



John Dudley Shorter Sr.

May 19, 1933 - June 6, 2021

John Dudley Shorter, Sr., was born May 19, 1933, at Memorial Hospital, in Easton, Maryland. He was the son of the late Melvin J. Shorter, Sr. and Elenor G. Wright Shorter. He departed this life June 6, 2021, at the Resorts at Chester River Manor, at the age of 88.

John had many nicknames, such as “Red”, “Dudley” and “Poppy” along with “Douglas”, which was given to him by his mother-in-law, Bernice Lomax. He answered to them all.

John was baptized on April 21, 1935, at Salem Methodist Church, by Reverend E.W. Derrickson. Growing up in Starkey’s Corner, Maryland, he enjoyed rabbit hunting, playing baseball and digging mud holes at the south east creek with his siblings. Dudley attended Salem Elementary School and was a 1950 graduate of Kennard High, Centreville, Maryland. After school, John did farm work before enlisting in the Army on May 25, 1953. He was a part of the 47th Viking Infantry Division Company F 164th INF REG at Camp Rucker, in Alabama. After leaving active duty in 1955, John returned home and became employed by Carl Pinkett, Sr., doing cement work. Dudley played with and managed the Church Hill Negro Baseball League Team, “Hawks”, with his brothers, George and Melvin.

Dudley met the love of his life, Louise, in 1957. Their love blossomed and they

were married at the parsonage in Starkey's Corner on October 15, 1959. From this union they had four children, John, Jr, Bruce, Doraethia and Chris, Sr. In 1965, Dudley joined the union local 199 in Delaware, before moving to Big Woods in 1969. He was a "jack-of-all-trades", retiring in 1995, after 30 years of service. After more than 40 years of marriage, John and Louise renewed their vows in a large family-filled ceremony, on September 22, 2001.

Dudley's hobbies were watching westerns and wrestling and playing baseball. He always fell asleep at the kitchen table while reading his newspaper. He waited for daily visitors so that he could be the self-proclaimed "Big Woods Lawyer" and give out advice. The house was open to any and everybody. Pop could be sarcastic; you may have heard him say any damn thing.

Dudley was a member of New Christian Chapel of Love Church, in Big Woods, and served as a trustee.

In addition to his parents, Dudley was preceded in death by his loving wife of 53 years, Louise T. Shorter; his only daughter, Doraethia Shorter; and two sisters, Marian Shorter and Ella Jernigan.

Dudley leaves to cherish his memory, sons, John Dudley Shorter, Jr., Bruce Shorter (Brenda) and Chris D. Shorter, Sr.; siblings, Melvin Shorter, Jr., Cecelia Shorter, George "Sonny" Shorter, Eleanor Brown, Margaret Hawkins, Thomas Shorter (Vera) and Kelvin Copper, Sr. (Pamela); grandchildren, Kwanisha (Darrius, Sr.), Latasha, Chris Jr. (Arraye), Tyra, Teverly, Tiffany, Landon and Tilise (Jamale); great-grandchildren, Tykeya, Darrius, Jr. Kaylah, Leyah, Karis, Ariyana, Kenlei, Jade, Brooklynn, Dream, Rome and India; in-laws, Shirley Warren, Charles "Buck" Smith, who was like a son to him, Hannah Henry and Vanessa Lomax; special cousin John Cheers, who came over and talked all night long until the sun came up; friend for more than 40 years, Dickie Acree; and friend Timmy Bratcher, who he hollered and cussed at on the phone for hours; special friend, Mrs. Dianna Flakes, who sent

Dudley cards every month; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Cemetery Details

New Christian Chapel of Love Cemetery

Big Woods Road
Worton, MD 21678

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Chestertown
855 High St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-2161
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

JUN 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Chestertown
855 High St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-2161
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Chestertown
855 High St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-2161
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - June 18, 2021 at 02:49 PM

DB

“ *David&Stefanie Blyman lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



David&Stefanie Blyman - June 19, 2021 at 05:31 PM

PP

“ *We only met Dudley a few times but we will never forget his personality and the way he enjoyed life. Our prayers are with his family. Pat & Jim Price from Oklahoma.*

Pat Price - June 18, 2021 at 12:06 PM

JB

“ *To The Shorter Family you'll have my deepest sympathies in the loss of Mr. Dudley Shorter he will truly be missed. Praying for all of your in your time of sorrow Big Woods will truly be different no.*



Juanita Burris - June 17, 2021 at 11:21 PM

RB

“ *Robin Brown lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



Robin Brown - June 17, 2021 at 05:38 PM

JS

“ *May The Almighty Saviour comfort the family*



James Munson sr. - June 17, 2021 at 12:28 PM

PW

“ *To the Shorter family, so sorry to learn of Mr. Shorter's passing he was a good man. Paul and I send our sincere sympathy.*

Phyllis K. Wallace - June 16, 2021 at 06:40 PM

SR

“ *Shartinese Rochester lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



Shartinese Rochester - June 15, 2021 at 10:13 PM

RH

“ *Rosalind Hoxter lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



Rosalind Hoxter - June 15, 2021 at 12:26 PM

JP

“ *Janice Warren/ Thelma Pennick lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



Janice Warren/ Thelma Pennick - June 15, 2021 at 08:49 AM

PF

“ *Pauls Family lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



Pauls Family - June 15, 2021 at 06:24 AM

RK

“ *Ruth King lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



Ruth King - June 14, 2021 at 04:20 PM

LJ

“ Lorraine Jenkins sent a virtual gift in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.



Lorraine Jenkins - June 14, 2021 at 04:17 PM

RK

“ Ruth King lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.



Ruth King - June 14, 2021 at 04:06 PM

VD

“ Vera "Tiny" Dozier lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.



Vera "Tiny" Dozier - June 09, 2021 at 12:27 PM

VP

“ Voncille Phillips lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.



Voncille Phillips - June 08, 2021 at 04:43 PM

TS

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. May peace & strength be with you all*

terri smith - June 08, 2021 at 10:31 AM

BL

“ *To the family of Mr. John Shorter Sr.*

Our condolences to you all. May God strengthen you and keep you during this time.

Bishop Nelson Lewis - June 07, 2021 at 05:23 PM

DJ

“ *Denise M. Jones lit a candle in memory of John Dudley Shorter Sr.*



Denise M. Jones - June 07, 2021 at 11:35 AM