



Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.

August 14, 1952 - May 15, 2019

Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr. was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, son, uncle, and friend. Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr. was called home to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on May 15, 2019 at McGuire Veterans Hospital. He was preceded in death by his parents William Henry and Madeline Hardy Merritt Sr., oldest son Kenneth Archie Merritt, Jr., and brother Rev. William H. Merritt, Jr.

Kenneth Sr. was born on August 14, 1952 in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. He received his education from Richmond City Public Schools, graduating from Maggie L. Walker High School in 1970.

Kenneth Sr. joined the Army-RA on May 28, 1971, and received an honorable discharge on May 27, 1977. Kenneth Sr. was a loyal employee of the United State Postal Service for 21 years. In his spare time, Kenneth Sr. devoted his time to youth sports, coaching basketball for Bethlehem Baptist Church and John F. Kennedy High School. Basketball was Kenneth's passion. He played for the Maggie L. Walker High School Green Dragon basketball team as a point guard. Merritt helped the Green Dragons win a State Championship and was awarded All Metro and All State honors. In addition, Merritt was a track star with a track record that stood for over 20 years at Maggie L. Walker. Kenneth Sr. attended J Sergeant Reynolds Community College, as well.

Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr. leaves to cherish his precious memories a loving and devoted wife of 53 years Livanna Carol Merritt. Together, they have six children: Uvonda S. Brooks (Willie), Kennard L. Merritt, Sr. (Charlette), Eric L. Thomas, Sr. (Ashley), Kendrick B. Merritt (Bonita), Kennethia K. Merritt (Rahsaan), and Kendall A. Merritt. He is, also, survived by his three sisters: Jacqueline Sutton, Iris Lee Merritt, and Clara Theresa Epps; four sisters-in-law: Esther L. Brooks (Michael), Ethel L. Thornton, Gaynelle M. Lipscomb, and Evangelist Carol B. Merritt; four brothers-in-law: Raymond Lipscomb Jr. (Shirley), William V. Lipscomb, Maynard B. Lipscomb, Sr. (Gayle), and David B. Lipscomb. He has seventeen grandchildren: Kenmiqua N. Merritt, Kennisha K. Merritt, Kennitra L. Merritt, Kendasia T. Johnson, Indya Neville, Shalaya O. McEachin (Larry), Jasmine Brown, Shawn Johnson, Desiree M. Thomas, Kenandre R. Merritt, Kendrick D. Merritt, Kennard L. Merritt Jr., Ke'Vonne D. Merritt, Tejan W. Ross, Charles L. Smith, Eric L. Thomas Jr., and Gregory J. Thomas. There are ten great grandchildren: Khylee N. Merritt, Mileena N. Gomez, Norie' Simmons, Ja'Ve'll Brown, Ja'Shawn Brown, Shiya Scott, Laila McEachin, Jalien Johnson, Darcel King, Aireanna Thomas, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and his devoted friends Willie Davis, Clifford Robertson, Anthony "Shorty Red" Harris, Archie A. Claiborne, Sr., Ruben Copeland, and Maurice Wyatt.

Kenneth A. Merritt Sr., "I have loved you with an everlasting love." Jeremiah 31:3

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

4000 Pilots Lane
Richmond, VA 23222

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY **24.** 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

MAY **25.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Baptist Church
1920 Fairmount Ave
Richmond, VA

Tribute Wall



“ Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Prayers for the family during this time of sorrow!! God has now gained an Angel. Love you Kennethia!!



Yvette Rankin - May 25, 2019 at 08:34 AM



I offer my sincere condolence to his family. I had the privilege and the opportunity to met Kenneth Archie Merritt in 1975 on the West End Playground. I was 15 years old and I loved & enjoyed playing basketball. I will never forget that day in which I first met Kenneth. He was on the basketball court dribbling the basketball and I was amazed. I approached him and asked him to show me how to dribble like. Kenneth demonstrated it for me, and remember saying to him, one more time, and of course he did. That is way when I had learnt about his passing I had to attend his Furneral. As a result of meeting Kenneth Archie Merritt as well as many many others West End basketball players, I had the privilege and the opportunity to play basketball for Maggie Lena Walker High School. I would go to be an all Tournament/MVP basketball player at Clearfield Job Corp in Clearfield Utah, and would play for 3 different Colleges. Yes the West End Playground was were I really really learned to play basketball.

Anthony Rickelle Ford - May 26, 2019 at 06:36 AM

BP

“ All Love to my CG Family. Deepest condolences for the lost of a good man and a real G. Always, Bruce Powell and family



Bruce Powell - May 25, 2019 at 07:33 AM

CA

“ Angela “Beaver” Carter and the Carter family.



Carter - May 25, 2019 at 01:04 AM

VW

“ Viesta Washington lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.



Viesta Washington - May 25, 2019 at 01:02 AM

VW

To the Merritt family, you have my deepest sympathy. The Lord has him now and he is now at peace. An Angel with the Lord. May the good Lord give you peace & comfort at this tme. My Green Dragon, MLW4LIFE, classmate. 😊

Viesta Washington - May 25, 2019 at 01:07 AM

VW

“ *Viesta Washington lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.*



Viesta Washington - May 25, 2019 at 12:57 AM

VW

RIP. MLW4LIFE classmate

Viesta Washington - May 25, 2019 at 12:58 AM



“ *Cheryl's Classic Treats Box was purchased for the family of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr..*



May 24, 2019 at 07:24 PM

RG

“ *Mr. Merritt was a wonderful man and a great neighbor. He always spoke to me when I passed by his house and he was always willing to lend a hand. He kept a watchful eye over the neighborhood and made sure we all stayed safe. What I'll remember most are the kind words he said about my mother at her wake. Mr. Merritt, you'll truly be missed.*

Renice Gray - May 24, 2019 at 07:21 PM

ZS

Carol, Lisa n the Merritt Family, to All of U my deepest condolences in the passing of Ur husband, Dad, granddad, greatgrand dad, brother, uncle n friend! Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning! Hold on to Your Memories, they will take U thru for a life time! Thoughts Hugs n Prayers to U all! Love Zelma Sheppard!!

