



Gary Anthony Jordan Sr.

October 19, 1957 - November 27, 2019

A LIFE WELL-LIVED

Gary Anthony Jordan, Sr. was born on October 19, 1957 in Alexandria, VA to the late William Jordan and the late Peggy Jordan Barber. Gary spent his formative years between Henry and Queen Streets and Colonial Avenue. Educated in the historic Parker Gray Middle School followed by the mighty T.C. Williams High School, Gary was proud to have been coached in football by the legendary Herman Boone, a relationship that he maintained until his death. His educational path continued to Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Quantum Physics in 1981. Gary proved there was truth to the phrase “you can tell a Morehouse man anywhere, but you can’t tell him much”.

In 1982, Gary married Constance (Connie) Taylor. That union was blessed with the birth of two wonderful sons, Gary, Jr. and Bryon. He and Connie remained dear friends until the very end. In 1990, he married Cheryl Bickers. Over the next 29 years, they were blessed with an infectious love, a great partnership and an abundance of laughter. He affectionately referred to Cheryl as “his baby”. Together, they took on the world – always hand-in-hand, side-by-side - and enjoyed all the wonderful, challenging, things that life had to offer. They were truly “Team Jordan”.

After graduation, Gary began his long career in the field of Engineering beginning with RCA Service Company, later transitioning to the area of government contracting, in which he continued until his death. The highlight of his career was the 20+ years in Quality Assurance for NASA's Hubble Space Telescope at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. He found great joy in his most recent employment with Global Network Systems of Maryland, Inc., providing support to the Department of Homeland Security. He developed a wonderful working relationship with his co-workers, superiors and customers. Gary was also owner and operator of a videography business, G.J. International Audio Visual Services, for over 35 years.

Over four years ago, Gary joined the Barbershop Bible Study Ministry (BBSM) headed by Geoffrey Thomas (Spider) - a continuation of a limited men's bible study group that began at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria.

Recognizing the need for this type of bible study in the community, the group then began meeting at All American Barber Shop on Queen Street. After the untimely passing of Brother Thomas, Gary was entrusted with the task of heading the BBSM duties of preparing the weekly lessons and leading the weekly discussions. With God's grace, membership has grown 10-fold as the ministry positively affects the lives of many men in the community. The mission of the BBSM is to create a spiritual foundation in the lives of men to become vessels for the Kingdom of God. Gary was quite diligent in his role as leader/facilitator; carefully assembling the weekly lessons to present to the group, anxiously anticipating the discussions they would generate, and delighted to share God's word with the brothers. He considered his participation in these weekly interactive God-centered discussions a true honor and a highlight of his life.

One day, approximately five years ago, Gary decided to compile and post a spiritual affirmation on his Facebook page. What started as an occasional encouraging morning post quickly turned into a daily following. His family of

over 1,500 Facebook friends woke every morning to a timely, encouraging, uplifting, thought-provoking, Bible-based message from Gary to start their day. The messages were entitled “Just a Thought”, always included a prayer, and assured his readers that, no matter what trials they faced, there was always the promise of “But God”. He took great pride in preparing his morning messages and rejoiced in the number of people that were touched and encouraged by them.

Gary was an avid fan of the New York Yankees and a fan of the New York Jets (as long as they were winning). He had a smile that would light up any room. After surviving a major stroke in 2008, he believed that there was a reason for God to spare his life and dedicated the rest of his life to improving the lives of others. He had a warm, welcoming, booming personality that would bring joy to all who encountered him. His kindness, friendship, enduring love and unwavering faith were a source of strength in all situations. To put it mildly, to know Gary was to love him. His death leaves a tremendous hole in the hearts of all who knew him.

