



Leon D. Bryant Jr

December 4, 1948 - November 24, 2020

LEON DOUGLAS BRYANT, JR., only child, was born on December 4, 1948 to the late Leon Douglas Bryant, Sr. and Emily Lucille Marshburn Bryant. On Tuesday, November 24, 2020 he transitioned this earthly life after a prolonged illness dominated by vascular dementia.

A native Baltimorean, Douglas, as he was affectionately called, attended Lemmel Junior High School, and later graduated from Edmondson Senior High School in 1966. While attending Edmondson, he sang in the school choir, played lacrosse and soccer. As he liked to remark, one of his coaches jokingly told him that because of his long feet, if he missed the ball with part of his foot, he could stop the ball with his other part of his foot. He received athletic letters for participation in these sports.

As a choir member, Douglas was adept at reading music due to the instruction from his piano teacher, Mr. James Spencer Hammond, a well-known musician, teacher, and choir director. Douglas advanced to playing classical, spiritual, and jazz music. Around this time, he became a proud member of Beta Omega Epsilon Fraternity (BQE), now celebrating their 55th year of serving the community.

Upon graduation from high school, Douglas attended the Computer Studies Institute for a year before he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968. Unfortunately, he was seriously wounded in Vietnam resulting in the loss of his right arm and two fingers on his left hand. Also, he sustained an injury to his right ear causing hearing impairment and additional surgery. Douglas was honorably discharged in 1970 after he was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

During his stay at Walter Reed Medical Center for treatment and rehabilitation, Douglas remained determined not to become drug dependent although his physical and mental injuries were noticeably painful. During that time, family church members, and fraternity brothers visited and provided encouragement. Included among the visitors was his teenage friend, Linda Foster.

An unforgettable event for Douglas was a hospital sponsored trip to Las Vegas in which Douglas and other veterans met Lena Horne and Harry Belafonte. We “younger people” know who they are. What a treat!

Douglas and Linda were “born and bred” at Douglas Memorial Community Church, where they attended Sunday School and Youth Fellowship together. As an adult, Douglas served on the Supervisory Committee of the Douglas Memorial Federal Credit Union and received numerous awards for exceptional service.

In early 1971, Douglas finally “had the nerve” to ask Linda for her hand in marriage. They recognized they would face additional challenges due to his disability. However, both realized the challenges, did not outweigh their love for each other. They fondly remember Rev. Marion Bascom stating he would start the wedding at 4:00p.m. with or without them. (Nothing started late at Douglas Memorial). Thankfully, both arrived there on time. Although the wedding ceremony was only 15 minutes in length, their marriage lasted for over 49 years.

Their union was blessed with loving sons, Quinton and Leon. Later the family increased with the addition of sons, now Minister Joe Blanding and Anthony Harris. Douglas and Linda were both immensely proud of these young men, their families, and their accomplishments.

Their grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, nephews, and families were also a source of pride and blessings to them.

Douglas enjoyed helping to coach Little League Baseball with both sons – sometimes with games occurring simultaneously. As a special treat Douglas would cook hot dogs on his portable grill for the children. He made certain their sons, had swimming and tennis lessons.

Because of the rich musical legacy of Douglas Memorial Community Church, both sons participated in choir led by the “illustrious” Barbara Perkins who taught the Children’s Choir for over 30 years. They participated in concerts with different churches.

Although he could no longer play the piano as he had done in the past, he made certain the boys took piano lessons under the wonderful Spencer Hammond.

On the adult level, Douglas enjoyed going to concerts. His favorite performer at the time

was Chaka Khan. Douglas and Linda enjoyed going on day trips as well as cruises. They both enjoyed eating on the cruises, and Douglas was elated that he could eat ALL he wanted to.

For a time, Douglas and Matthew Tisdale formed a cooperation call "Simplex Communications, Inc.", selling pagers. For thirty-three years Douglas worked at the Veterans Administration as a Veterans Benefit Counselor to ensure that veterans received the housing and school benefits they applied for. He would sing, "This is the way you do it," to show them the appropriate way to apply for benefits. Many veterans publicly thanked him for his diligence. Douglas received many awards and accolades for outstanding service including Governor's Citations (2), Department of Veterans Affairs Performance Award, and Exemplary Service Award-Department of Veterans Affairs.

Douglas was preceded in death by his parents, sister-in-law Brenda Haywood and "Brother" James Diggs.

He leaves to mourn his beloved wife Linda; devoted sons, Quinton (Melissa), Leon III (Latarsha), Minister Joe Blanding (Tracey) and Anthony Harris; brother/cousin, Everett Marshburn; and many other loving god-children, relatives, and friends.

Cemetery

Garrison Forest Veterans
11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD,

Events

DEC 12 **Viewing** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215

DEC 14 **Wake** 11:30AM - 12:00PM

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215

DEC 14 **Service** 12:00PM

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4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, MD, US, 21215

Comments



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Leon D. Bryant Jr, Please Click the Link below.



March Funeral Homes - December 08, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ Ronetta W. lit a candle in memory of Leon D. Bryant Jr



Ronetta W. - December 14, 2020 at 10:11 PM



“ It was an absolute pleasure being one of many to provide care for you Mr. Bryant. I will miss the days we would sit out in the garden with other vets enjoying the beautiful warm and sunny days. Rest in paradise Mr. Bryant. Hugs and kisses.

Ronetta W. - December 14, 2020 at 09:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carroll Smith - December 12, 2020 at 12:00 PM



“ Rest in Peace my Brother.

Carroll Smith - December 12, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ WGL - Property Accounting Group purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Leon D. Bryant Jr.



WGL - Property Accounting Group - December 11, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ Dr. Will Miles from Denver Colorado purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Leon D. Bryant Jr.



Dr. Will Miles from Denver Colorado - December 10, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ Dawn Larsen and Jay Orlina purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Leon D. Bryant Jr.



Dawn Larsen and Jay Orlina - December 09, 2020 at 10:05 PM



“ Leon, Tarsha and Family,

May your memories bring you comfort as you go through this trying time. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Zakia and Kevin Holloway

Zakia Holloway - December 05, 2020 at 09:16 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - December 04, 2020 at 08:39 AM



“ My sincere condolences to Mrs Linda Bryant and family. May God comfort your hearts.

E Carolyn Robinson - December 07, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ My sincere condolences to Mrs. Linda Bryant and the family. I remember the good times we shared together. My prayers are with you. God Bless. Rest in peace Douglass.

Rev. Andrea Butts (Angie)

Andrea - December 12, 2020 at 05:49 PM



“ I will always cherish the memories of Uncle Douglas and him having something funny to say or a joke to make me laugh! I will miss him. Reverend Craig Lockett, Pastor, New Covenant Ministries of Baltimore.

Craig E Lockett - December 14, 2020 at 11:08 AM