



## Reynard Allen Black

August 2, 1961 - February 5, 2018

Reynard Allen Black, Sr. "Rennie", 56 of Charles City, Virginia passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at home on February 5, 2018, after a courageous 4-year battle with Liposarcoma. He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas R. Black Sr., and brother, Thomas R. Black, Jr.

Rennie confessed his love for Jesus at an early age, and joined Parrish Hill Baptist Church, where he served as a trustee, member of the senior and volunteer choirs, and frequently assisted the youth programs. He was guided by his love for God and his Christian faith. His family was important to him, and he cherished many vacations and celebrations throughout his years with them.

Rennie was an avid outdoors-man; he enjoyed swimming, running, working in his yard, and spending time with his family. He was a certified grill master, and was always on grill duty at his family cookouts. He was the anchor of his family, and was the person they'd call on for help no matter how large or difficult the task. He was notorious for strategic thinking and analyzing processes to ensure minimal to no re-work, and in the end everyone would be thoroughly pleased with the result.

Rennie served in the United States Army for six years as a Calvary Scout, and achieved numerous medals and awards. He dedicated 28 years to The Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, working as an explosives technician, fire fighter, and fire inspector. After retirement, he took his talents to Charles City Public Schools, serving as a transportation expert, earning him an official job title as

"The Bus Driver" as he was affectionately nick-named by his loving niece Latisha Brown. The Bus Driver gained a new support group consisting of not only faculty and staff of the school system, but also the students that he picked up along his bus route.

Rennie leaves to cherish his loving memory: his soulmate of 29 years, Wilhelmenia B. Black; sons, Reynard Jr. and Wesley Black; mother, Emma J. Black; sister, Tracey Jones (Ricky); brother, Clyde Black, Sr.; mother-in-law, Arlene N. Brown; three sisters-in-law, Willie Ann Otey (Waddell), Nina B. Friend and Brenda Black; three brothers-in-law, William (Joyce) James, and Carlton (Hope) Brown; two godchildren, David Jones, Jr. and Kayla Otey. Rennie also leaves behind a large network of other loving family members and friends, including two devoted, Floyd "Big Daddy" Bowman and Michael Boyd. He was well known for his humorous quote, "You is Terrible", knowing full well the grammar was all wrong.

## Liposarcoma

Rennie was diagnosed as having a soft tissue sarcoma in May 2014 that would be later known as Liposarcoma. Liposarcoma is a soft tissue cancer that occurs in the muscles, bones, nerves, and other connective tissue. Within the United States, around 11,000 people are diagnosed, comprising less than 1% of adult's cancers and 21% of children's cancers. Throughout his fight, he touched many lives and found out God's purpose in choosing him to battle this rare disease.

Liposarcomas are rare, and Rennie's case was especially unique in that his first tumor grew to be 16 pounds in size and was deemed in-operable. It was at this point that Rennie began the fight of his life. Ren shared with all interested that he placed his hands on his stomach and talked to God about it. He acknowledge to God that the diagnosis was too big for him and he was releasing it to him promising he would follow God through this journey and that's just what he did.

The results of the tumor type, stage, and grade determines how the sarcoma

will be treated, nearly resulting in almost all cases requiring surgery due to the fact that there is no other known cure. The more advanced cases may require patients to be treated with radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy to slow the growth of the tumors.

Rennie was referred to Dr. Brian J. Kaplan of VCU Health Center, well known for his expertise in sarcoma surgeries and highly recommended because he was considered the only doctor in the Central Virginia Region that could "possibly" remove the tumor. It was a few months after the diagnosis that God's Grace and Mercy stepped in and Dr. Kaplan informed Rennie that he would remove the tumor, but warned there was a possibility he could lose some or partial other organs. During these types of cases, it is important for the patient to have a strong support system because the intensity, side effects, and duration of the treatment can be disheartening and challenging. Rennie had a dynamic support system comprised of family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and his community.

Rennie was determined to share his story with everyone, not just knowledge about the disease but the fact for him there was no cure. He wanted people to know about CANCER because he was not only devastated but clueless as to what he could have done to prevent it. He would later learn in 2016 that his soft tissue sarcoma had now been identified as Liposarcoma. The symptoms don't surface for quite some time because the disease hides itself in the soft tissues. Rennie was a warrior, and he never took a day for granted. He recognized that each day is a gift from God. He was very positive about his treatments and was never heard complaining or having anger nor resentment for what was happening to his body.

VCU Health asked Rennie if he would donate his tumor for research and he gladly signed the papers. He told them he wanted to help the next person and although there was not curative medicine for him perhaps the research would enable them to one day find a cure. Rennie had a awesome team of doctors, nurses, care partners and lab technicians. Most notably his Oncologist, Dr.

