



## Mr. Herbert David Spears

June 26, 1928 - September 5, 2018

In Lieu of Flowers

Donations can be made to

The Spears-Young Scholarship Fund

c/o Keely Colburn

P.O. Box 1911, Windemere, FL 34786

Born June 26, 1928 to Rev. George H. and Mrs. Julie Spears in Alabama. He is the second youngest of nine children. Losing his mother at the tender age of 4 he was raised, nurtured, cared for and taught many of his lifelong lessons by his father, and his stern, but loving, well respected, grandmother, Jeffie P. Young.

To ensure a better life and educational opportunities for Herbert, his father moved him north to live with his older brother Austin, who was living in Washington, DC, but when Austin was called to active duty in the army Herbert moved to Alexandria, VA to live with extended family members Henry and Mary Clarke. In Alexandria Hebert attended public school where he focused his studies on business, the drama club, sang in the choir and became an All-Star athlete who went on to play semi-pro football with the "Alexandria Rams".

Because of his Christian upbringing and spiritual beliefs, Herbert knew the

importance of finding a good church home, so in 1948 he joined the Shiloh Baptist Church of Alexandria. Through the many wonderful “people” Herbert met during his earlier years, and the lifelong relationships he established in Alexandria, he graduated from the Alexandria public school system with an athletic scholarship in football to attend the North Carolina A&T SU in Greensboro, NC. He was a starting defensive halfback on the team. He was a devoted supporter of NCA&TSU and a big fan of the team, you could often hear him chanting “Aggie Pride Forever”!

In the fall of 1951, while still in college, he was invited by a friend to attend football game at Virginia Union College now VUU, where he would meet the woman who would change his life forever. Dorothy Thompson a student at the neighboring, Virginia State College now VSU, would also be attending that game. Thus, the start of a lifelong friendship, partnership, love affair, and blessed 56.5 years of marriage began. He once told a friend that the birth of his 2 daughters Judith and Bonita brought him great pride and joy that was only be rivaled by the birth of his grandson Edwin, whom he also adored, and the feelings were and are very mutual. Herbert left college early to serve in the US Army where he also continued his education. He retired from the army as a Sgt. Major with 21 years of service.

Herbert had a long and successful career in the federal government where he worked for 38 years as the OCC Safety & Health Coordinator, Dept. of Defense Worldwide, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC/Arlington, VA. He is a former officer and 65-year member of the Departmental Progressive Club, one of the oldest privately owned and operated African American social clubs on the east coast, founded in 1927 and is an Old Town Alexandria landmark. Herbert was a professional photographer, which he started as a hobby in his youth and enjoyed very much throughout his life. Some of his prized possessions were photographs he'd taken during his military travels and then the many pictures he's taken

during his extensive years of traveling throughout the US and abroad with his late wife Dorothy and their family.

He leaves to cherish his memory his daughter Bonita Spears, Alexandria, VA, daughter Judith Spears-Mutungu(Edwin) & grandson Edwin Spears-Mutungu, Brooklyn, NY, special nieces LeeVera Terrell, Hamilton, AL , Elise McWilliams, Huntsville, AL, great-niece Keely Colburn, Orlando, FL, treasured cousin John W. Wilcox, Jacksonville, FL, godchildren Charles & Princess Watson, Gates, NC, goddaughter Ramona Wiggins, Hyattsville, MD and a host of family and friends from around the world!

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Comfort Cemetery

6600 So. Kings Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22306

# Previous Events

## Viewing

SEP 15. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church  
1401 Jamieson Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## Celebration of Life

SEP 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church  
1401 Jamieson Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## Interment

SEP 15 (ET)

Mt. Comfort Cemetery  
6600 So. Kings Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22306



# Tribute Wall

VP

“ Dear Bonnie and Judith, I am so sorry to find out about Mr. Spear's passing away. I have the fondest and most beautiful memories of him being a noble and honorable man, and an amazing neighbor and friend. I remember your Mom giving me cookies as I ran around the cul de sac playing as a 7 year old with other children, and your parents giving me a generous high school graduation gift, and even money for pizza when I was at college. May your dad RIP and be surrounded by angel with Mrs. Spears by his side. My deepest condolences, Veronica and the Wiles Family.

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**Veronica Parsons** - August 04, 2019 at 07:54 PM

DB

“ U will truly be missed Mr. Herbert.so R.I.P.

*Doretha Barbour*



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**Doretha Barbour** - September 19, 2018 at 08:52 PM

GH

“ Uncle Herbert was loved and adored by so many people that crossed his path. As patriarch of our family, we will all miss seeing and talking with him about family, politics, and sports. He was a joy and full of life. RIP Uncle Herbert, you will always be in my heart.

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**Gloria High** - September 15, 2018 at 10:29 PM

JG

“ *RIP(ardise) Pops!  
The Greenes,  
Hattie and John*



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**John Greene** - September 15, 2018 at 06:02 AM

JL

“ *My condolences to the Spears family Judith and Bonita you are in  
my prayers..Uncle Herb Rest In Peace*

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**Juna lee** - September 14, 2018 at 12:03 PM

SC

“ *Stephanie McNeil Calhoun lit a candle in  
memory of Mr. Herbert David Spears*



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**Stephanie McNeil Calhoun** - September 14, 2018 at 08:39 AM