



Lenard W. Hairston

March 27, 1947 - May 16, 2021

Celebration of Life Services for Mr. Lenard W. Hairston will be held Saturday, May 22, 2021, 11am in our Gwinnett Chapel. Burial at Eternal Hills Cemetery, Snellville, GA. Visitation will be held Friday, May 21, 2021 from 12noon-8pm at Gregory B. Levett Sons Funeral Home, 914 Scenic Hwy., Lawrenceville, GA., 30045. 770-338-5558. Please visit our website to extend condolences

On Sunday May 16, 2021 Lenard W. Hairston passed away peacefully at the young age of 74.

Lenard was born March 27, 1947 in Martinsville, Virginia to the late Alice Preston Hairston-Moore and George Hairston. Along, with his mom, stepfather, Oliver Moore and siblings, the family later moved to Gary, West Virginia they later relocated to Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Lenard graduated from Central High School in 1965 where he received academic honors and excelled in sports. He was all City-Team Quarterback 1st 2nd and 3rd yr. He received a Key to Central High as the recipient of the Best Citizen award. He was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame at Indiana High School. Naturally athletic, he entered Kent State University in Ohio on a Football scholarship while becoming a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

While there he again excelled in sports and academics graduating in 1969 with a Bachelor's Degree in Health Education. It was here that he met his first wife, Jacquelyn Hairston. He later received his MBA from Clark Atlanta University.

Lenard was a motivated strategist on the field and off the court. His sharp management skills and values-led approach resulted in continued promotion and the deep respect of colleagues during his tenure at International Harvester. He later accepted positions with Gulf Atlantic Distribution and Anderson Clayton, DuPont and AFC Enterprises. All in leadership roles.

Filled with enthusiasm, energy and drive, Lenard and his son Michael took the leap toward realizing his lifelong goal – founding a family owned company in 1995 known as Happy Faces Personnel Group, Inc. It is there he earned the name “Mr. Happy Face”. Happy Faces has and continues to provide employment opportunities for the communities across the state of Georgia for the past 25 years.

Always true to his nickname, Mr. Happy Face, Lenard envisioned the agency as a business that engendered “happy faces” by helping others and promoting positivity and honest values. He modeled these values not only in the way he built and ran his company but also in putting people first and nurturing relationships. He always believed that the foundation of achievement is education and he put this belief into action as a tutor and mentor at Tucker High School for many years.

Lenard met his beloved wife Edwina Berry (Hairston) in 1993. They later married in March of 99. Lenard and Edwina shared values of hard work, positivity as well as passion for life, sport activity, and strong social ties. She continues to ensure that the company lives up to its own high standards. Between the business, traveling and entertaining, she and Lenard enjoyed

many adventures together. Whether on the tennis court or in the conference room, Lenard cherished Edwina as a wife, partner, supporter and later caretaker, but always dearest friend.

Lenard held a lifelong passion for athletics- basketball, football, and softball in particular-he was active for many years with the Spartans Athletic Club and helped lead their basketball team to numerous championships. He was a multiple gold and silver medalist over the course of several years in the US Senior Olympics.

The awards, honors and recognitions he has been granted, whether they be for sportsmanship, athletics, or his achievements in business, are myriad. Always keen to leverage his company for the greater good, he has sponsored the Happy Faces 40 and over softball team for over a decade.

In recognition of these achievements, the success he modeled and contributions he made while at Kent State, Lenard was invited to participate and served on the Kent State National Athletic Development Council. His involvement with his alma mater ran deep and remained a source of pride, fulfillment, and joy to the last. He was twice inducted into the Kent State Hall of Fame and won the University's prestigious Legacy Award in 2016.

As serious as he was about business, Lenard was Mr. Happy Face. He loved a good laugh shared, meeting new people, entertaining others with nearly unbelievable stories of his escapades as a child, and especially, time spent with his family. Even during the last hours of his battle with complications caused by cancer, Lenard's irrepressible positivity and gratitude shone. He made humorous comments, sought to put nurses at ease, and expressed his love and pride in his family.

Lenard was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather. He is survived by his wife Edwina, daughter, Monica (Mark) O'Connell, son Michael (LaToria) Hairston stepdaughter Walida Swaggard, grandchildren Michael Angelo Hairston and Gabrielle Angelica Hairston and Manuel Jones IV, siblings Geraldine Heath, Kenneth Hairston, Connie Lambert, Alvin (Ellen) Hairston, and Carolyn Moore, as well as a host of many other family members and friends.

Cemetery Details

Eternal Hill Cemetery

3594 Stone Mountain Highway
Snellville, GA 30039

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 21. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel
914 Scenic Hwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Celebration of Life Service - Live Streamed

MAY 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel
914 Scenic Hwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Leonard W. Hairston in memory of Lenard W. Hairston



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - May 19, 2021 at 10:26 AM

SR

You are loved and will be truly missed but never forgotten. Love always uncle Lenard.

