



## Ernest "Luke" Lee Lucas

October 10, 1942 - September 13, 2018

Ernest Lee (Luke) Lucas was born October 10, 1942 in Alexandria, Virginia to the late Seth William Lucas, Sr. and Leila Marshall Lucas. Ernest departed this life at the Fort Washington Medical Center after a lengthy illness on Thursday, September 13, 2018. He is preceded in death by his older brothers, Joseph Marshall Lucas and Seth William Lucas, Jr.

Ernest was affectionately known as "Luke" by his friends and co-workers. However, his wife lovingly called him "Bootsie."

Ernest was a native Alexandrian and received his early education from Lyles Crouch and Charles Houston Elementary public schools, graduating from the historic Parker Gray High School in Alexandria where he was an accomplished musician in the band, playing both the clarinet, and bass clarinet. He also tinkered with the drums and trumpet. He also was a member of the Parker Gray choir in the baritone section.

While attending Parker Gray High School, Ernest ran track and played on the basketball team. He was captain of the 1961 basketball squad. Ernest also enjoyed playing Billiards (shooting pool) and developed a deep love for playing the game. He was known to be an outstanding pool player. He attended many pool tournaments.

After graduation from high school, Ernest married his high school sweetheart Thelma (Sugar) Dogan. From this union they had one son, Tracy Lee Lucas.

Ernest grew up in the neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia known as the "berg." There he played team sports on the Parker-Madden playground. Ernest competed on the organized youth and teen basketball and baseball teams.

He was an excellent swimmer who often bragged that he taught Tarzan how to swim. Ernest spent his summers perfecting his swimming skills and techniques as he participated in the Water Shows at the Johnson Memorial pool.

Ernest also enjoyed watching all types of sports, especially track and field, boxing, kickboxing, tennis, golf, football, baseball, swimming, figure-skating and bowling. He participated in bowling leagues and earned numerous bowling trophies that collect dust in his garage. Ernest was an all-around sports enthusiast, and was always willing to coach or share his knowledge and expertise with others, helping them to perfect their skills in their individual sport.

In addition to sports, Ernest had a vast array of interests. His hobbies included photography, drawing, sketching and art. He was a great artist, and he would sketch his family, elderly family members, people on the streets and interesting scenes. He loved dogs and spoiled his one hundred and five pound American Bull Dog "Babygirl."

In 1961, Ernest was hired at the Virginia Electric Power Company (VEPCO) becoming a pioneer and trailblazer when he broke the color barrier for minorities by being the first black meter reader in the State of Virginia. He was later promoted to Meter Reader Supervisor, a first in the Alexandria office. He retired from VEPCO after 41 years of service. Shortly after retirement he began working for Family Health International for many years until his health began to fail.

Ernest enjoyed helping to decorate his home for Christmas holidays, and loved to entertain and spend Christmas with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The grands spent every Christmas waiting for Santa at "Pop-Pop's" house.

Easter was also another special time to celebrate. The Lucas' would all dine at a local restaurant or hotel for Easter brunch. It was not uncommon for Ernest to invite others to join in the Easter festivities and pick up the tab. He was a very generous and giving person. He always had an open door policy at his home and often you could smell the welcoming aromas before you rang his doorbell. Once you came in, you would be entertained by the shenanigans of the Lucas'.

Ernest loved to debate just about everything and everybody. He loved interacting with people. He had a very down-to-earth but assertive personality. However, he was friendly, fair and honest to everyone he knew. Ernest loved to dance and was very good at it.

Ernest attended the Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia for over 40 years with his wife and son. He attended Mass and was fully engaged in parish life and worked on many church functions with his wife and son. He sang in the gospel choir for a period of time. He always worked in the church and everyone assumed that he was Catholic. Ernest was a behind the scenes person and you did not have to ask him to help. He

jumped in and got the job done.

In 2007, the Lucas' joined Saint Joseph's in Largo, Maryland. On January 1, 2018 Ernest was received into the Church by Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.. Ernest stated that he was always Catholic and that his acceptance into the Catholic Church was just a formality.

Ernest loved children and relished his role as father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was a mentor to many children in the family as well as children in the church and surrounding neighborhood.

