



Vernon R. Dorkins

February 25, 1937 - August 6, 2019

Vernon Richard Dorkins was born on Thursday, February 25, 1937, as a Pisces with personality defined by imagination, selflessness and intuition. He was the oldest child of Christopher Vernon Dorkins and Lenora Wilson Dorkins who preceded him in death. On Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at 5:17 p.m., Vernon passed quietly while his wife was taking his vital signs.

Vernon attended Baltimore City Public Schools and graduated from the Frederick Douglass High School. Immediately after graduation from high school in 1954, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served from 1954 to 1957. During his enlistment, he became interested in Electrical Engineering. Vernon was honorably discharged from the Navy as an Electrician Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer. Upon his discharge, he was employed by the United States Post Office in Washington, DC. The experience while serving in the Navy deepened his interest in Electrical Engineering. As a result, Vernon enrolled at Howard University and in 1964, obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

After the completion of his studies, he obtained certifications in Engineering, including a Master Electrician's License and was employed as supervisor of the Electrical Department for the City of Baltimore. He supervised 15 licensed journeymen electricians. Vernon was a diligent worker and was later employed at Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, Inc. from 1966 - 1974 as a Senior

Staff Plant Engineer.

With Vernon's active and creative mind, he accepted a position with Morgan State College (University) as Director of Physical Plant from 1974-2004. He was responsible for maintenance of all 47 buildings and grounds over 2,000,000 square feet (122 acres). He supervised 144 employees. While employed at Morgan, college staff changes resulted in Vernon's re-assignment to Director of Engineering and Contract Procurement. He received numerous commendations for his services and achievements.

Vernon believed in self-growth and improvement, he was active beyond his church. He continuously attended local, state, national institutes, seminars and conferences to expand his knowledge. He lived a selfless life and was recognized numerous times from contributions to his community and church. His professional membership in organizations and societies include: member of the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Colleges/Universities; (former President and Board Director and Secretary, Lafayette Square Community Center; past President of the Board, Century Engineering Society Association of Energy Engineers; Director of Illumination Engineering Society Association of College and University Transportation; Financial Secretary, Maryland Centenarian Committee, Incl; Black Caucus and Center of Black Aging; worked with the Boys Scout Troop for many years, Baltimore Urban League and LIFE MEMBER of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., past President of the Delta Lambda Chapter, and Dean of Pledges. He received many awards especially "Brother of the Month Award."

Vernon was a member of Barea Temple Seventh Day with his father. In 1942, he was baptized at Providence Baptist Church. He had to attend Barea on Saturdays and Providence on Sundays. He later returned to Providence Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Marcus G. Wood. He became chairman of the Finance Board, Trustee Board and Media Ministry.

He loved the Lord and enjoyed church. He was very fond of Pastor Wood and would bring him many Electrical Gadgets until his health failed.

He was an avid shopper and loved going to the shopping centers. He particularly enjoyed discovering shops that offered unique electrical gadgets. He loved going to sales with his daughter, Kim, and was most generous with his credit card. He was extremely proud when she received her RN degree. An avid reader of local news, professional books and magazines. He loved music, especially sung by the Morgan State University Choir and Jazz.

His love of family was broadened when God smiled on Vernon and bless him with love again after his father-in-law, Elmer Addison suggested that he court and marry Odessa. On February 16, 1985, there were united in Holy Matrimony at the Israel Baptist Church with Reverend H. Walden Wilson, II and Reverend Marcus Wood, officiating. The family circle then expanded with inclusion of Odessa's two sons, the late Alec Lewis McLean and Vanroderick Lewis McLean, along with five grandchildren. He was welcome into the Phillips and McLean families and became a fixture at family gatherings. Vernon and Odessa enjoyed visiting all of the states in the United States, islands, traveling and cruising around the world.

Vernon was preceded in death by his first wife, Myrna Addison Dorkins; his mother, Lenora Dorkins; father, Chistopher Vernon Dorkins; son, Derrick Dorkins; and three sisters, Veronica Maxine Green, Jean Dorsey and Kira Dorkins. Also, Thomas Phillips, Sr.; father-in-law, Alec Lewis McClean, son and Mary Ruth McLean, granddaughter, preceded his death.

Vernon Richard Dorkins leaves to cherish his many memories, a very devoted and loving wife, Odessa D. Dorkins; daughter, Kimberly Dorkins; son, Vanroderick Lewis McLean; brothers, Ronald (Ellen) Dorkins and Lloyd Ham;

mother-in-law, Roberta Phillips; brother-in-law, Thomas (Hilda) Phillips; aunt, Gloria Johnson; a special granddaughter, Jordan M. Park; a special grandson, Colby McLean; numerous grandchildren, special nieces, nephews, cousins and friends also survive him.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

Previous Events

viewing

AUG 13. 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

AUG 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Providence Baptist Church Deacon's Service

AUG 13. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

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

Omega Service

AUG 13. 6:30 PM (ET)

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

Wake

AUG 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Providence Baptist Church
1401 Pennsylvania Ave
Baltimore, MD

Service

AUG 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Providence Baptist Church
1401 Pennsylvania Ave
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Vernon R. Dorkins*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Ronald and Ellen, I send my Deepest Sympathy may God be with all of you at this time.*
Odessa Lee

odessa Lee - August 13, 2019 at 06:36 PM



“ *What a lovely obituary and wonderful tribute to a kind and wonderful man. I worked at Morgan for a time while “Poppa” was there. He was so admired and respected. I have never seen him without a smile. It was infectious! It was always a joy to run into him and chat for a while. That is how I will always remember him. I’m sorry I won’t be able to make the services due to work obligations. My deepest sympathy to Odessa, Ron and the entire family. Love Cousin Donna*

Donna Rich - August 12, 2019 at 01:28 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 - August 09, 2019 at 04:13 PM