



## William Calvin Purnell

October 19, 1953 - May 29, 2018

William Calvin Purnell, a precious child of God, born October 19, 1953 to the late Joseph C. and Johnnie Mae Harrison Purnell. William transitioned into Heaven on Tuesday morning, May 29, 2018 at 10:45 a.m.

William affectionately, received the nick name “Shane Cake” from a sweet neighbor who thought he was “so sweet”; Mrs. Magnolia Harris and from then on, he was called “Shane”. Shane was a native of Halifax County where he also lived and worked on the farm and learned to care for livestock. As a young child, he was baptized and joined Smith Chapel Church in Halifax, NC.

He was educated through the Halifax County Public School System where he attended Ralph J. Bunch High School in Weldon, NC. Becoming a young man, he retreated to Newark, NJ and later relocated in Richmond, VA. There, he made many friends, seldomly meet a stranger, and worked very hard as a carpenter building beautiful houses with a special friend Kelly Martan.

Shane’s refined and warm spirit lived a vibrant filled life; full of love, joy, fun and caring for others. Whenever you were in his company, you must be prepared to receive a stomach gripping laughter that lasted until you couldn’t do anything else but just cried in joy. Few of his enjoyable activities were riding his motorcycle, with someone always on the backside, water skiing, cooking delicious foods that only he knew the recipe and most of all, from sun

up to sun down riding his favorite horse "Little Man". He always presented himself in a well-dressed manner, clean shave, and nice haircut.

But, much to his demise, about four years ago his body was attacked by a muscle debilitating disease called ALS. Thereafter, he continued to be the trooper he was and lived doing as much of his normal life as he could.

William "Shane Cake" was preceded in death by one sibling Joseph C. Purnell. Shane will be truly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He leaves to cherish his memory: daughter, Masha Vick of Weldon, NC; a dear and longtime personal friend, Lavern Williams of Richmond, VA; four sisters, Shirley Purnell (Carlton), Mattie Kee (Roy), Lola Purnell, Coreatha Wilkins (Wallace); brother, Johnnie R. Purnell all of Richmond, VA; special nephews and nieces, Joseph L. Williams (Alexaundra) of Richmond, VA, Antonio Purnell (Regina) of Killeen, TX, Parrish Purnell (Shirrell) of Tamper, FL, Daniel Purnell (Lisa) of Raleigh, NC, Rochester Kee (Tracy) of Richmond, VA, Timothy Kee (Vanessa) of Raleigh, NC, Leander Kee (Kisha) of Raleigh, NC, Jeffery Purnell (Ida) of Richmond, VA and Roanoke Rapids, NC, Terrance Moody of Roanoke Rapids, NC, and Cedrick Wilkins of Richmond, VA; one special cousin, David Jr. "Jack" Harrison of Maryland; a very special friend, Carlton Belfield of Gaston, NC. and two other friends who, he would ride his chair over to their house and they sat under the big oak tree having their morning coffee and smokes, June and Dale of Gaston, NC; and a host of great-nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

“The Storm Is Over”

The storm is over,

I suffer no more pain.

God took me in

and stopped my rain.

The battle was tough,

but I gave it my best.

God knew I was tied

and gave me His rest.

The Storm is over,

all my worries have ceased.

Go on with your life,

while I wait for you in peace.

Humbly Submitted By  
Minister Shirley Purnell

# Cemetery Details

## Riverview Cemetery

1401 S. Randolph Street  
Richmond, VA 23220

# Previous Events

## viewing

JUN 8. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Wake

JUN 8. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

JUN 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

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



# Tribute Wall



“ *William Calvin Purnell*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *May the peace of God comfort you all during the days ahead. We now know that he is at peace. Shang will always be in our hearts.*

*Love you all  
Cathy*

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**Cathy Smith** - June 08, 2018 at 10:41 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Calvin Purnell.*



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June 06, 2018 at 08:51 PM

PJ

“ Many days of our Coffee and Smoke will always be remembered. Those fun mornings, opening the door to see Shang under the big tree, waiting for our door to open to join us under the carport is missed so much now. He always had a story to tell and an appetite for the day. He would say Dale don't you want a Presto Hot Dog??? That was his way for someone to go get him one as well. He enjoyed his trips up the path with June to hear the dogs run the rabbits. Shang would say, "Dale, me and June went hunting and your granddaughter can't go anymore, cause she will not be quite." Sleep on my friend, you told us you were tired. You say you did not want to bother anyone. I thank God for allowing some of your last days to be with June and I. I know you watching us, yes I am cooking butter beans now and the watermelon is getting cold in the fridge. I know you got Heaven Rocking.

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**Patricia Penn Jacobs** - June 06, 2018 at 04:21 PM

GB

“ To the Purnell Family,  
We would like to express our deepest sympathy to your family. Remember the good times in your heart and he will always be close. May God Bless Your Family.  
We Love You All.  
Geraldine, Mae & Charles Brown



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**Geraldine, Mae & Charles Brown** - June 06, 2018 at 01:14 AM

FO

“ FROM O'LIVIA purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Calvin Purnell.



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**FROM O'LIVIA** - June 06, 2018 at 12:03 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** - May 30, 2018 at 10:58 AM