



Mr. Marcel R. Coleman

September 7, 1952 - September 20, 2023

Marcel R Coleman was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 7, 1952 to Rebecca Coleman and William Banks. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and loyal friend to many. His outgoing personality and ability to find humor in any situation was infectious and memorable by all in his presence. He was always the life of the party. After fighting through illness, the Lord decided on September 20, 2023 that it was time to call him home to rest in peace and everlasting life.

Marcel attended Pittsburgh Public schools and graduated from Oliver High School in 1970. He was introduced to college life by participating in the Upward Bound program and enrolled at Penn State University in the fall of 1970. Marcel was determined to play college level sports and even though he was not recruited, he walked on and made the PSU basketball team. It was at Penn State that he was introduced to Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship Inc and went on to become one of the eleven charter members of the Nittany Lion Chapter. He later became a lifetime member of the organization. Penn State was also where he met his future wife Vanessa.

Marcel's college life was interrupted in 1972 when he was drafted into the United State Marine Corps. He served for 2 years as a Data Systems Librarian at the Quantico Marine Base in Arlington Virginia and received an Honorable discharge in 1974. Marcel stayed in the DC area for a few years

after leaving the military and eventually moved back to Pittsburgh where he earned an Associate Degree in Computer Programming. He reunited with Vanessa and they both moved to Harrisburg Pennsylvania in 1981 where they were married and raised their two children, Janelle and Marcel. Marcel was employed by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services as a Computer Program Specialist and eventually worked his way up to become an IT Division Manager. He retired from state service in 2009 after 28 years of service.

Marcel was very family oriented and loved working with children. "Uncle Marcel" worked hard to keep family connections strong between family living in California, Pittsburgh and Atlanta by planning family reunions, trips and visiting as often as he could. Additionally, he took a very active role in any and all activities his children participated in. Marcel served as the PTO President for Ben Franklin Academic Prep when his daughter and son attended; became an assistant coach for the Holy Family Girls Basketball Team when his daughter Janelle played and stayed on to become the head coach once she left. He coached boy's youth basketball teams for St Paul Baptist Church; and established Cub Scout Pack 34 serving as the Pack Leader. But his most important achievement was establishing the Harrisburg Highsteppers Track Club in 1996 where he served as the head track coach. He worked hard to develop the athletic skills of his young runners and also served as a mentor/father figure for many. It was a 15-year labor of love that made a lasting positive impact on the lives of dozens of children.

Marcel was a dedicated Pittsburgh Steeler Fan and wore his black and gold everywhere he went. He was also an active member of The Steel City Fan Club in Atlanta. His other past times were playing and watching golf and organizing fellowship events for the Atlanta Graduate Chapter of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship Inc. He made it a priority to reach out to each of his fellow brothers to provide birthday greetings.

Marcel was a dedicated member of Berean Christian Church for many years. He faithfully served in the Usher and Outreach Ministries until he could serve no more.

Marcel was preceded in death by his mother Rebecca Coleman, Father William Banks, Sisters:

Patricia Hardimon and Jocella Ratliff.

Marcel is survived by: his loving wife Vanessa; his two children: Janelle Lenore Pharris of Frisco TX and Marcel W.M. Coleman (Maya) of Charlotte, NC; Brothers: William Banks III of Pittsburgh, PA, Ronald Tagg and Raymond Tagg; Aunt: Marlene Thomas of Arizona; Sister in Law : Denise Smith of Philadelphia, PA; Brothers in law; Leon Holmes (Vickie) of Carrollton, VA and John Holmes of Philadelphia, PA; four grandchildren: Aundre Bradley Pharris, Jaden Marcel Pharris, Elijah Marcel Coleman and Noah Daniel Coleman; and numerous ni

The Coleman Family ask that family and friends use the Fairfield Inn at Stonecrest for your convenience while attending the service for Mr. Coleman.

