



## Vernon O. Morgan

June 20, 1926 - January 19, 2019

Vernon Owen Morgan was born on Sunday, June 20, 1926 in New York City. He was the son and only child of the late Frieda (Fleda) Elsimma Morgan (nee Newman) of Spice Grove, Manchester Parish, Jamaica, West Indies and Vernal Owen Morgan of Bocas del Toro Province, Panama. His birth name was Vernal Owen Morgan and we came to know him as Vernon, a name given to him while attending New York City public schools during his youth. Vernon peacefully surrendered to the Lord's calling on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at his home in Columbia, Maryland.

Vernon served in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged at the end of World War II in 1945. After his military service, Vernon attended The City College of New York and then completed his college education at Tennessee State University (formerly, Tennessee Agriculture and Industrial College) in Nashville, TN where he received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. He later pursued graduate studies at Columbia University in New York City to obtain a Master's degree in Business Administration.

He worked for the New York City Department of Social Services, Health and Human Services until his retirement. Vernon was an entrepreneur at heart and over the years held ownership in a number of small businesses. He operated Vernon Morgan Tennis at the Riverside Park, West 114th Street tennis courts in New York City for more than 50 years.

A staunch competitor and athlete, Vernon was devoted to playing the game of tennis from age 16. He discovered his strong passion for the game while playing at the Cosmopolitan Club in Harlem, New York. Vernon competed and taught the sport until he was no longer physically able at age 86. Over the years, through his devotion, exceptional talent, and mastery of the game, he achieved many successes. He was awarded an athletic scholarship to Tennessee State University, won many championships, and held rankings in the sport at the local, state, and national levels. Vernon became a member of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) and competed in the US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York. As one of the first professional tennis players of color, his contributions helped to break social and racial barriers and pave the way for future professional tennis players and athletes of color. Through his lifelong devotion to tennis, he enjoyed giving back to the community through junior programs that trained youth in the sport. Vernon was a certified member of the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA), a lifetime member of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and American Tennis Association (ATA).

Vernon loved many genres of music, his most favorite was Jazz. When not on the tennis court, Vernon enjoyed playing chess, and listening to the horns and crooning of great musicians and songstresses. He also enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family.

Vernon leaves to cherish fond memories, his loving devoted wife, Azilee, their two children, Alysha Morgan and Eric Morgan; and two grandchildren, James Alexander Morgan McCarty and Evan Samuel David Morgan; a loving godchild Deborah Drew and grand-godchildren Darren Drew and Dante Drew; and a global multitude of loving relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Cedar Hill

5829 Ritchie Highway  
Brooklyn, MD 21230

# Previous Events

## viewing

JAN **25**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Wake

JAN **26**. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

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JAN 26. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Vernon O. Morgan*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon O. Morgan.*



January 25, 2019 at 10:15 AM



“ *Curley Spires-Potter  
ATA Tennis Family  
Bronx, NY*



*Our hearts are deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Vernon.*

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day -- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." II Timothy 4:6-8*

Curley Spires-Potter - January 24, 2019 at 05:27 PM

EF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Edward Cherry, FAIA** - January 24, 2019 at 04:58 PM

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*I took this photo on or about 1978 when Vernon plyed in the New England Tennis Association Open Tournament at the Yale courts.*

*Ed Cherry*

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**Ed Cherry** - January 25, 2019 at 06:40 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - January 24, 2019 at 07:23 AM