

Eugene Cunningham

May 6, 2018

Eugene Andrew Cunningham, Sr., was born on December 30, 1953, to the late Grace N. Cunningham and James A. Cunningham. He departed his earthly body on Sunday, May 6, 2018, from complications stemming from ongoing health issues.

Born and raised in Fredericksburg, VA, Gene was well known for his exceptional athletic abilities and boisterous, yet loving demeanor.

During high school, Gene excelled and enjoyed playing multiple sports and would often play pickup games in Mayfield with his brothers, Kevin and Dana, depending on whatever sport was in season.

However, most known in Fredericksburg and throughout the surrounding areas was Gene's reputation in basketball.

The culmination of his high school career came in the form of the 1972 Basketball State Championship Title, the only basketball team in the school's history to accomplish that feat.

After high school, Gene was drafted to the Baltimore Orioles; however, he chose instead to matriculate at Norfolk State University (NSU).

There he led the NSU Spartans to CIAA championship basketball titles in 1974, 1975, and 1976.

He also batted .388 and sparked the NSU baseball team to its first CIAA championship in 1974.

Gene was inducted into NSU's Hall of Fame on June 6, 2009.

He ranks fourth on the school's all-time scoring list with 2,151 career points and second with 1,186 career rebounds.

Gene was selected as the 1976 CIAA Player of the Year and earned honorable mention NAIA All-American honors as a senior.

He was named the CIAA Tournament Most Valuable Player in 1975 and 1976 as well as being selected to the NCAA South Atlantic All-Tournament Team in 1974.

On June 8, 1976, the Golden State Warriors selected Gene in Round 6 as the 18th pick in the 1976 NBA Draft.

He also went on to play a season of professional basketball in Sweden as well as



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playing softball on multiple area teams for several years.

Despite his numerous and impressive athletic acclaims, Gene's most valued accolade was his loving family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his youngest brother Dana A. Cunningham.

He is survived by his beloved and faithful wife of 42 years, Jessica Joyner Cunningham; his son, Eugene "Gene-Gene" Andrew Cunningham II (Sarita Foxx); his daughter, Jessica Danielle Cunningham (Terrence Jones); his granddaughter, Jada Monae Cunningham; his brothers, Kevin (Theresa) and John (Terri); his two sisters, Kathryn and Patricia; six brothers in-law, Mitchell Joyner (Barbara), Dan Joyner (Carolyn), Linwood Joyner, Kenneth Joyner (Ann), Cedric Joyner, and Roger Joyner; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at A. L. Bennett and Son Funeral Home, 200 Butternut Drive, Fredericksburg, VA.