Selena Randolph - May 19, 2021 at 03:58 PM

LM

My deepest condolences to the family. Mr. Hairston you will greatly be missed.

Lisa Morrow - May 22, 2021 at 10:54 AM

MM

Sending our condolences from your Kent State Golden Flash family. Len, you will be missed by so many. Thank you for bringing so much light to this world. -Maggie McKendry, KSU Athletics

Maggie McKendry - May 22, 2021 at 11:01 AM

PJ

To Edwina and family: We send our deepest condolences to you and your family. As you know, Lenard and I go way back to KSU's football program. He was always an outstanding player, an outstanding man, and an outstanding fraternity brother. His legacy will always endure. Love, Paulette and Charles

Paulette and Charles Jones - May 22, 2021 at 12:16 PM

SM

To the Hairston family. Please know that I send deepest condolences to you and your family. Mr. Hairston touched many lives and mines was one of the them. Please know that you are in my prayers in your time of sadness.

S. Marsh-Hamil

SHELIA A MARSH-HAMIL - May 23, 2021 at 01:34 PM

JP

“ *PRAYING THAT GOD WILL COMFORT YOUR HEART, UPLIFT YOUR SPIRIT, AND CARRY YOU THROUGH THIS TIME OF SADNESS TO A PLACE OF PEACE. LAWRENCE AND JANNETTA PETERSON AND FAMILY*

JANNETTA PETERSON - May 22, 2021 at 04:35 PM

RM

“ *Lenard is a very special person. I shall never forget the kind words he spoke at my husband's celebration of life services in August 2017. Len would call periodically to check on me and our 2 daughters, and that was so special to us. We affectionately called him Len. He will be sorely missed by his friends. I know that his lovely wife, children and grandchildren will always cherish the beautiful memories of a life well lived, and the time all of you had with him. God bless and keep you. 🙏💜*

Ruthie W. Mitchell - May 22, 2021 at 03:06 PM

CD

“ *The First Citizens Bank Norcross Team will greatly miss you Mr. Hairston!
Thank you for your Happy Faces!
Fahima, Maggie, Carol and Carolyn.*

Carolyn Donaldson - May 22, 2021 at 02:43 PM

CD

“ *Mr. Leonard was such a special person to me and he will forever be missed with the many conversations personal and business. Such a warm hearted person with such compassion for others. Thank You!*
Carolyn Donaldson

Carolyn Donaldson - May 22, 2021 at 12:21 PM

PJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Paulette and Charles Jones - May 22, 2021 at 12:17 PM

PT

“ *To Edwina and Family:*
I share the loss of your beloved husband, fathers and brother's, and friends ❤️
May God bless you all with his comforting spirit as you grief your loss...
Your love one is not gone but on the other side...hold on to his memories....
My prayers and love it with you all... ❤️❤️🙏🙏

Paulette Turner - May 22, 2021 at 12:00 PM

FA

“ From Bill and Debbie Asbury purchased the Southern Magnolia Tree for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.



From Bill and Debbie Asbury - May 22, 2021 at 11:27 AM

BM

“ Brenda McCloud sent a virtual gift in memory of Lenard W. Hairston



Brenda McCloud - May 22, 2021 at 08:31 AM

SW

“ It was a gift and honor to have Len as a friend. Spending time with him was an amazing experience. Len was always upbeat and optimistic which made him a pleasure to be around. In being my Best Man, Len gave me an enduring message of advice, "To get something, you have to give something." I'm sorry to say in words, I never got around to thanking Len for his wisdom. I will have to do so in deeds. Len will be greatly missed by the Spartans family. Our condolences go out to Edwina and the Hairston family.

Stan and Faithe Williams

Stan Williams - May 22, 2021 at 01:02 AM

JR

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the Hairston Family. I had the pleasure of meeting Lenard and he was a dear friend to my family (The Smith Family). God Bless. Sincerely, Jammie Randolph

Jammie Randolph - May 21, 2021 at 09:05 PM

DG

“ Our hearts go out to the Hairston Family and everyone who loved Leonard. Deepest condolences from Derek and Lisa Griffin

Derek Griffin - May 21, 2021 at 08:57 PM

VR

“ We didn't know growing up in the little town of Wilcoe, WV God was creating a bond of love that would never die. Although, Leonard (better known to us as Muncey) has gone on to be with the Lord, that love will live with us who are left behind forever. The Smith family sincerely extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the Hairston family during your bereavement of our dear brother in Christ. Prayerfully yours, The Smiths – Violet, Jewel, Becky and Olivia

Violet Randolph - May 21, 2021 at 08:32 PM

DB

“ May the peace, love, and comfort of the Holy Spirit be with the Hairston Family during this period of sadness.

