



Mr. John Edward " Penny" Gray Jr.

February 5, 1937 - November 19, 2022

John Edward Gray Jr., also known as Penny, was born on February 5th, 1937, in Alexandria, Virginia (VA) to the late John Edward Gray Sr., and Blanche J. Gray. He was loved and reared by his mother until her death in 1956. Penny was found worthy of his suffering on November 19th, 2022, at Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, VA.

Penny received his childhood education in Alexandria City Public Schools and graduated from Parker Gray High School. In high school, he played the trumpet in the school band and played on the basketball team where he was a state champion dynasty member.

In 1957, Penny enlisted into the United States Army serving at Fort Polk. Upon his honorable discharge, he returns home to Alexandria. Penny enjoyed his job as a Technical Information Specialist at the United States Department of Agriculture, where he worked for over 50 years. He also thoroughly enjoyed teaching Legal Literature at the National Agricultural Law Library.

Penny married Dorothy Eugenia Ewings on August 6th, 1966, and together they adoringly raised Valeria Osei and Renie Elliott. They dedicated 55 years of their life together. He took pride in raising his family and being a monumental part of his children's and grandchildren's lives.

Penny was a faithful member of Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church (RMUMC) where he attended church regularly, sang in the church choir, and taught Saturday Sunday school. He loved being active and won a copious number of trophies and medals for distance running, bowling, basketball and judo. He was a member of the RMUMC Bowling League where he was given the name Showtime and also a member of the DC Road Runners, as he loved long distance running.

One of Penny's favorite things to do was to make or listen to music. He was a member of the Duke Ellington Jazz society and enjoyed singing, playing the trumpet, keyboard and xylophone. Penny was an avid jazz collector and was affectionately known as the "Jazz Man". He loved to burn CDs as a way to share his love of music with his family and friends. Penny was also a member of the Ecumenical Choir of Northern VA (ECNOVA) where people from all walks of life loved hearing his deep and gruff baritone voice. His favorite song to sing was "In the Upper Room".

Penny was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Eugenia Gray, his parents John E. Gray Sr., Blanche J. Gray and Lillian S. Gray, his brothers William C. Gray and Richard E. Gray and his sister Elnora A. Cheeks. He leaves to cherish his memory a host of family and friends; daughters Valeria Osei, Renie Elliott (Louis Elliott III), and fur-baby Muffin; granddaughters Renia "Emily" Osei, Renie Osei, Lyndzey Elliott, Lauryn Elliott, Laura "Alex" Elliott, grandson Nana Yaw Osei; great-grandson Erik John Amanfo; fur-great-granddaughter Pennie-Rena. Penny is also survived by his sisters Carolyn Moore and Arlene Benford, brother-in-law Wilbert Benford, and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Penny loved his family, church, friends, coworkers, Montrose Avenue and Wesmond Drive neighbors, his fur babies, his music and his art. We have all learned so much from the rich and vibrant life he lived. Despite our anguish,

let us relish in his memory by remembering his favorite saying, "It's all good".

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church
606 A South Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Funeral

DEC 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church
606 A South Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Live Streaming Service Link:

<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/7816498628>

DEC 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church
606 A South Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Interment

DEC 1. 1:30 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
Triangle, VA

Tribute Wall



“ Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette-Johnson Funeral Service, P.A. created a Webcast in memory of Mr. John Edward " Penny" Gray Jr.



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - November 26, 2022 at 08:47 AM



“ 14 files added to the album Life Tributes



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - November 29, 2022 at 05:04 PM



“ 19 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Phillip Bell Sr. and Winona Morrissette- - November 27, 2022 at 09:07 AM