Zelma H. Sheppard - May 25, 2019 at 04:25 PM

DR

*“ I am so sorry for your loss, may God be with your family.
Debbie Robinson*

Debbie Robinson - May 24, 2019 at 06:12 PM

JM

“ To the Merritt Family. I was so sorry to hear of the passing of my fellow Maggie L. Walker basketball player and your dear love one. I will never forget the phrase that Kenneth always used before we played a game and during the game. He would say “ RUN GUN AND HAVE FUN” . It was his way of motivating us to play hard and play to win. He was a wonderful human being and he will be truly missed.

John Minott - May 24, 2019 at 05:49 PM

SB

*“ Sheila Ford Brown lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.*



Sheila Ford Brown - May 24, 2019 at 05:36 PM

AH

“ Anthony Harris lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.



Anthony Harris - May 24, 2019 at 04:24 PM

SW

“ Sharon Wilkins-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.



Sharon Wilkins-Johnson - May 24, 2019 at 10:20 AM

RT

“ Roslyn Thomas lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.



Roslyn Thomas - May 23, 2019 at 09:49 AM

ST

lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt Sr.

Sabrina taylor - May 24, 2019 at 04:31 PM

AL

“ *Angela Lipscomb lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.*



Angela Lipscomb - May 23, 2019 at 06:45 AM

SS

“ *Condolences to my classmate. Kenneth lived upstairs from me in the big red barn at Allen and Idlewood Ave. He was as funny guy in HS and we were good friends. It has been many years since we last spoke. My condolences to the family for your loss*

Susan K. Scott - May 22, 2019 at 04:33 PM

RH

“ *Kennard, Kenethia, and family, you have our deepest sympathy; our brother will be missed and his life always a part of ours. He shared his testimonies of the grace and mercy of God in his life with us as we together studied the Word of God. We will forever be indebted to him for his love and gift of life, we love him. Our Love and Prayers are with you always, the Bethlehem Baptist Church Men Fellowship Sunday Church School Class*



Robert Henderson - May 22, 2019 at 07:53 AM

SC

“ Sending our condolences, Sheila, Rudy Jr., and Shawnn Cunningham. Our hero, a true dedicated Maggie Walker Alumni Superstar will be deeply missed, the reunion at Dorey Park will not be the same. The show "Everybody knows Raymond", Everybody knew "Kenneth Merritt," a wonderful, supported husband, best dad, mentor, honest and loving man, etc. Rest, and may God comfort your loving legacy.

Sheila Cunningham - May 21, 2019 at 11:30 PM

JR

“ I thank God for "Merritt," my high school friend and fellow captain with Richard "Dickie Red" Jones of the Maggie L. Walker High School State 1971 Champion Basketball Team! Merritt, keep your hang time, 'cause we all are following you and await our turn to retire in Glory!
Jerome C. Ross, Ph.D.
"Jerry" #32

Jerome C. Ross - May 21, 2019 at 06:35 PM

CM

The truth and nothing but the truth. When you talk about point guard we always include Merritt in that conversation. A real man and a good man. Charles Neto Moore

Charles Neto Moore - May 21, 2019 at 11:26 PM

MT

My condolences to the Merritt family, and may god continue to bless you, as this is the day the lord has made.

mario thornton - May 23, 2019 at 09:48 AM

OC

The Copeland family a true friend for over 50 years you will truly me missed

Oneal Copeland - May 24, 2019 at 04:09 PM

JP

“ *JACQUELINE Pemberton lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Archie Merritt, Sr.*



JACQUELINE Pemberton - May 21, 2019 at 12:35 PM

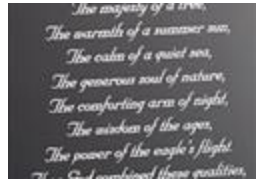
JP

To the Merritt Family may GOD comfort and keep you at this difficult time.

JACQUELINE Pemberton - May 21, 2019 at 12:36 PM

LE

“ *Kennard Merrit and family you all have my deepest condolences my prayers are with you. As I look through the memories that you all have shared I understand how blessed you all were to have a strong father who was loved and cherished by many.*



Latonia Edwards - May 21, 2019 at 08:56 AM

RH

“ *Sis. Kenethia & Family, We grieve and mourn with you; our love and prayers are with you always as we call upon the comfort of our Lord Jesus Christ. Love, the Bethlehem Baptist Church Bereavement Ministry*



Robert Henderson - May 21, 2019 at 06:05 AM

RC

“ So sad for the family and love ones to my friend and old basketball teammate .May you rest in peace, Ricky Cooper.

ricky cooper - May 20, 2019 at 03:15 PM

GF

“ To the Merritt Family,
I would like to Express My Deepest Sympathy
in the loss of your Love One. Kenneth grew
up in the West End and was a well known &
friendly person to all. He will be missed.



Geraldine Brown & Family - May 20, 2019 at 01:32 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 - May 20, 2019 at 10:27 AM