Andre Poklepovic, who tried relentlessly to find a cure for not only Rennie but others that would one day too be faced with this dreaded disease.

The VCU Health team was fantastic; Rennie received white-glove treatment for the course of two years, with doctors on call, and inpatient treatment hospital stays. Unfortunately, in 2016, two years after having his initial 16 pound tumor removed, a new set of growth formed and began growing in his abdomen. He tried numerous chemotherapy drugs, clinical trials, and even radiation therapy. After none of those treatments were successful in shrinking or killing the tumors, these too were also successfully removed, and after healing from surgery, Rennie was able to return to his day to day activities.. In November of 2017, Rennie's tumors had returned once again, with a vengeance. This time, he was treated with an immunotherapy drug in an attempt to finally find a successful cure. Unfortunately, this treatment was also unsuccessful at shrinking his tumors, and they grew very rapidly, consuming his entire abdomen within a few weeks' time. Rennie lost this battle on February 5, 2018 at 6:45 p.m., but gained his wings and fulfilled his promise to God to follow him all the way.

Through it all, his loving and devoted soulmate was by his side every step of the way. They went to his appointments together, and were also side by side while receiving treatments. Rennie was courageous and in the midst of his battle. He also built up strength to support his wife Menia at her appointments after her breast cancer diagnosis. His faith and trust in God helped not only himself, but his entire family endure a long four year battle with this detrimental diagnosis. We will continue to pray for a cure, and have hope that through research, science, and prayer, there will one day be a cure for Liposarcoma. Rennie's last wish would be to encourage loved ones to support family members and friends who may be diagnosed with any type of terminal illness. No one deserves to fight alone, and the presence of family and friends during these times is essential to maintaining a positive state of mind.

# Cemetery Details

## Dobson-Black Family Cemetery

11241 Weyanoke Road  
Charles City, VA 23030

# Previous Events

## viewing

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

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

## Service

FEB **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Parrish Hill Baptist Church  
12401 John Tyler Memorial Highway  
Charles City, VA 23030

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reynard Allen Black*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Rennie didn't define neighbor as a person who lived next door. He defined neighbor as a Fellow Man; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself - Mathew 19;19 (King James Version). Rest in Peace, Rennie, Job Well Done. You will be greatly missed. Thank you !!!, for always being there for our son, The Late Jarrett Robinson, you understood, listened and guided him in the right directions when he need it the most. Thank you for being the best neighbor to us, we love you. Red, Bridget, Ciarra and Cozy*

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**Bridget Christian-Robinson** - February 09, 2018 at 12:10 PM



“ *Wilhelmenia and family,  
Warren and I were saddened to learn of Rennie's passing, but we know that God makes no mistakes, and Rennie is now resting in the bosom of Abraham. We pray that God's presence in your lives will bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.  
With our deepest sympathy,  
Warren & JoAnne Bell*

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**JoAnne Bell** - February 09, 2018 at 01:39 AM



“ *Menia and family, I want to express my deepest sympathies. I have lost a great friend and coworker. I can't imagine your loss. I have no doubt he's in a better place. He was definitely a man of faith. He's with our great father now. - Ronnie Callis*

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**Ronnie Callis** - February 08, 2018 at 08:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Reynard Allen Black.*



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February 08, 2018 at 07:16 PM



“ *Sending prayers for peace your way. May God's love and mercy sustain you in the many days ahead. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."*

*Pamela & Elliott Eddie*

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**Pamela Eddie** - February 08, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ *There never seems to be words that are adequate to express our feelings doing such a time as this. However, the words of Jesus can bring comfort, "Jesus said, I go to prepare a place for you". Just think of the beautiful place where we that believe will all be gathered together with Rennie one day. He fought a good fight and now has finished his race and received his crown. God is well pleased and we joy in his salvation. Just know that we all loved him and will miss him. In the days ahead if we lean and depend on Jesus, He will make everything alright. We are only a phone call away should you need us.*

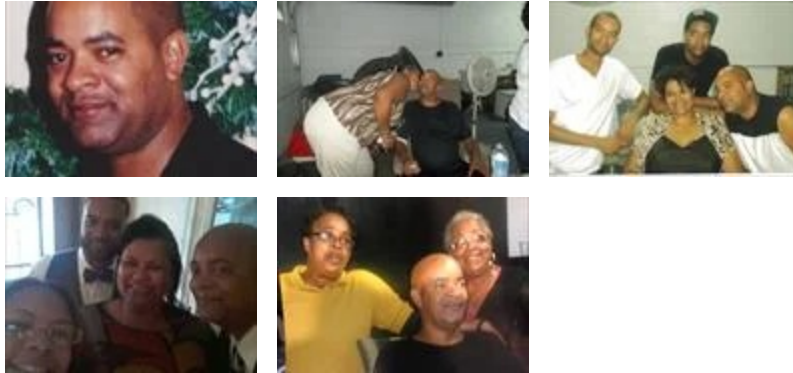
*Lovingly submitted,  
Brenda Jones-Cotman and Family*

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**Brenda Jones-Cotman** - February 08, 2018 at 11:48 AM

RJ

“ 22 files added to the tribute wall



Reynard Black Jr - February 08, 2018 at 10:07 AM

JA

“ FAMILY do not let your hearts be troubled.....God is still good!!!