Dwight C Brower - May 21, 2021 at 08:20 PM

PE

“ *May God receive you into his favored sanctuary Lenard, and may your soul rest in eternal peace. You welcomed us as friends and neighbors and encouraged us with kind words that only a wise and loving big brother would. We will miss you.*

To Edwina and the family, we ask that our heavenly father comforts you in your time of loss. May the love you shared with Lenard forever be a blessing to you and your household.

Peter & Rebecca Edwards

Peter & Rebecca Edwards - May 21, 2021 at 05:07 PM

BA

“ *Len was a kind and gentle soul, a man of character, commitment and courage. He was a dear friend to Debbie and me and we miss him, but we remember him as a trusted member of the Golden Flashes Forever Club. Rest in Power old friend. Love.*

Debbie and Bill Asbury

Bill & Debbie Atwater Asbury - May 21, 2021 at 04:37 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



May 21, 2021 at 03:13 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



May 21, 2021 at 03:01 PM



“ *Carol Stevenson lit a candle in memory of Lenard W. Hairston*



Carol Stevenson - May 20, 2021 at 08:38 PM



Rest In Peace Leonard! One of our Fort Wayne Indiana Central High School Classmate graduate of 1965. Precious memories.

Carol Stevenson - May 20, 2021 at 08:42 PM



“ *From Your First Citizens Bank Family in Duluth, GA purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



From Your First Citizens Bank Family in Duluth, GA - May 20, 2021 at 05:19 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.



May 20, 2021 at 03:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.



May 20, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.



May 20, 2021 at 02:17 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.



May 20, 2021 at 12:02 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



May 19, 2021 at 10:31 PM



“ *Prayers for the Family from the Roper Family...*

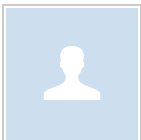
Keith E Roper - May 19, 2021 at 10:26 PM



“ *Praying that GOD will surround you with HIS peace that passes all understanding. Philippians 4:7*



Carolyn H Moore - May 19, 2021 at 09:29 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



May 19, 2021 at 06:58 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



May 19, 2021 at 03:52 PM



“ *Your Niece Martina, Joel and William purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



Your Niece Martina, Joel and William - May 19, 2021 at 03:20 PM



“ *NO FARWELL WORDS TO SPEAK. NO TIME TO SAY GOODBYE. YOU LEFT BEFORE WE KNEW IT. AND ONLY GOD KNOWS WHY. IF LOVE COULD HAVE SAVED YOU, YOU WOULD HAVE LIVED FOREVER. BEN AND DIANNE BURR AND FAMILY.*

benson burr - May 19, 2021 at 03:10 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.*



May 19, 2021 at 03:05 PM

VH

“ I was saddened to hear of Leonard’s transition. I so admired him and how he loved and treat my cousin. How he was so encouraging to my son and my grandson. A great man. So glad to have known him. Such a beautiful couple and I know without hesitation that he will be missed.

V. Lorraine Hearon - May 19, 2021 at 02:22 PM

VA

Farewell Leonard, a wonderful and great man who really loved his family! You will be missed but God wanted you more! Thanks for loving my Niece and God bless our family’s loss!

Vivian Adams Archer - May 19, 2021 at 08:59 PM

AA

God blessings be with my Niece and family members during the loss of a wonderful husband! We love you and praying for you all during this time of your loss!

Aunt Vivian Adams Archer - May 19, 2021 at 09:12 PM

WJ

As Leonard transitioned to the Chapter invisible I have nothing but fond memories from the union of Leonard and Edwina to the last time we were together in Tampa FL. In 2019. A brother who exemplified Achievement in his life on this celestial plane. Until we meet again my brother in that great hall. Love you Edwina & Family.
Walter Williams Jr. 🙏💎

Walter Williams Jr - May 21, 2021 at 11:27 AM

RP

Heartfelt Sympathy and sincere Love.
Robert and Cleo Preston

Robert Preston - May 22, 2021 at 10:53 AM

CW

“ We have lost someone that is special to our family and we will miss him. Len was such an inspiration to us all and we're honored to be a part of his life, Love to the family.



Charles and Jerrie Williams - May 19, 2021 at 01:09 PM

TB

“ Len you truly will be missed. I appreciate all the conversations and wisdom you poured into me. I also enjoy playing for and representing the Happy Face Brand Rest easy sir from the fruits of your labor. Good well done.

Terrence Brown & Family

Terrence Brown - May 19, 2021 at 12:26 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.



May 19, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lenard W. Hairston.



May 19, 2021 at 11:47 AM

SP

“ *My sincere condolences on your loss. Sending prayers of comfort and strength to the family and all of his friends. May God continue to keep you in His unchanging hands. Yours in Christ, Sandra K. Poole*

Sandra K. Poole - May 19, 2021 at 11:31 AM