



## Maurice Saleem Wooden

January 10, 1947 - February 20, 2021

In the celebration of the life and legacy of Saleem Maurice Wooden, who many knew as the ultimate storyteller, it's time to share the story of his life.

Saleem Maurice Wooden was born January 10, 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice and Ethel Wooden in Capitol Heights, MD. He went on to attend Fairmount Heights High School and was a decorated track athlete. He went on to attend Morgan State University, majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry. After college, Saleem joined the National Guard. He loved Baltimore so much he decided to make it his home, as he became an Industrial Hygienist.

In 1972, he met his future wife Ayana Aljean Wooden. In 1974, they were married. From this union came their children, Omari Saeed Wooden and Jasmin Ayana Zorata Wooden. One of the major parts of his life was his role with his church, Bethel AME, which he joined in 1981. He became born again and his passion to help others manifested. With a willing heart, Saleem was someone you could depend on and always made himself available. He exemplified the gift of ministry of helps. He was an active member of the Married Couples Ministry, Saturday and Sunday School, Historian, Trustee, Men's Choir, Men's ministry and the I thrive young person's ministry. During these times, he shared God's love with so many and offered help whenever needed.

Saleem and Ayana loved to travel. Their extensive travel around the world included trips to Europe, South America, Africa, the islands, Iceland and many more. Throughout all of their travel, Saleem had an exceptional sense of direction. After being in a country for a few hours, he knew how to get around like he lived there for years. While working with the Army Corp of Engineering, Saleem, Ayana and Jasmin lived in Germany for 3 years. He was through and through a family man. He spent summers teaching his son how to pitch and hit for little league baseball. Saleem loved taking his daughter to the National Aquarium and the Science Center. He loved becoming a sea monster with his granddaughters, grabbing their feet, while swimming in the pool. Every year, Saleem and Omari had an annual tradition of watching the Super Bowl together and grading the commercials. The family would take road trips and car rides with the top down and windows open to enjoy the local sites.

He truly lived a satisfied, rich and complete life. He is survived by his wife of 46 years,

Ayana Aljean Wooden, his two children Omari Saeed Wooden and Jasmin Ayana Zorata Wooden, his sister Cheryl Broadway, his daughter in law Carolyn Wooden, two granddaughters Chloe and Journey Wooden, and many friends and family who truly loved him.

# Cemetery

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## King Memorial Park Cemetery- Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.

Baltimore, MD, 21244

# Events

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**MAR 1 Viewing** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

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March Life Tribute Center -  
Randallstown

5616 Old Court Rd, Windsor  
Mill, MD, US, 21244

**MAR 2 Wake** 10:00AM - 10:30AM

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2

March Life Tribute Center -  
Randallstown

5616 Old Court Rd, Windsor  
Mill, MD, US, 21244

**MAR 3 Service** 10:30AM

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3

March Life Tribute Center -  
Randallstown

5616 Old Court Rd, Windsor  
Mill, MD, US, 21244

# Comments

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“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Maurice Saleem Wooden, Please Click the Link below.



**March Life Tribute Centers** - March 02 at 09:29 AM



“ Our heartfelt love and support for your family at a time such as this! My GOD'S peace and loving arms surround and comfort you today and always. The Curley Family

**Cheryl Curley** - March 02 at 10:34 AM



“ My deepest condolences and continued prayers for the family. Mr. Wooden radiant light lives on through all he touched.

Kevin Robinson

**Kevin Robinson** - March 02 at 10:39 AM



“ Brother Wooden was a very special person to me, he was my Sunday School Teacher..He was excellent and made you want to read more and stay prepared for class. He and his lovely wife are very special because they will pay with you and for you. God Bless your life. Thank you. Kay Merrill

**Kay Merrill** - March 02 at 12:39 PM

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“ Sis. Ayanna. We are so sorry for your (and our) loss. Saleem will be truly missed. Praying for you and your family.

