



Herman H McKinney

August 18, 1945 - November 21, 2025

Herman H McKinney, 80 passed peacefully on Friday, November 21, 2025 in his home surrounded by family. Born on August 18, 1945, he was the second oldest of ten children of his late parents, Charlie and Lorraine McKinney Vinson. Losing his mother at a young age shaped much of his early life, cherishing the bod they shared.

Herman received his primary education in Somerset County, attending Greenwood Elementary and later Somerset Junior and Senior High School. Exceptionally athletic, he became known as one of the best cross-country runner in the region, often finishing in first or second place. His athleticism continued into adulthood, where he enjoyed playing soccer and baseball. As a young man he spent much of his time surrounded by family and worked in Ocean City alongside his close high school friend Ernest Leatherbury.

Herman held deep affection for his maternal grandparents who shaped his spiritual foundation. Under their guidance, he memorized the 23rd Psalm, the Disciples' Prayer) the Lord's Prayer) and other scriptures. His grandmother Julia often reminded him, "God don't like ugly", a phrase he and his siblings understood well. While spending time in Florida with his grandparents, Herman learned about migratory work. He traveled with from Northern to Southern states doing seasonal harvesting of strawberries, pineapples, potatoes and beans - experiences that helped developed his strong work

ethic. Family unity and gatherings were important to him. One of his favorite dishes to prepare and enjoy was crab and rice, a family staple at nearly every gathering. He also took joy rides to New Jersey to pick strawberries and even grew fond of cleaning muskrats and rabbits.

Herman's spiritual journey deepened in the late 1970's through the reflections shared by his brother Rollon. Not long afterwards, he joined Northeast Church of Christ and was baptized there by Minister Frank Watson. Scott AME Zion Church in Wilmington, Delaware also became a place he fellowshiped frequently. He treasured his relationship with Lord and carried it with sincerity throughout his life. With the love of God rooted deeply within him, Herman shared his faith with his younger siblings, his children and anyone willing to listen. Pouring into others spiritually was one of his greatest joys.

A proud United States Marine Corps Veteran Herman served four years as a Payroll Attendant. After completing his military service, he began a long and dedicated career at DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware, where he worked for over 30 years before retiring. His coworkers affectionately called him "Hermskie". Herman also served as the account for the Reindeer organization for over 30 years. An organization whose motto or service. Unity and Charity was in alignment with his heart. Herman loved to travel - whether with the organization, with his family, with his children or even on his own. He enjoyed playing cards, especially pinochle, a game he and his loved ones could play for hours. His favorite outdoor pastimes included crabbing, fishing and walking through the woods picking berries.

Known for his wisdom, Herman spoke from the heart and always shared genuine love and care for others. As he grew older and could no longer attend church physically, his fellowship never stopped. He studied the Bible faithfully, participated in Monday teleconference Bible studies with cousin Bouncy and Luther Jr. tuned into online services on Wednesdays and enjoyed Christian

music channels on YouTube. His favorite book of the Bible was Psalms, which he delighted in reading and discussing.

Herman's family life reflected the many chapters of his journey. His first marriage to the late Cleo McKinney, blessed him with three children and he later shared another chapter of life with Carolyn Waters Anderson. Both marriages ended in divorce, yet the relationships formed during those seasons remained meaningful parts of his story. Herman was also blessed with two more children and as a loving father, he embraced all five with deep sincere and unconditional love. Being their father was one of the greatest joys of his life. He cherished the unique bond he shared with each of them and carried immense pride in the family they formed together. That same love flowed abundantly to his grandchildren and great grandchildren, each of whom held a joyful and special place in his heart. Family was at the center of his life. His generosity extended beyond his own - he even helped raise a niece during her mother's illness. His kindness was consistent, his heart was large, and his compassion reached far. Herman was not only the family patriarch but also the family historian. He could effortlessly recall generations and family names, often with his eyes closed. Understanding family roots was important to him, so much so that he travels to the Bahamas to strengthen family connections. Travel pictures and stories were always a delight to see and hear.

Herman lived a full and meaningful life shaped by faith, strengthened by family and rooted in a deep sense of purpose. His journey touched countless hearts, leaving behind memories, stories and lessons that continue to guide those he loved. As his earthly walk came to a close, he rested peacefully in the promises of God, confident that the love, wisdom and devotion he poured into others would live on through generations.

He leaves behind to continue the race his five children; Daughters; Teresa (Ernest) EL, Laverne E; Michell McKinney; Kimberly Jackson; son Brian Jackson, all of Wilmington, Delaware; nineteen grandchildren; and thirteen great grandchildren. He is also survived by his 4 brothers; Rollon (Gwendolyn) McKinney of Wilson, NC; William (Beverly) McKinney of Baltimore MD; Allen (Gwendolyn) Vinson of Eden, MD; Melvin (Frances) Vinson of Aurora, CO and sister Irene Vinson of Salisbury, MD along with countless cousins, nieces, nephews and friends

In additional to his parents, Herman was preceded in death by four siblings - Brothers Charlie Jr and Jerome. Sisters Engrette and Irene as well as several beloved uncles Luther Sr; Rollon Sr, Joe an Aunt Dorothy (Noonie)

Affectionately known as "Tug" by his late uncle Luther Sr, Herman carried the nickname proudly throughout his life his legacy of love, strength, faith and family remains forever etched in the hearts of all who knew him. He has left a lasting footprint on the lives of his family and friends. His love will remain forever in their hearts and will never be forgotten. Not even his favorite sayings "I love my family; I'll always love my family and "You big dummy"

Previous Events

Viewing

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

Gore Funeral Home
1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Celebration of Life

DEC 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gore Funeral Home
1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Burial

DEC 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Delaware Veterans Cemetery
2465 Chesapeake City Rd
Bear, DE 19701

Tribute Wall

MD

“ Kimmie, Brian and the entire family, please accept our deepest condolences for the homegoing of your dad. My family has known Herman for over 45 years and that goes from Kirkwood St, to the Reindeer Club he truly is a great man and in speaking with him so knowledgeable about so many topics. It was always a pleasure in attending events may they be at his house, on a trip with the Reindeers you knew you were going to have a great time. Rest Herman and thank you for the memories with all my aunties and mom.
Claudette, Kevin Carr (Laura), Dawn Carr-Daniels (Carl) and the remaining Reindeers



MRS DAWN CARR DANIELS - December 16, 2025 at 11:42 PM

JL

“ Janice Lloyd and Family



Janice Lloyd - December 15, 2025 at 10:24 AM

SH

“ Kim, Brian and family. The Hollis family send our love and condolences. We love yall and will always remember all the memories. Especially around my grandmoms Round table. Praying for yall.

Love Stacey and Hollis Family

Stacey Hollis - December 13, 2025 at 05:25 PM

MJ

“ MJ lit a candle in memory of Herman H McKinney



MJ - December 13, 2025 at 02:19 PM

MJ

“ Love you forever pop pop ♥



MJ - December 13, 2025 at 01:53 PM