Fairfield Inn

Hotel in Stonecrest Atlanta | Fairfield Inn & Suites Atlanta Stonecrest

Hotel in Stonecrest Atlanta | Fairfield Inn & Suites Atlanta Stonecrest
Situated off I-20 just 15 minutes from downtown Atlanta, the Fairfield Inn & Suites Atlanta Stonebridge offers guests value among hotels in Lithonia GA. Enjoy comfortable rooms, free breakfast, free Wi-Fi, indoor pool and fitness center.

<https://youtube.com/live/LkZGvk9T4-M?feature=share>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **19**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory- South Dekalb
4347 Flat Shoals Parkway
Decatur, GA 30034

Celebration of Life

OCT **20**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Berean Christian Church
2201 Young Rd
Stone Mountain, GA 30088
(770) 593-4421

Tribute Wall

SJ

“ So many memories. It's hard to pick just one. Basketball coach, track coach, uncle, funny, mentor, encourager, one of a kind. I'm blessed to have has you in my life. Love you Unc! Rest with Christ.

*The Johnsons
Sean, Laquanda, Seth, Sariah, and Lorielle*

Sean Johnson - October 20, 2023 at 11:42 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.



October 19, 2023 at 01:01 PM

PS

“ Marcel was a wonderful, thoughtful, loving and caring father, husband and grandfather. He also loved working with children and cared deeply about his community. He was also a great co-worker and Groove Brother! He will be missed although never forgotten.
Pete Speaks

Pete Speaks - October 19, 2023 at 10:55 AM

PC

Marcel was the embodiment of a true Groove Phi Groove brother! We first met in Philly in the 80s when as a younger brother at Penn, I looked up to my Penn State fellowman. He warmly welcomed me to Atlanta grad where we shared our passion for mentoring young men! Marcel represented the social in Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship as he was the organizer of birthday celebrations for the Atlanta Graduate Chapter. We will always honor Marcel's legacy!

Phil Cuffey - October 19, 2023 at 10:43 PM

SS

“ Sharon Simmons lit a candle in memory of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman



Sharon Simmons - October 18, 2023 at 06:49 PM

SS

“ I met Vanessa at Berean Christian Church. I eventually met Marcel and enjoyed his sense of humor. He reminded me of some of my New York ‘homeboys’ :) I always enjoyed the FB videos Marcel would post of their many vacations. I’m so sorry I didn’t get a chance to surprise you with a pan of franks and beans. 😊 Take your rest Marcel. 🙏 As I’ve told Vanessa I’m just a phone call away.
Prayers until we meet again
Sharon Simmons

Sharon Simmons - October 18, 2023 at 06:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.

October 18, 2023 at 04:12 PM



“ Gerberas and Palms Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.



October 18, 2023 at 04:12 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.



October 17, 2023 at 07:08 PM



“ Sonni Parker purchased the Simply Elegant Spatiphyllum for the family of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.



Sonni Parker - October 17, 2023 at 01:00 PM



“ Sonni Parker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.

Sonni Parker - October 17, 2023 at 01:00 PM

LW

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Vanessa and Marcel at Berean. I think he started teasing me from day one and I enjoyed it. My favorite times with both of them was the Eagles Superbowl party at their home and the Earth Wind and Fire concert that we enjoyed together . I definitely will miss you and will do my best to support the love of your life-Vanessa.
Rest In Peace until we meet and laugh together again



Lisa Wright - October 17, 2023 at 07:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.



October 17, 2023 at 05:34 AM

LH

“ *Leon, Vickie & Leondra Holmes* purchased the *St rengh & Solace Spray* for the family of Mr. Marcel R. Coleman.



