praying for strength and comfort during this time.



Darron Johns - August 01, 2025 at 08:46 AM

RF

“ Roy Johns And Family lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Roy Johns and Family - August 01, 2025 at 08:08 AM

CF

“ Cherea And Family lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Cherea And Family - July 31, 2025 at 11:20 PM

CF

“ Cherea And Family lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Cherea And Family - July 31, 2025 at 11:19 PM

AF

“ AJ Whyte And Family lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



AJ Whyte And Family - July 31, 2025 at 11:18 PM

BF

“ Betty Whyte And Family lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Betty Whyte And Family - July 31, 2025 at 11:18 PM

BF

“ Betty Whyte And Family lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Betty Whyte And Family - July 31, 2025 at 11:17 PM

NM

“ Nieces Erica, Tama, and Michele purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr..



Nieces Erica, Tama, and Michele - July 31, 2025 at 07:31 PM

SB

“ Prayers to the family of Ferman (Skippy) Butler,
🙏



Sylvia Bolden - July 31, 2025 at 11:21 AM

CB

“ Praying Gods comfort and peace for the family as you walk thru this difficult season. I'm so thankful to God that Skip and I paths crossed. What a blessing. He always looked out for me, warning and protecting me when I was out there trying to be grown. 🙄 I listened, and that's when the Lord sent me Ernest. We celebrated each other's weddings (he loved some Mary); talked about how proud we were of our kids and grandkids, and we laughed a ton because he was so funny yet full of wisdom. But the best memories were sharing our faith and singing about the "Goodness of God" and how He was his "Waymaker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, and Light in the darkness"; he tried to sing, bless his heart lol!!! Skip, was a legend to me, and a friend who will 'always and forever' be etched in my heart. Rest easy, buddy, and I'll see you again in the morning. 🙏❤️



Carla Benson-Green - July 31, 2025 at 08:31 AM

CF

“ CARL WATSON JR.and FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



CARL WATSON JR.and FAMILY - July 31, 2025 at 12:16 AM

WM

“ *Walter Murray lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.*



Walter murray - July 30, 2025 at 09:20 PM

TJ

“ *Ferman was a fun guy who would crack jokes all the time He was a nice guy... Prayer's goes out to his family & friends.*



Teresa Sr & Teresa Jr - July 30, 2025 at 06:20 PM

T2

“ *Teresa 1 & 2 lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.*



Teresa 1 & 2 - July 30, 2025 at 06:16 PM

MW

“ *Michele Wayman lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.*



Michele Wayman - July 30, 2025 at 03:30 PM

EE

“ Elaine & Candy Elder lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Elaine & Candy Elder - July 30, 2025 at 12:33 PM



Missing your daily inspirational messages. You're at peace, no more pain. Rowena Elaine

Rowena Johnson - August 01, 2025 at 08:24 AM

IF

“ Iris Carter And Family lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Iris Carter and Family - July 30, 2025 at 07:37 AM

LM

“ Loretta M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr..

Loretta M. - July 29, 2025 at 01:08 PM

MS

“ I'm gonna miss your jokes and laughter and you calling me Little Michelle

Michelle Sharp - July 29, 2025 at 09:19 AM

LP

“ To the family sorry for your loss Praying for the family



Lavern Potts - July 29, 2025 at 09:03 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss



Thomas Widgeon - July 29, 2025 at 07:41 AM

KH

“ Karen Holmes lit a candle in memory of Ferman Sylvester Butler Sr.



Karen Holmes - July 28, 2025 at 10:16 PM

KH

Cuz you will be missed.Going to miss your reading every day.No more pain now.R.I.P.

Karen Holmes - July 28, 2025 at 10:18 PM

MB

“ *I remember the stories you shared about us. You would come home from work, come in my mom's room to check on me as a baby. You picked with me until I moved, then you left out quietly! I'll miss you & the memories you shared.*

Give our family up there hugs and kisses from us down here!!

Your nieceè, Marchelle

Marchelle Butler - July 28, 2025 at 06:21 PM