



## Bennie Lee Callaham, Sr.

January 30, 1948 - August 24, 2013

A Celebration of Love For Bennie L. Callaham, Sr.

Bennie Lee Callaham, Sr., was born January 30, 1948 in Richmond Virginia to the late Charlie and Ellen Callaham. He is preceded in death by his son; Bennie L. Callaham, Jr. Bennie departed this earthly life on Saturday, August 24, 2013. As a child, he was reared in a Christian home and his later years attended St. Paul's Baptist Church.

He was the youngest of eight children. Then he was a proud on Armstrong "Wild Cat" High School graduate (1966) and a longtime reunion committee member. He attended Norfolk State University, Kittrell College (NC) and J. S. Reynolds Community College.

Bennie joined the Richmond Fire Department (1969) until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in (1970). At the end of his tour of service, he returned to the Fire Department to pursue his career and further became the Fire Marshall within the Richmond Fire Department. His most treasured accomplishment was graduating in the 2nd Class of Black Fireman. After retiring from the fire department, Bennie accepted a position with the Henrico Public Schools.

He mentored students of Virginia Randolph High School for as long as his health would permit.

Bennie, a quiet “statue of a man” married his longtime friend and sweetheart, Lavern on February 12th, 2010. Bennie was a wonderful and marvelous husband, a life partner, her confidante and her “sweetie pie”! He was a sensitive and romantic, meticulous kind of guy; very humble and genuine. He had his own style and character.

Bennie was known as Dad, Pop, Bennie, Pa Pa, Papa Ham and “CAL”, but it was guaranteed “he had it nicknamed for you as well”. Some of his noteworthy clichés: “two ears, one mouth, listen twice as much as you speak;” “My Gal”, My Man”. He had a “Fan Club of “his gals” 80 years and older who he spent time with and was devoted to. Bennie was a “sports trivia wiz” and a musicologist”. He loved all the “Motown” love ballad artists: “The Montclair's, Dramatics, Delfonics, Four Tops” to name a few”. This could be attributed to his affectionate love for his wife.

He leaves to cherish his memories: two loving brothers: Wilbert Callaham(Valerie )and William “Cat Man” Callaham,Sr.(Luvenia), a son Rodney Leeper (Erin); a daughter; Bridgette Callaham- Richardson( Michael), a son Brandonn Callaham, a son, Clifton “Casey” Smith(Kymme) and Chase Williams. He was also blessed to have a “surrogate”Mother/Mother-in-law, Ms. Lucy M. Brown, who loved him as her very own; two sisters- in- law, Doris B, Dunge and Loretta B. Byrd; twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He has several loving nieces and nephews and three-God sent -Tarran, Evans, Yvette Hart and Jammett Todd and close friends.

Bennie's “special” past-times include being with his fellows in the Thursday morning Breakfast Club, the Harvey Garden Wine Society and the McGuire Veterans Circle of Friends and watching his daytime SOAPS.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

3101 Nine Mile Road  
Richmond, VA 23223

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

AUG 28. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Family Hour

AUG 28. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel  
Richmond, VA 23222

## Service

AUG 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bennie Lee Callaham, Sr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Roslyn(branch) Pleasants lit a candle in memory of Bennie Lee Callaham, Sr.*



**roslyn(branch) pleasants** - September 03, 2013 at 01:38 PM



“ *To the Callaham Family*

*The measure of a life well-lived is not in how much money one has or what possessions they have accumulated, but rather through the lives they touched and the sorrow they leave behind. If the outpouring of sympathy on his loss is any indication, and it most certainly is, you can proudly and confidently say that his Indeed was a life well-lived. May you find peace and comfort in knowing that his loss is felt by all who knew and loved him.*

*Rest In Peace My Brother  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael K. Wise of, Smyrna, Delaware*

**michael** - August 29, 2013 at 11:15 PM

MU

“ To the Callaham Family,  
It is with deepest sympathy that I write to you to express my condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. May Jehovah, the God of all comfort (2Corinthians1:3-4), continue to sustain you during this difficult time. May you find solace in John5:28-29 and Revelation21:4 that tells us of a time when there will be no more sickness or death and when our loved ones will be restored to life in a paradise on earth. Until that time, continue to pray for strength and look to God's word for guidance and hope. Warm regards, The Murphy's

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**Murphy** - August 28, 2013 at 01:18 PM

AB

“ TO the Family,I pray to God that he will give strength at this time.



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**Alvin Brownlee** - August 28, 2013 at 10:43 AM

AC

“ To the Callahan Family.I was sadden to hear of the loss of your Loved One and my class mate from Armstrong High School,You all have my deepest sympathy.Keep your hand in Gods Hands and he will see you through.Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.i'll keep you all in my prayers  
Deacon Althea Coleman



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**Althea Coleman** - August 28, 2013 at 09:53 AM

JB

“ To LaVerne (Red) and Family. We are sending are heartfelt condolences to each of you. We are praying for your strength for the lost of such a nice husband, father and man. You are forever in our thoughts and prayers. To God Be The Glory!!!! Jackie & Ben Brown



Jackie & Ben Brown - August 27, 2013 at 06:17 PM

JE

Condolences to the Callaham Family. May Jehovah God bless you and help you to endure at this very difficult time in life. Please know Jesus has promised a time when we WILL see our loved ones again. That is at John 5:28-29. That promise is to everyone. Until then. Cherish all the wonderful memories you had before Mr. Callaham's passing.