JOHNJOHN&SHANNON ALLEN - February 08, 2018 at 09:48 AM

LC

“ Sending prayers of comfort to our dear cousins during this difficult time.

Lisa & Pam Christian - February 08, 2018 at 09:35 AM

SD

“ And then one day, I'll cross the river  
I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then, as death gives way to victory  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns

"Our hearts felt sympathy to our Cousins  
during this difficult time."

Sonia Black Davenport and Bonnie Sue Black

sonia Davenport - February 08, 2018 at 09:03 AM

BB

“ *Brenda Bowman lit a candle in memory of Reynard Allen Black*



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**Brenda Bowman** - February 08, 2018 at 06:27 AM

EM

“ *To the Family of Brother Reynard, I am sending my condolences to each of you as you go through this difficult time, even as we who are in Christ may feel the hurt, I leave with you the Peace of God that will pass all human understanding. May God's love sustain you and His hands of protection keep you in His care. Brother Reynard ran his race well and made it to the finish line. To God be the Glory. Evangelist Shearline Melvin*

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**Evangelist Shearline Melvin** - February 07, 2018 at 09:04 PM

CB

“ *Carissa Brown lit a candle in memory of Reynard Allen Black*



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**Carissa Brown** - February 07, 2018 at 05:15 PM

CB

*What a Mighty God We Serve! In the Midst of Heartache, He comes and wipes our tears away. In the midst of the most devastating loss, is where there is the magnificent Gain. God specializes in taking us at our weakest to mold us into our strongest. When we feel like we've been broken down to nothing, is when the light reflects the intended something. When you are feeling like you can't, is God's time to show up and show out to show you that with Him, YOU CAN!! Every flower has a season, a scent, a color, a texture, a seed, a stem, a root, a time to live, a time to grow, a time to multiply, and then God reaches down and picks it and adds it to His garden in Paradise. God's flower that He custom designed that we called Rennie, blossomed and did all that it was designed to do. Now he's blossoming in the garden in paradise, handpicked by God Himself. Be Blessed to know that his sweet fragrance will always be in every breeze that comes your way. God is just Good Like that. You can Do ALL things through Christ who Strengthens You! I pray your strength in the Lord. This ONE Thing I Know that I Know that I KNOW, God Will NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU!*  
Love, Carissa

Carissa Brown - February 07, 2018 at 05:57 PM

HB

“ *HATTIE CHRISTIAN BROOKS lit a candle in memory of Reynard Allen Black*



HATTIE CHRISTIAN BROOKS - February 07, 2018 at 04:00 PM

HB

“ *To the Black Family & Brown Family you are in our prayers and thoughts.He fought a good fight and now he is at peace. Thank God for life and all the good times you shared. Keep your heads up and keep the faith. God Bless the Brooks Family, (Thomas Hattie*

HATTIE CHRISTIAN BROOKS - February 07, 2018 at 03:59 PM

EM

*To the family of Brother Reynard, I am sending my condolences to each of you as you go through this difficult time, even as we who are in Christ may feel the hurt, I leave with you the Peace of God that will pass all human understanding. May God's Love sustain you and His hands of protection keep you in His care. Brother Reynard ran his race well and made it to the finish line. To God be the Glory. Evangelist Shearline Mevin.*

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**Evangelist Shearline Melvin** - February 07, 2018 at 08:37 PM

TF

“ *To The Family Of Reynard Black Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With You.*



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**The Charity Family** - February 07, 2018 at 11:48 AM

GJ

“ Where do I begin, but here. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Rennie, you were a great husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend simply great all around. If I had to describe you in words I would say; Self-assurance, Self- confidence, dignity and grace. To have known you was to love you, I can't imagine life without you being a part of it but I know God makes no mistakes and he would never put anymore on me than I could bear. It's one thing I can say I am so glad you're no longer in pain, you have earned your wings fly high and watch over us. I Love You Vet !

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**Gail VET Jones** - February 07, 2018 at 11:32 AM

JA

“ My condolences to the family.

*Jeffrey M. Allen*

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**Jeffrey M. Allen** - February 06, 2018 at 08:49 PM

AJ

*Rennie truly loved God , but God loves him more. My condolences to the family  
,,,, Alvin Jones*

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**Alvin Jones** - February 07, 2018 at 07:48 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** - February 06, 2018 at 03:41 PM