Gary joins his ancestors in heaven. He leaves to cherish many loving memories a devoted wife, Cheryl; two sons, Gary Jr. (Jannel) and Bryon; two precious granddaughters, Mariah and Aniyah; three sisters, Sandra Jordan-Porter, Winston-Salem, NC, Pamela Jordan-Boggan, Alexandria, VA, and Marva Weinberg Dixon (Edmund), Columbia, SC; one brother, Tracy Barber (Myra), Alexandria, VA; one stepbrother, Marvin Elliott (Valerie); a brother-in-love, Ronald Bickers, Atlanta, GA; two loving aunts, Jacqueline Ward, Oxon Hill, MD and Catherine Ward, Alexandria, VA, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Wake

DEC 5. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
3500 19th Street South
Arlington, VA 22204

Viewing

DEC 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
3500 19th Street South
Arlington, VA 22204

funeral service

DEC 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
3500 S. 19th Street
Arlington, VA 22204

Interment

DEC 6.

Private

Tribute Wall

KC

“ Gary and I worked together at the Missile Defense Agency several years ago. I called him my brother in Christ, we both shared our birthdays born on October 19th. I would send a text on our birthdays and that is how I found his obituary when he didn't text back. I lived vicariously through his and his beautiful wife Cheryl's travels. I am so sorry for your loss. Peace and Blessings to the family and friends. Much love, K.
Cushenberry Kcushenberry@aol.com



Karen Cushenberry - May 29, 2022 at 10:36 PM

MW

“ Gary provided video recording my services for my wife and I some 27yrs ago when we got married in Silver Spring. I remember his as a truly pleasant who was always smiling. He likely knew that that young 27yrs man before was nervous about getting married and so he always had a reassuring smile or a joke. Unfortunately, we lost the video Gary produced for us but all these years and four children later, we remember him fondly. God bless his family!

Michael Wotorson

Michael Wotorson - December 09, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ Gary Jr. and I grew up together. There really wasn't too much time we were not around each other from the age of 13 until we both went off for undergrad. All of that to say we became regulars, and regarded as family, at each other's home. It's also a nice way to acknowledge how much time taking up space in Mr. and Mrs. Jordan's living room; in their refrigerator; getting a ride; and probably running up their phone bill, scheming about the next plans or parents may or may not have to fund. My father always tells a story about how he and Mr. Jordan followed us to a go-go to make sure we were alright once we'r reached an age when we thought we were grown and could hang out a little later. Of course, we didn't have any knowledge of being monitored.

A couple of days ago I read a recent Facebook response, but a "memory" where Mr. Jordan responded to a post my wife wrote. He told us that he was proud of us and recognized me as "the other son" and it hit home. For a long time, he was there with a lot of positive energy and advice. He was the "cool" dad who knew somebody EVERYWHERE he took us; had an inside scoop; and was going to allow us some type of access that was different than everyone else. Gary's parents and my own were like- minded, so the Jordan's have always been a reinforcement of home for me. Go figure, I ended up buying a house around the corner from Mr. and Mrs. Jordan; nothing changed. Even though I didn't see him as frequently; EVERY meeting it passing was an exchange of some positive energy and blessings for me and my family. He would always yell something funny out positive at my boys and keep it moving.... still too cool, though.

I'm thankful that I got an opportunity to tell him that I appreciated him and to talk to him as an adult about God, family, and life. He will truly be missed.

James Russ - December 06, 2019 at 11:37 AM

MK

“ Gary and I shared an office while working on the Hubble Space Telescope Project. When I first started working in that particular building, before we were roommates, I would see him in the hallways. He'd already had the stroke and I remember seeing him the first time coming up the hall with his cane and bigger than life smile practically shouting "Hey Man, how are doing!". It was humbling to see someone who at least appeared to be struggling so full of optimistic energy. Changed me. I was very fortunate to get to know him a little and find out what a remarkable person he was. I am deeply saddened but so grateful to have known Gary. Peace and best wishes to family and friends.

Michael Kelly - December 05, 2019 at 06:02 PM

DH

“ I was so very fortunate to work with Gary in his capacity as the Quality Assurance representative for HST System Test. He was such a sweet, gentle man, so easy to get along with, and I enjoyed working with him so much. Gary, my life is the better for you having been a part of it. My deepest sympathies to his family. You all remain in my prayers.

Debbi Haynes-Jacinto - December 05, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Anthony Jordan Sr..