Jean - October 11, 2013 at 08:35 AM

YH

“ I am going to miss this man so much!!!! I affectionately called him "daddy C, because that's what you were to me, a father figure. I appreciate his advice and his soft spoken kind heart. Never did he have a complaint about anything. I know you loved me and I will always love you!! Can't wait to see you when Jesus comes back to get his children.



Yvette Hart - August 27, 2013 at 03:28 PM

ND

“ To the Family of Bennie Callaham,

*There are nothing but fond members of Bennie from the Dumas Family. He gave our mother the nickname "Pluck" years ago and that name will live on because of him.*



*Bennie, we are really gonna miss you. All those things about your smiling, time came when you had to go. Peace and Blessings to you LaVerne and Family,*

*Lovingly submitted Nita Dumas.*

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**Nita Dumas** - August 27, 2013 at 12:05 PM

CJ

“ *Sending our deepest condolences and prayers of comfort and peace.*

*-Charles and Evelyn Mills, Charmaine and Jordyn*

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**Charmaine Jones** - August 27, 2013 at 09:54 AM

MW

“ Please accept my deepest condolences on the the loss of your dear Mr. Callahan Sr. The loss of loved one can be very painful, and very difficult to understand. This is because death was never Our Creators' purpose for mankind. You see, death is an enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:26)) as a matter of fact God hates death, May you draw much comfort from the wonderful hope found in Gods' Word The Bible. John 5:28,29 tells us in part" ....Do not marvel at this, the hour is coming when they will hear his voice and come out of the memorial tombs". Soon we will an earth wide resurrection, back to a paradise earth (Psalm 37: 9-11), Revelation 21:3,4). This will occur just like the nine documented cases documented in The Bible. May these scriptures sooth your broken heart and give you peace.  
Sincerely Mrs.. D. Ward Michigan. More Bible-based comfort can be found on the website [www. Jw.org](http://www.Jw.org)

Mrs. D. Ward - August 24, 2013 at 05:12 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 - August 24, 2013 at 03:10 PM

OB

To the Callaham Family, My God comfort you in your lost, Bennie fought a good fight and may he rest in peace.

Oscar J. Butler

Oscar J Butler - August 27, 2013 at 07:30 AM

JH

*Please accept my deepest sympathy in the lost of Bennie. I knew him while he was a member of the Richmond Fire Department. May he rest in peace.*

*The sorrow of the faithful is not that of permanent loss, but the tender sense of sadness that comes in saying good-bye for now to someone we love.*

*May today's sorrow give way to the peace and comfort of God's love.*

*It will be the little things that you will remember, the quiet moments, the smiles, the laughter. And although it may seem hard right now, it will be the memories of these little things that help to push away the pain and bring the smiles back again.*

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**John Hinant** - August 27, 2013 at 08:56 AM

WE

*Bennie you always spoke softly but carried a big stick. You will truly be missed by all especially for your work in the community, including your participation in the Armstrong-Walker Reunion. May your family gather strength in knowing that you have no more sickness or pain, and that you are in a better place. Claude and Wilma Edmonds*

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**Wilma Edmonds** - August 27, 2013 at 01:07 PM

MF

*I will ALWAYS remember "Uncle Bennie". To the Callaham Family and to Brandonn, Bridgette and Aunt Esther, I will trully miss his laughter, hugs and kisses. Such a sweet and humble spirit....I am shocked to have heard of his passing! i will always remember the days he would always call out looking for some of my moms "homemade baked rolls". Please be strong and hold to God's unchanging hand, He will give you the strength you need to makie it through! Luv you all!*

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**Mia Hilliard and The Hilliard Family** - August 27, 2013 at 07:08 PM

SM

*To LaVerne and family I hope you can find some comfort in your many special memories and in the thought of the happy years you shared.*

*Sharon Taylor McCloud*

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**Sharon Taylor McCloud** - August 28, 2013 at 11:01 AM

SD

*God bless you Bennie RIP Shelia Woodson&Diane McCray We are so glad to have known you Your smile and laughter will never be forgotten*

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**Shelia & Diane** - August 28, 2013 at 03:21 PM

AG

*To Laverne and family, May God comfort you and the family at this difficult time. Bennie will truly be missed. RIP my dear friend. Alma Gates*

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**Alma Gates** - August 28, 2013 at 04:46 PM

RB

*Sorry for your loss*

*Roney Boyd*

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**Roney Boyd** - August 29, 2013 at 08:38 AM

DA

*TO THE CALLAHAN FAMILY, I MET MR. CALLAHAN WHEN MY GRANDSON PLAYED BASKETBALL. WHAT A KIND AND GENTLE MAN . I PRAY THAT YOUR FAITH WILL COMFORT YOU AT THIS TIME. GOD WILL BE YOUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH. DIANE WILLIAMS ASHBY*

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**DIANE ASHBY** - August 29, 2013 at 02:19 PM