

Ray and Allen Funeral Service, Inc.

Wayne Coleman

(February 07, 1936 - December 30, 2015)

Wayne E. Coleman, 79, passed away December 30, 2015 at the John F. Keever Solace Center after an extended period of declining health.



Wayne was gifted with sports ability and only God could have given him that talent. By the time he was in the seventh grade, Wayne's name was on the lips of many local coaches. But he was only having fun playing ball with his friends, the Proctors, Gene Hammonds, Tee Baby Jones, Henry Robinson and many others who lived in the Murray Hill/Southside community.

Wayne was a 1955 graduate of Stephens-Lee High School and excelled in baseball, basketball and football. As a freshman, Wayne started on the baseball team and was a four-year letterman. As a senior, the Baltimore Orioles recognized his baseball skill, signed him to a contract and his professional baseball career began. Wayne was recognized as one of the greatest athletes coming out of this famous high school and was inducted into the Stephens-Lee High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

When asked to identify the greatest athlete to play under his supervision at Stephens-Lee High School, the famous coach, C. L. Moore stated: "Uncle, the best young man to ever play for me was Wayne Coleman. He started as a little skinny youngster and grew into the best athlete I have ever coached. He had God-given ability; he could do it all." As an older adult, Wayne never lost his athletic ability and desire to compete. He started to play tennis, a game he grew to love. He also encouraged aspiring young athletes to always play their best and listen to the coach.

Wayne was the third child born to the late Dread and Carrie Minnick Coleman, who were co-founders of the Church of God In Christ, Southside Congregation, with Bishop E.J. Perkins as pastor. Wayne joined the church as a child. After his baseball career, Wayne returned to Asheville and was employed with Norfolk & Southern Railway, retiring in 1995. He was a member of the United Transportation Union, NC Tennis Association and life member of the Stephens-Lee Alumni

Association.

He was preceded in death by Dread Coleman, Jr. and Louise F. Coleman.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Annette Coleman; daughter, Kimberly Elaine; son, Darryl; granddaughter, Jarrika; great-grandson, Jaylon; sister, Marjorie Coleman; many cousins; extended family and friends.

The family would like to extend their gratitude for the excellent care received from Dr. Blake Fagan and staff of the Stickney Wing of John F. Keever Solace Center; J.C. Simuel who escorted and assisted Wayne to the gym; Sam Morgan who was faithful in helping keep Wayne's spirits up and just being available when needed. And the family is grateful to many other friends who showed their love and support to Wayne during his illness.

A memorial service will be 1:30 P.M., Thursday, chapel of Ray Funeral & Cremation Service with Rev. Gerald Davis and Bishop Jesse Warren officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Wayne may be made to John F. Keever Solace Center in care of CarePartners Foundation, P.O. Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813.