December 05, 2019 at 01:51 PM

BA

“ To Cheryl and Jordan Family, the Allen Family, Tampa FL sends our love and condolences for your lost. May God continue to bless you and kept you. Our prayers for peace and comfort, Rest in Peace Gary, Sr.

Bettye Price Allen - December 05, 2019 at 12:35 PM

DQ

“ Diann L. Quander-Walton lit a candle in memory of Gary Anthony Jordan Sr.



Diann L. Quander-Walton - December 05, 2019 at 01:56 AM

DQ

“ Diann L. Quander sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Anthony Jordan Sr.



Diann L. Quander - December 05, 2019 at 01:49 AM

DQ

I'm very proud to say that I knew Gary aka "Jap", ALL of my young Adult Life, and his childhood years till the end. "JAP", as he was affectionately known to all, grew up on Colonial Ave, with my niece Sherry Ware-Traynham, and nephews John aka Doolie, and the late Anthony Ware. Gary ALWAYS greeted anyone that crossed paths with him, with that Infectious smile, that he was known for, during his day to say wal in s of life. I recall, the last time that I saw him, my husband and I were at the Barber shop on Queen St., He shook my husband's hand, saying Sir, and said to me, Madam, and smiled. I'll forever remember that last time that we saw eachother! The A.A. Barber Shop Crew/Men's Bible Study Group, Queen St., or Alex for that matter, will Never Ever be the same. RIHP Gary, until we meet again!! 💖💖

Diann L. Quander-Walton - December 05, 2019 at 02:25 AM

KR

“*"Baby Jap" became such a great man in a short period of time. The lives he touched in just 62 years, is more than some many times his senior! We went to Parker Gray and T.C. Williams together! He loved my brother Geoffrey with all his heart and Geoffrey loved him! Baby Jap always had something uplifting to say. When the Titians celebrated the class of 1976 40th high school reunion, we were all dancing the "electric slide" and I was standing beside Jap, in which in leaned over and said "Kim, I got it when they come to the" left", and wait until you get back from the "right"! We both laughed so hard. He was never disabled, he was able!
Anyone around him and his "baby" knew she was the love of his life!
Rest well my fellow Titan and friend.....#BUTGOD!*

Kim Roberson - December 04, 2019 at 09:59 AM

KS

Growing up on Colonial Ave there were several older brothers that kept the younger brothers in check. They all had their distinct style of uniqueness that conveyed the "SAME" message. Brother Jap was ALWAYS smooth in his delivery. As I got older I realized that brothers like Jap was basically reiterating what we were told by our parents, I guess he had just a tad less bass in his voice and a HUGE smile while doing so! Thank you Jap, I appreciate you and your legacy. Tracy, it's going to be alright. Be strong my brother and keep your head up.

*Kerwin Stevenson
(Dianne Stevenson's brother)*

Kerwin Stevenson - December 07, 2019 at 11:06 AM

DH

“ *To the Family of Gary A. Jordan,*

Peace, comfort and blessings to you during this difficult period. I have known Gary and the Jordan family most of our lives, having grown up in Alexandria as well. I was saddened to hear the news but took solace in knowing that Gary has earned his wings! Gary will be missed on this side of Jordan but take comfort in knowing his resting place!

RIP Gary!

Much Love Jordan Family,

Dr. Deborah Hall-Greene & Family

Deborah Hall-Greene - December 03, 2019 at 07:20 PM



RB

“ *My sincere condolences to the Jordan Family. I chatted with Jap at Spelman Morehouse Homecoming in October 2019. It was so good to see him! Gary (Jap) was such a nice brother, always a smile and ready to help someone.*

Jordan Family, hold tight to your precious memories. Jap will always be with you! May God grant you strength and peace as you go through this difficult time.

*Sincerely,
Rhonda Benjamin Bland
Spelman College Classmate (Class 1979)*

Rhonda Benjamin Bland - December 03, 2019 at 02:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary Anthony Jordan Sr..*



December 03, 2019 at 09:53 AM



“ 39 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - December 03, 2019 at 08:17 AM