

## Eugene Carson Carnette Jr.

July 13, 1935 - March 18, 2018

Our dearly beloved husband, father, brother, uncle and friend, Eugene (Tom) Carson Carnette, Jr. slipped quietly and peacefully away into Eternal Rest on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 1:00 a.m. in Mechanicsville, VA.

Born in Wise County, VA on July 13, 1935 to the late Carson Eugene and Myra Jessie Stillwell Carnette, Tom (as he was called growing up) was the second of nine children, and the oldest son. He developed a life-long love of cooking and agriculture working on the family farm and helping his mother care for his younger siblings. Tom went to a one-room elementary schoolhouse and then was bussed to the segregated high school in the next county. It was so far away he had to board with families there during sports seasons. Tom left high school before graduating and joined the United States Marine Corps. He spent three years in active duty, serving his country in Hawaii and Japan, and was honorably discharged.

Gene (as he called himself as an adult), finished high school and completed three years of college after leaving active duty in the Marines. This exhausted his GI Bill benefits, so he had to get a job, and he found a position as an elementary teacher. This is when he met the love of his life, Ortygia Mae Allen. Of course, he was introduced to her as Carson, his given name, and her family called him that for the rest of his life. Gene and Ortygia were joined in holy matrimony on April 22, 1962. They loved and cherished each other for

over 55 years.

Gene and Ortygia taught together for a year in Big Stone Gap, VA, but they knew Gene needed to complete his college education. They moved to Petersburg, VA, and Gene completed a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from Virginia State University, becoming the first person in his family to earn a college degree. After graduation, he joined the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Home Administration (USDA FHA). Gene worked for the USDA FHA for 36 years, during this time he earned a master's degree in Agricultural Economics from American University in Washington, D.C. During his career at USDA FHA, Gene was the first African-American to be named Assistant Supervisor, the first to be named Supervisor, and he retired as the Director of the Farm Program Division.

Throughout his life, Gene enjoyed many activities. He played semi-pro baseball as an adult, and was a little league coach. He served his church as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. He was a Boy Scout troop leader and an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. Gene loved to cook, and many friends and family have fond memories of fried fish and his big black pot.

Above all, Gene loved his wife, his children, and all of his family (parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins). He was a dedicated husband, son, brother, uncle, and father who worked tirelessly to provide the best for all of his loved ones.

Gene is survived by his wife, Ortygia Mae (Allen) Carnette; two children, Sharon (Michael) Spruill, of King George, VA and Michael (Lauren) Carnette, of Charleston, SC; two young granddaughters, Leah Catherine and Hazel. He is also survived by three sisters, Charlotte Brown, of Coeburn, VA; Elizabeth (Robert) Blair, of Beckley, WV, and Linda (David) Jordan, of Fairfax, VA; four

brothers, Joe W. Carnette, of Knoxville, TN; Anthony (Chesteen) Carnette, of Kingsport, TN; Calvin D. 'Jack' Carnette, of Coeburn, VA, and Johnny (Robin) Carnette, of Charlotte, NC. He was preceded in death by his elder sister Shirley Perry of Bluefield, WV and his brother Sandy of Coeburn, VA.

# Cemetery Details

## Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road  
Triangle, VA 22172

# Previous Events

## viewing

MAR 23. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

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

## Wake

MAR 23. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church  
801 Sophia Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

## Service

MAR 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church  
801 Sophia Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



# Tribute Wall



“ *Eugene Carson Carnette Jr.*

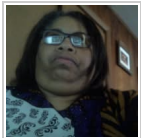
October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Gene's passing. We worked with him for many years and it was always a pleasant experience. He was a great example of what hard work and honesty could accomplish. Our condolences to the family.*

*Richard & Linda Seay*

**LINDA & RICHARD SEAY** - March 27, 2018 at 08:01 AM



“ *Condolences to the Carnette Family from the family of Sam & Calenthe Blair children. We love you all.*

**Bertha Quansah** - March 25, 2018 at 03:15 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the Carnette family. Rest In Peace my good brother in the chapter invisible. Brother Carnette was the first Nupe I ever met. He & I would joke whenever we met about my admiration for his prowess in courting then marrying his wife whom all the fellas had a crush for. Good brother, mentor, friend.*

**Delbert Horton** - March 24, 2018 at 08:19 PM

EH

“ My hearth felt sympathy to you, Ortygia and the Carnette family. The memories of Carson , you, Sylvia, and I are yet great. God's blessing of peace and comfort be ever with you. Randolph

Edward Hutchinson,Sr. - March 23, 2018 at 02:21 PM

CR

“ My deepest sympathy to the Carnette Family. May the peace of God abide within you.

Corine Reasor

Corine Reasor - March 23, 2018 at 10:41 AM

RL

“ To The Carnette Family, May God continue to Strengthen you and give you His Peace at this time of need. I will continue to cherish Mr. Carnette' Christian Spirit...Love to you all from my family to yours...RUDYARD " BUTCH" LEWIS



Rudyard Lewis - March 23, 2018 at 09:56 AM

HE

“ Today, I learned that your family is mourning the loss of Eugene.Please accept my condolences and be assured that almighty God is certainly aware of your painful feelings. May God comfort and sustain you to get through this day and others to come (Isa 41:13). Wishing your family all the best at this most difficult period.

H Eubanks - March 21, 2018 at 07:25 AM



“ 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - March 19, 2018 at 04:44 PM