



Thomas Harold Gardner

October 4, 1922 - September 4, 2015

Thomas Harold Gardner was born to Joseph and Ella Coffey Gardner in New Orleans, LA on October 4, 1922. Preceding him in death were parents, wife: Martha Christian Gardner, two daughters, Thomasine Braxton and Alease Gardner, one sister; Hilda Gardner Roy, three brothers; James, William and Cornelius Gardner.

He was the fourth oldest of six children. As a young boy he attended St. Monica School and Church in New Orleans. In 1943 he was inducted into military service in the United States Army Air Forces at Camp Beauregard, LA. He was honorably discharged in 1945. During his tour of duty he served in Northern France during WWII and received the European-African-Middle Eastern ribbon with one bronze service star.

During the time of his military service, Thomas met the love of his life Martha in Sandston, VA while stationed at Byrd Field. She was working at a Bed and Breakfast Inn. They were married before his deployment to Northern France in 1943. Upon his return from France in 1945 they made their home in the Boar Swamp Community after a brief stay in New Kent County, Va. He remained a devoted husband for 67 years until the time of her passing in 2010. He was adamant about education and fought through the class struggles of the era to carry his children daily to private elementary school in Richmond. He was a member of St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Fulton until its closing. He then

transferred membership to St. John's Catholic Church in Highland Springs. He also attended Cathedral of The Sacred Heart where he served as an Usher. He retired from C&P Telephone Co. in the late 1980's and continued working at various other jobs.

Later in life he fought with various medical issues and eventually was unable to live at home without assistance. For the past 10 years he lived with his daughter Patricia, Son-in-Law, George and family for his remaining years.

Cherishing his memory are sons; Andwele (Carolyn), and Alvin, daughter; Patricia (George), devoted granddaughter (whom he raised); Noelle Harris (Jay), stepson; Charles Moss (Barbara), brother; Frank Gardner (Mildred), devoted niece; Ruth Emma Kennedy, one sister-in-law, Nora Mae Christain, one brother-in-law, Oliver Christain, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and many more family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memorial Park

6217 Memorial Dr.
Sandston, VA 23150

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP 11. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Family Hour

SEP 11. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
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Service

SEP **12**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Catholic Church
813 W. Nine Mile Road
Highland Springs, VA 23075

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Harold Gardner*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Greetings Brother Andwele, we African Awareness Association, sends our warmest regards with respect to your father's transition. Words could never alleviate nor supplant the pain inherent to losing a love one but when assessing the entirety of your father's life; he obviously excelled on so many levels. Producing a son who possesses all the intangibles speaks to guidance emblematic of extreme love and compassion. Such traits contribute to a just world and the fact you were imbued with such traits is a testament to your father. Take heed you are the living embodiment of your entire father held dear. Your father's transition, where saddening in this realm, will continue to shine life in the next life- thereby continuing a tradition of love, empathy, and hope. We share your lost but we also understand your father fought the good fight but is now free to be free in the grandest tradition; no more pain, no more cruelty- just the sweet serenity of a job well done. Rest in peace- Brother!*

African Awareness Association Inc.

Andwele - October 03, 2015 at 12:53 PM

PJ

“ We come not today to mourn our Dad, but to celebrate the life he had
He made it through to 92, though 93 was close at hand.
The past is gone, the future near, we pray the Lord our prayers to hear
To guide his soul to eternal rest because in life he did his best.
Family

Patricia Johnson - October 03, 2015 at 12:50 PM

PJ

“ Daddy said he had music in his legs. Whenever he heard music, he automatically reacted to it. He's probably loving today's program. Coming from New Orleans he had no other choice because the culture there is rich with music. So he will dance with the saints in heaven. He will rest some too, because he'll need it. He was a hard worker in life. A believer in do it yourself. A thrifty person that passed it on to his family. He was determined to help people no matter what. As we look back on his life, we have fond memories. No life is complete without ups and downs and we had our share of those, too. We will remember them all. Love you, Daddy.

Patricia Johnson - October 03, 2015 at 12:44 PM

MC

“ To my cousins in Memory of Uncle Thomas, "In the Loss of Your Love One"

"These words of deepest sympathy are sent with the hope that, as time goes by, cherished memories will help bring inner peace, and make your love one seem still very close to you. May the memories that mean the most to you live forever in your heart."

Minister Leila "Lee Lee Christian-Holmes and family

Minister Leila Christian-Holmes - September 11, 2015 at 09:33 PM

WF

“ Wayne and Carolyn Franklin purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Thomas Harold Gardner.



Wayne and Carolyn Franklin - September 09, 2015 at 03:31 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 08, 2015 at 05:31 PM