Leon, Vickie & Leondra Holmes - October 13, 2023 at 03:44 PM

RF

“ My condolences to you and the entire family during this time of grief. I'm praying for you all as you struggle with this immense loss. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Sincerely,
Roseline Fonju,
Affinity/Bridgeway

Roseline Fonju - October 07, 2023 at 06:47 PM

KE

My heartfelt condolences go out to Vanessa, his loving wife and to Marcel's family. Marcel had a wonderful personality, a beautiful smile, and and never met a stranger. He will be truly missed. May God keep his family in the palm of his hand during this time of great sorrow.

Warmest regards,
Katherine Erwin,
Friend of the Family

Katherine Erwin - October 17, 2023 at 07:04 AM

ET

“ Our heartfelt prayers and sincerest condolences go out to Vanessa, Doc, Janelle and the rest of the family on the passing of a great man, brother and friend, Marcel R. Coleman. We can't even begin to express ourselves on how much Marcel meant to us and like yourselves, we will miss him dearly. May God provide you with the comfort needed during your time of sorrow. And we pray the God receive and keep Marcel's soul until we meet again.

Sorrowful Yours,

Eugene & Violet Thompson

Eugene Thompson - October 03, 2023 at 02:15 PM

SJ

“ My deepest condolences and prayers go out to you Vanessa, Janelle, "Doc" and your entire family in the loss of Marcel during this difficult time. He had such a "larger-than-life" persona that lit up a room wherever he went. He was also an encourager and a supporter --- not only for his own children and my son Sean --- but to the youth in our entire community! It was like my son had two dads --- HIS dad and "Mr. Marcel."
May the memories that mean the most to you live in your hearts and comfort you FOREVER MORE.
With Love from Sherry Johnson and Family

Sherry Johnson - October 01, 2023 at 10:36 PM

TB

“ Vanessa and family, I send my love and condolences to you all. Marcel truly loved his family near and far. He will be missed.

Toyia Burgess - September 29, 2023 at 07:52 PM

MF

“ Condolences and Prayers to Vanessa, Son, Daughter, Grandchildren, and Family. Going to miss my Friend, Fellowman, Steeler Fan mate, and Golfing Partner. Marcel was a wonderful person who was kind and friendly to all he met. May he R.I.P. ❤️🙏

Miles Family - September 29, 2023 at 04:52 PM

CJ

“ My deepest condolences to Vanessa and the Coleman family for the loss of Marcel. Marcel was a great family man and brother of Groove Phi Groove SFI. Oz will be missed by everyone who knew him. Heaven has gained a new "social director"! As Oz would say, "Much Love". Rest in Power my Fellowman, Clyde "Chipper" Jones and family.

Clyde H Jones Jr. - September 29, 2023 at 04:26 PM

SJ

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May the memories that mean the most to you live in your hearts and comfort you FOREVER MORE.
With Love from Sherry Johnson & Family

Sherry Johnson - October 01, 2023 at 10:11 PM

KD

“ Uncle Marcel will leave an everlasting legacy of True Family Love ❤️ and Dedication! My family will forever cherish your memories and continue to, "Explore the World 🌍".
May you Rest In Paradise!
Love Always Kay Kay



Karen Davis - September 28, 2023 at 05:57 PM

JW

I always called Marcel, Mr Marcel became I had so much respect for him. Marcel and Vanessa brought so much joy and laughter into my life from the first day I met them. He was one of the funniest people I knew and I will truly miss him. Vanessa I don't have the words to express my feelings but, I have love and prayers for you and your family.

Jane West - September 29, 2023 at 03:58 PM

CN

Marcel will always hold a place in everyone's heart. I remember how he would hunt me down at work to scold me after I couldn't put his Transformers back to there original state. Peace and love to the family.

Candace Noon - September 29, 2023 at 04:39 PM

MM

May your soul Rest In Peace Marcel. My condolences to Vanessa and her family

Myra Miller - September 29, 2023 at 06:42 PM

LR

My sincere condolences to my sister and her family. Marcel was truly "one of a kind " and will be missed. I pray God's grace and mercy keep you during this difficulty time.

Linda Robinson - September 29, 2023 at 09:33 PM