



Booker T. Combest

July 12, 1939 - February 21, 2016

Dear Family and Friends, thank you so much for coming out for the celebration of my life and my home going. I want you to know that I have gone with God to join my wife.

In my transition, I thought of my dash (July 12, 1939 – February 21, 2016), and I want to share some of the aspects of my journey in hopes of alleviating tears of sadness in your loving remembrance of me.

I was born on July 12, 1939 into the union of matrimony to my parents, the late Clifton Combest and Florence B. Sumrall Combest. In addition to their love and guidance, I also received special nurturing from my grandparents, Norman Sumrall, Richard and Eva Graham, who preceded me in death, along with my brother, Wesley L. Atterberry, Jr. I go to join them now.

I was baptized at an early age at Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Pachuta, MS and shared allegiance to Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where other family attended. After relocating to Laurel, MS, I attended St. Elmo Baptist Church. My career in the United States Navy brought me to Norfolk, VA, where I became a member of Providence A.M.E. Zion Church.

My early school years began in Pachuta, MS and the remainder of those years was in attendance at schools in Laurel, MS. I graduated from Oak Park

High School, Class of 1959. Post-secondary education was my career in the United States Navy and Northern Virginia Community College.

I was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, where I earned several medals, including the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Vietnam Service Medal, Navy Unit Accommodation-Vietnam and 4th Good Conduct Award. I served aboard several navy ships which include: USS Constellation (CV-67), USS Newport News (CA-148), USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), USS Steinaker (DD-863). I retired from the United States Naval Academy as the Leading Chief Petty Officer in charge of the small boats division. I completed 20 years of active military service to our nation with dignity and pride.

I was united in holy matrimony to Carolyn Hargrave on November 8, 1965. She was an extraordinary woman and the love of my life. She would go the extra mile to make sure all was well with both of us. She left a very deep void in my life upon her passing a year ago. Although, we had no biological children, we raised Larry Gibbs and Kevin Aaron as our own. My sons, Tony Evans (Felicia) and Kenneth Green (Marilyn), complete the circle. They became the “rays of sunshine” in my life.

God blessed me with loving and devoted surviving family. Siblings: Helen Grace Combest Watson (Benjamin), Norman L. Combest, Mary Alice Combest Young, Charles E. Atterberry, Sr., Harriette L. Atterberry Gray (Herbert), Eva A. Atterberry Evans; Sons: Tony Evans (Felicia), Kenneth Green (Marilyn); seven grands, four great grands; Aunt Ina Easter and a host of cousins.

Thanks to all of my in-laws; special thanks to my sister-in-law, Teresa; my nieces: Nicole and Little Lynn; nephews: Norman and Charles Atterberry, Jr.; my friends of the Oak Park High School Alumni Association; other colleagues;

and many acquaintances. Your humanity lessened the pain and often put a smile on my face; For this I know: “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.”
Revelation 24:4KJV

Cemetery Details

Albert G Horton Jr. Veterans Memorial Cemetery

5310 Milner's Road
Suffolk, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 26. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Service

FEB 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

Brighton Rock AME Zion Church
1300 Centre Ave
Portsmouth, VA

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Booker T. Combest



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - February 26, 2016 at 05:52 PM

BT

“ Booker was a coworker at Va Power, Possum Point Power Station and was well liked by everyone. Both Booker and Carolyn were know for their kindness. They were always willing to help others. Even though Booker was a older than most coworkers he still was fast on his feet. There was a race one day back in early 90's and Booker came in second. Very good for someone in their 50's and the winner was in his 20's.

Bob Taylor

Bob Taylor - April 04, 2016 at 08:48 AM



“ Sharonda Porter lit a candle in memory of Booker T. Combest



Sharonda Porter - February 27, 2016 at 02:53 PM

LC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lula Cooley - February 26, 2016 at 07:38 PM

LC

“ Lula Cooley lit a candle in memory of Booker T. Combest



Lula Cooley - February 26, 2016 at 07:21 PM



“ 11 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - February 26, 2016 at 04:02 PM

AD

“ I couldn't tell you how much I'm going to miss uncle booker. He literally supported me with everything, and always seen the best in me. I could write a whole book on all the stuff he did for my parents and I. uncle booker deserves al the credit. Him and aunt Carolyn taught me how to study not the techers not anyone else. When it came to school they would stay up all night and help me with anything. Him passing really messed my head up. I seen him hours before he passed, and at the hospital. I'm Going to stay strong for him but this is going to be a hard one. He knew I loved him to death that's all that matters. Hes in a better place now
-Doss family
-Anthony doss jr

anthony doss - February 26, 2016 at 03:40 PM



“ 24 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - February 26, 2016 at 12:38 PM

TF

“ *The Aaron Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Booker T. Combest.*



The Aaron Family - February 25, 2016 at 01:44 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Booker T. Combest.*



February 25, 2016 at 09:51 AM

NA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Nicole D Atterberry - February 24, 2016 at 09:05 AM

BJ

“ My dad, Elwood Norman, Jr., and I, Bertha Norman Booker were very sad to hear of Booker Combest's transitioning on this past Sunday morning. We did not know him as well as we knew his dear wife Carolyn Hargrave.

He, however, made us feel that we were a treasured part of the Providence Church Family. He had a caring and loving heart which we just felt we too belonged in that great family of friends. We will miss his kind spirit and will emulate the good qualities that made Booker a special person. We pray your strength in the loving God we love and serve. In His Love, Elwood Norman, Jr. and Bertha Mae Norman Booker.



Bertha N. Booker/ E. Norman, Jr. - February 23, 2016 at 08:40 PM

JS

"Mr,Booker, a man of honor, was, is, and always will be my hero,mentor and friend.He stood for what we believe is the best in us,limitless in compassion,generosity, and strength.He rose above a difficult time and emerged stronger on the other side."
With Sincere Love and Gratitude,Ms.Janine Summerville

Janine Summerville - February 25, 2016 at 08:45 AM

MP

Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of our classmate Booker. He will be remembered fondly forever. Class of 1959

Marva Posey - February 27, 2016 at 10:28 AM