Sis. Rhonda and J.T. McCray

**Rhonda McCray** - March 05 at 04:28 PM

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“ Singing in the Brotherhood choir with him on Sunday morning and rehearsals was a pleasant seeing him in worship always something nice to say.gone but not forgotten my brother God bless the family

**Dwight Burley** - March 02 at 12:15 PM

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“ My deepest condolences for your loss. May his soul rest in peace and our prayers guide him to the eternal glory.

Lilly Najafzadeh - March 02 at 10:14 AM

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“ The Hyman family are praying for you Ayanna. Just remember that the spirit never dies. God bless you and yours.

Lillie Hyman - March 02 at 07:19 AM

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“ Saleem, 3 other Bethel brothers and I met on a monthly basis for several years (before COVID-19) to eat lunch and sometimes do some exploring around town. Each month we would go to a different restaurant in the Baltimore area that was chosen by one of the brothers. It didn't seem to matter to Saleem that I am handicapped; the routine was he came by my house, retrieved the car keys, secured me in the van, drove to the designated location to pickup some of the other brothers and then we proceeded to our lunch. We enjoyed the ride much talk and loud music. Once at the restaurant, Saleem helped me by making sure the table, eating utensils and napkins were within my reach. While eating lunch, he was usually the one that started the laughter which made our times together such an enjoyable experience. Even at the end, Saleem was very attentive in helping me with my credit card to pay my portion of the bill. After COVID-19, we still communicated sometimes via text talking about football, politics, etc. Saleem was a blessing to me. He and the guys brought a sense of camaraderie; it also gave me have something to look forward to. I will miss Saleem's positive and upbeat personality. I also enjoyed his Sunday school lessons which were also interesting and showed his love for God. He was a good friend and I will never forget him. Ayana and family, May God bless you.  
Robert Baker

Robert Baker - March 01 at 09:23 PM

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“ 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 Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - March 01 at 08:33 AM



“ I think I met Saleem when he was running the Saturday School program at the Outreach Center. I was very impressed by all of the hard work he put in to keep that program going. (I almost said "single handedly", but Ayanna was always there too!) As smart as he was, he always wanted to know more. And he always wanted to hear other points of view. He wanted to know what YOU thought. We had several real good conversations, and found we had a couple of things in common: we were both raised Catholic and liked bike riding. I only went riding with him once, but I was hoping to hang out with him a little more once I retired. Now... So once the weather gets nice, we'll go riding again. He won't be beside me; I'll be carrying him in my heart. Luv Ya Bro.

**Gregory Campbell** - February 26 at 05:48 PM

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“ Prayers for the Wooden Family.



**Barbara Payton** - February 25 at 07:24 PM

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“ My Condolences Blessed to have known Brother Saleem ( Bethel)



**Sharon Alexander** - February 25 at 05:39 PM



“ Prayers and condolences to Sister Ayana and their family on the lost of your love one. He will always be remembered as a servant of God and a great historian for Bethel church, God continued blessings

**Doris Brightful** - March 01 at 11:11 AM



“ My heartfelt prayers go out to the family of Brother Saleem during your time of bereavement.

**Jacqueline** - March 02 at 08:54 AM

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“ Sharon Alexander lit a candle in memory of Maurice Saleem Wooden



**Sharon Alexander** - February 25 at 05:34 PM

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“ Martina Callum lit a candle in memory of Maurice Saleem Wooden



**Martina Callum** - February 25 at 03:13 PM

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“ I’ve know Maurice and his family almost all of my life; at least since I was 4 or 5 years old. We lived next door to each other on Addison Road. He was my brother Pierre’s best friend. We played, socialized and celebrated ours lives. I remember when his sister Cheryl was born. Maurice Sr and Ethel Wooden were neighborhood parents as were Rudolph and Ruth Travers, the Perkins and others on our block. Maurice used to “fast walk” around the block.I think this was before his track days. I know his nickname was Coach. He was nice and kind. The last time I saw Maurice was at his mother’s funeral. He asked me to speak since Pierre was not in the area. I will continue to pray for Maurice s family, his wife, children, grandchildren and Cheryl. May he rest in eternal peace.  
Carolyn Mooney Scriber

**Carolyn Scriber** - February 25 at 12:06 PM