



Cornelius Joshua West Sr.

October 3, 1926 - September 6, 2023

His Life & Legacy

Mr. Cornelius “Neal” Joshua West, Sr., transitioned from labor to reward surrounded by his loving family, on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. He was born on October 3, 1926, to the late, Mr. William West, Sr., and Mrs. Melissa Brown West (a founding member of the Good Shepherd Baptist Church).

He attended George Mason Elementary School and Maggie L. Walker High School where he met the love of his life and married the late Inez Greene on October 23, 1943. To this union, God blessed them with two sons, the late Darryl and the late Cornelius West, Jr. He was also preceded in death by his six siblings, Herman, Sr., John, Ruth Vincent, William “Bill”, Reverend George, and Sarah Pryor Singleton.

He was affectionally known to most as “Granddad” or “Uncle Neal”. He appreciated his family, and the family adored him. He and his granddaughter, Tami, had a special bond and they loved spending time together talking, watching TV and of course, going out to eat at his favorite restaurants, Golden Corral and Cracker Barrel. At Cracker Barrel, every server knew his name and always had a reserved seat for him by the window. These special times will be truly missed by Tami who served as one of his devoted caregivers until his passing.

He was a very friendly, outgoing, and gregarious person. He was a dapper dresser and loved wearing his suits with matching tie and shoes. Also, he loved to drive and continued to drive until April 2023. He and his wife, Inez, were avid bowlers with the Saturday Evening Recreation League. At A. H. Robins he also participated in the departmental bowling league as they traveled from state to state. The couple could be seen together at many activities around the community. This included dining at "Golden Corral" on Friday nights with dear friends, Robert "Mickey" Jr., and Sylvia Melvin. In preparation for his job at A. H. Robins Pharmaceuticals, his supervisor encouraged him to obtain additional training. He attended Smith-Madden School of Business on Clay Street in downtown Richmond and was awarded a Certificate in Business Preparation. During his career at Robins, he worked in different segments of the company. He retired from a long and glorious career in the Research and Development Division Product Evaluation & Special Pharmaceutical Services.

He was baptized at Good Shepherd Baptist Church under the late Rev. Andrew David Smith. As a youngster, he joined the Baptist Young Peoples Union (BYPU). Early in life he discovered his calling as a singer, having been blessed and gifted with a beautiful, lyrical, tenor voice. As he performed, he learned how to paint a picture through his musical interpretation and vocal improvisations. He sang with a local group called The Five Kings of Harmony. They performed in the city and surrounding counties for many years. He also participated in many of the church choirs beginning with the Junior Choir, the Senior Choir I & II that combined to become the Senior Choir and later the Sanctuary Choir. A Men's Choir was formed in the late 60's where he was the first president. In church school, he helped to organize and serve as Chair of the Committee that sponsored the annual church school picnic for 12 years. For thirty years as a member of church school, he chose books from four different biblical translations. He would purchase the books from the Gospel

Bookstore and distribute them to the church school members. He served as a member of the Trustee Board for 10 years. Also, he was a member of the Good Shepherd Senior Center.

He volunteered singing and directing the Senior Center Choir and transported members to and from the center. He was also a member of the Wednesday night community praying band that met from house to house. The highest honor he was privileged to receive was in 2022 when he was elected to be the Honorary Father of the Good Shepherd Baptist Church. He enjoyed and appreciated that honor, which was an easy role for him to fill. He sung his last solo at church on Sunday, September 3, 2023.

He leaves to cherish his memories his devoted and primary caregiver granddaughter, Tangela "Tami" Vaughan and devoted grandson, Torrey West; one great-grandson, Diamonte Lewis; two great-granddaughters, Devin Vaughan (devoted) and Tori West; devoted daughter-in-law and caregiver, Doris B. West; two nephews, Herman West, Jr. (Doris Ann) and George Vincent; three nieces, Christine Harris (Timothy), Earlene Walker (Kermit) and Beverly West; sister-in-law, Mary West; loyal friends, Robert "Mickey" Melvin, Ruth Greene and Reverend Arthur Blackwell. A host of great nieces, nephews, cousins, the Greene family and other relatives and friends.

Notice: Change of Address

Dear Family & Friends: I want you to know I have moved.

I received a call from God, the chief architect, who informed me that my new house was ready and that I could move in immediately.

I just did not have time to give you notice,

My new home is furnished and it's such a beautiful sight to behold.

It is located in an exclusive estate area,

and it sits behind a pearly gate, just off a serene celestial shore.

Of course, the streets are paved with gold

and every day is Sunday here, I have been told.

There is peace, joy and happiness here

with no more pain and cares of the world to bear.

No strife, nor discontent,

there is only sweet serenity everywhere.

Let me give you my new address, because I highly recommend you make plans to live here, too:

Cornelius J. West, Sr.

1 Gate to the City Avenue

Godstown, Heaven 90623

P.S. I don't have a telephone yet, but just call God.

If you don't have his number, he is listed in the Good Book on every page-contact him.

To hear his amazing singing voice you can go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U485GfzriQ8>

Sunday Live Stream | September 3, 2023 | Good Shepherd Baptist Church

1:01:26 – 1:04:49

Previous Events

Public Visitation

SEP 14. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Family Hour

SEP 14. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

SEP 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Baptist Church
1127 N. 28th Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Cornelius Joshua West Sr..*



September 13, 2023 at 03:28 PM



“ *Dear Tangela -*

Sending Love & Light to you and your family. May every beautiful memory you have of your grandfather sustain you through your grief and bring you joy as you heal. God's comfort and peace to you my friend.

~Pat Sutton

Patricia Sutton - September 13, 2023 at 01:48 PM

TW

“ Dear Tangela,



You were a loving and devoted granddaughter to your grandad. You have always been there for him through the years up until his passing. You were not only his granddaughter but a devoted caregiver. I know that he truly cherished you, I could see the joy and appreciation in his eyes at our last dinner on Sunday, Sept. 3rd at Red Lobster. He sang a little and ate a lot of his shrimp...lol.

The last thing that I did was to help him in the car and I scraped off a famous Red Lobster cheddar biscuit with my shoe and toes....LOL. It had gotten stuck to the bottom of his shoe that a lady dropped beside his car. I had a great time as usual and I was glad I decided to go although I was tired. "Grandad" will be missed by many. He was a soldier and you couldn't tell he was sick. I admired his strength and will to live. I'm always saying, I'm going to be "95" driving on interstate 95, but grandad was 96 so I'm going to shoot for that goal and longer...LOL

Love you Tangie and I'm here for you and your family whenever possible. Cherish the love and memories in your heart.

*Sincerely,
Tammy Williams*

Tammy Williams - September 13, 2023 at 12:28 PM

GK

“ *Gwynneth Knight lit a candle in memory of Cornelius Joshua West Sr.*



Gwynneth Knight - September 12, 2023 at 11:51 AM

GK

Our sincere condolences to the West family.

Gwynneth Knight - September 12, 2023 at 12:02 PM

AW

“ *Doris and Tangela
Our deepest sympathy to you and the family.*



*Anthony and Peggy West
North Chesterfield, VA*

Anthony and Peggy West - September 11, 2023 at 02:30 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 - September 11, 2023 at 12:45 PM