



## Howard Griner

May 21, 1932 - October 3, 2018

Howard Griner was the 6th child born to Josephine Mahoney Griner and John H. Griner. He was born in a row house on Chase Street in East Baltimore May 21, 1932. Howard and his 4 older brothers John, Everette, Bill, Calvin, and sister Sonya had a strict and rigorous upbringing. Besides attending school, the boys worked in their father's cabinet factory. They also worked in his restaurant on Jefferson St.. Howard and Calvin sold codfish cakes at lunchtime to Dunbar students as part of their responsibilities.

His mother died October 6, 1949. All his life he regretted having such a short time with her. He inherited his musical ear and love of music from her. Despite her best efforts she was unable to persuade his father of the importance of taking the piano lessons he longed for. She also instilled in him his love of the Lord and the Christian Faith.

While he attended Dunbar High School, he was thrilled to be selected to be "Boy Governor of Maryland". His exemplary high school years earned him college scholarships. Instead, Howard joined the Air Force and worked at the National Security Agency doing decoding and encrypting for national defense. He loved his work because it was like a game to him.

He met Norma Dungee. She felt he was a very, very nice man. They married in less than a year in 1954. Elizabeth was born in Washington DC prior to his first overseas post in Weisbaden, Germany. With only one child, they were able to travel extensively throughout Europe. Norma's college major in German and fluency in French served them well, and Howard was able to learn enough German to impress the locals with his efforts.

Lawrence was born in Germany almost 4 years later than Elizabeth; and the family moved to San Angelo, Texas. Only 18 months after Lawrence, Howard J. came along and the family headed east. The first Negroes in the area, Norma and Howard bought a house in a Jewish community in NW Baltimore which quickly changed character.

Dad, Howard was about to be sent overseas again and Norma did not want to uproot the children from their schools and friends. He resigned from the Air Force in August 1964. He then had a number of different jobs like selling Encyclopedia Britannica door to door. He applied for a warehouse position with Equitable Trust Bank. He achieved the highest score on the employment test and was accused of cheating. When it was found he had not, the bank believed they had found an excellent candidate to be the first manager of color of a major bank in Maryland. He managed their Edmonson Village branch for several years. Even though he had not attended college, he rose to the challenge enjoying his work, his camaraderie with his customers and esteem from his coworkers. He absolutely loved helping people find their right path to financial success. On leaving the bank, he worked for Morgan State Small Business Administration and then started his own business on Howard St.. After he closed his store, he worked as the business manager for a number of different companies.

He was married to Norma Elizabeth Dungee for 18 years before divorcing. In the last years of his life they rekindled their friendship.

He is survived by his children, sister Nelita Parris, brother Dr. Winston Griner, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. And a host of nieces nephews and devoted friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Arbutus

1101 Sulphur Spring Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21227

# Previous Events

## viewing

OCT 9. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Family Hour

OCT 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Howard Griner*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *To the Family,  
At a time like this, reflection on the promises of Almighty God is very comforting. Like the promise at Isaiah 25:8 to swallow up death forever. May these thoughts encourage you during your time of bereavement. Our condolences to you and your family.*

Howard Family - October 09, 2018 at 10:19 AM



*To The Griner Family:  
We are so sorry to hear about the transition of your dear loved one. May God grant you peace and strength at this very difficult time. Please know that we are here for you and that we truly love you.*

*The Chaney Family*

C.D. Chaney - October 13, 2018 at 06:49 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Howard Griner.*



October 09, 2018 at 08:34 AM

DR

“ My husband and I both worked with Howard at Equitable Trust. Howard had the most musical speaking voice - he should have been on the radio - and I once asked him if he could sing. "Oh, no, no, no." At school my teacher told me to just mouth the words.”

*I didn't believe him.*

*He was a delightful companion and friend, and we will both miss him.*

*Jim and Dani Rice*

---

**Dani Rice** - October 08, 2018 at 10:53 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.

---

**March Funeral Homes** - October 08, 2018 at 07:50 AM