Ernest loved spending time with his wife Thelma "Sugar," his son Tracy, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He and his son both shared the love of music and instruments. Ernest had a love of travel and introduced his love of travel to his son by taking him to the World's Fair in New York City at the tender age of two, also to Disney World in Florida and when he was eleven years old they traveled to Germany to visit close friends. Ernest and his son also went fishing and camping with the Boy Scouts. He wanted to take his son hunting but his wife shut that down. So he went hunting with his father Seth Sr. Ernest also had very special relationship with his nieces and nephews and even with his great and great great nieces and nephews.

Ernest was a doting husband as he would take his wife to work and pick her up every day and patiently wait for her until he was physically unable to do so. He was always supportive of his wife's educational endeavors and would wait patiently for her for hours at the library. He also waited for her after choir rehearsal and wedding rehearsals at the church.

Throughout his life Luke never forgot his childhood friends or their nicknames such as, Joe Cap, Butch, Debi -Turner, Lucky, Cracker, Coon, Pork Chops, Spit Green, Wine, Erkie, Cinch, Rock, House-Mouse, Sour, Hot Poppa, Peaches to Plum, Jim Dandy, Jabboe, Hook-um Bull, Willie Boom Boom, Skunk, Stinker, Mac, Chick, Bump, Petty, Boo, Rubber Face, Foxx, Rico, Squirrel, Smako, Truck Head, Chico, Bo-Weevil , Joe Ghost, Bird, Roach, Beander, Ju-Ju, Short Arms, Hooks, Oatmeal, Bus Head, Race Horse, Apple Jack, Heavy Duty, Big Dean, Fish, Moose, Buddy Ford, Bubbie Ellis, Pierre Catfish, Pudden, Dingles, Bubbles, Tom Cat, Boli, Feet, Duke, Gator, Lee Bee, Pugh, Impy Dimp , Strick, Tick, Blue, Ice Brain, Gray, Mickey Page, Frying Pan, Chick-ka-Boo, Mandingo, Fat Daddy, Needles, Pickles, the Mad Scientist, Geech, Bull , Pig, Dip Dad, Hot Dog and Hog-Head.

Ernest loved life and fought a long and hard battle to stay here with his wife, son and family. His physical presence will be missed by all who knew and loved him including their

dog "Babygirl."

Ernest is survived by his caring and devoted wife of fifty- six years, Thelma Dogan Lucas, one son, Tracy Lee Lucas, three grandchildren, Claudetta, Tiana and Tracy Lucas, Jr., and seven precious great-grandchildren, Jeremiah, Kendra, Isaiah, Kendall, Joshua, Kobe and Sarai.

He leaves to mourn, six sister's in-law; Elaine P. Augustus, Betty Dogan Nicholas, Sylvia Scott Lucas, Sandra Washington Dogan, Linda Mial Dogan and Shahadah Dogan. Three brother's in-law, Herbert Dogan, Fred Dogan and John Nicholas. Ernest's relationships with his brother and sister-in laws were more like brothers and sisters than "in-law." He also leaves to mourn his first cousins from Catlett Virginia: Garfield, Joy and David Bruce Shelton, Fatima Ahmed, and many nieces and nephews, childhood friends, pool-hall buddies, former co-workers, and numerous friends and acquaintances.

God had other plans for Ernest and called him home. Rest in peace Bootsie, until we meet again...at Jesus' feet.

TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD 2 Corinthians  
5:8

# Cemetery

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## Bethel Cemetery

Wilkes Street

Alexandria, VA, 22314

# Events

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**SEP** **viewing** 09:30AM - 11:00AM

**27**

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Saint Joseph Catholic Church

2020 Saint Joseph Drive, Largo, MD, US, 20774

**SEP** **Mass** 11:00AM

**27**

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Saint Joseph Catholic Church

2020 Saint Joseph Drive, Largo, MD, US, 20774

**SEP** **Interment** 11:00AM

**28**

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Bethel Cemetery

Wilkes Street, Alexandria, VA, US, 22314

# Comments

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“ 58 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette** - September 26, 2018 at 05:27 AM