



Gardner Bertell Puckham

December 9, 1934 - April 17, 2019

Gardner Bertell Puckham transitioned to his heavenly home on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, at Christiana Hospital; he was 84 years old. The second of four sons born to the late Anna Waller Puckham and Robert Puckham, Sr., Gardner began his earthly journey on Sunday, December 9, 1934, in Laurel, Delaware.

He received his early education at the Paul Laurence Dunbar School in Laurel and then William C. Jason Comprehensive High School in Georgetown, Delaware. While in high school, he enjoyed playing sports and excelled in football and basketball. Gardner had a laid back personality, but he would offer a friendly smile. He was known as a cool guy with a great hook shot.

After graduating in 1953, he enlisted in the United States Army and was fortunate to serve along-side his older brother, Bobby, in Korea. Not only did he serve his country, he enjoyed traveling the world.

Gardner was employed at the DuPont Plant in Seaford, Delaware, for many years. After retiring, he was employed with the Pictsweet Company in Bridgeville, Delaware. On August 9, 1963, he was united in holy matrimony to Shirley Cooper. To this union were born two sons, Brendon and Terrance.

When his sons were younger, Gardner loved taking his family on road trips.

They traveled numerous times to Disney World in Florida. He enjoyed coaching and attending all of his sons' Pop Warner football and Little League baseball games. His favorite pastime was watching countless hours of TV, especially old Westerns as well as spending time with their dog, Creed. He was a Dallas Cowboys fan and he loved the Golden State Warriors basketball team, especially Stephen Curry. However, his pride and joy was his grandson, Terrance, whom he called "Tootie." They shared a bond like no other and were more like father and son.

Gardner leaves life-time memories with his son, Terrance "Tookie" Puckham; daughter, Connie Cooper; brother, Eugene B. Puckham; sister-in-law, Armelia Puckham; grandsons; Terrance Gomez (Marina) and Zakai Johnson-Puckham; granddaughters, Dena Milton, Ty'asia Milton, and Zeniah Johnson-Puckham; nephews, Vincent Puckham (Annetra) , Victor Puckham (Iris) , Jeffrey Puckham, Forrest Puckham (Verdine), and Anton Puckham; nieces, Angela Hammond, Tamar Williams (John), Anna Handy (Tyrone), a special person he called niece, Robin Davis; special daughters, Virginia Gomez Robinson and Che'lisa Dockins; a long-time family friend, Sandra Griffin; first cousins, Betty Boyd (Rodney), Judy Manns, and Beverly Richardson. He also leaves a host of great nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Shirley Puckham; son, Brendon Puckham; brothers, Robert and Wayne Puckham; sister-in-law, Hattie Puckham; in-laws, Henry and Reba Cooper.

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

Tribute Wall

AR

“ I like to express my deepest sympathy for your loss. It was never God's intent that death should rule over mankind. - Romans 5:12; 1Corinthians 15:26, 55; God will do away with death. But for now God has provided hope-as stated at John 5:28, 29. During this most painful time please find comfort from God's word.

Artina - May 04, 2019 at 02:29 PM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief, by meditating on God's promises found in the Bible, you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces.

H. Fields - April 28, 2019 at 07:13 PM

DK

“ I worked with Gardner at Dupont in Seaford, will always remember him for his smile and kindness. To the family so very sorry for your loss, he will be missed by all.Dale Kenney

Dale Kenney - April 26, 2019 at 04:25 PM

LF

“ Peace, Prayers and Blessings,

Love, Hope, Clifton and family - April 25, 2019 at 11:12 AM

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. Times like this are so difficult to deal with as we mourn those we love. May you find some comfort in the promises Almighty God gives us in His Word, the Bible (Hebrews 4:12). One outstanding promise He gives is that one day his only-begotten son, Jesus Christ has been given the power and authority to bring back to life all those who have died (John 5:28, 29). Jesus showed he could and would do this when on earth he raised a dear friend from death (John 11:43, 44). Death is an enemy even to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). That is why He is going to have it removed forever along with other things that cause mankind pain and suffering (Revelation 21:3, 4). Keep that real hope alive and it will strengthen you in the days ahead! Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - April 20, 2019 at 09:35 AM