



Mr. George Russell Finley, Jr.

March 6, 1940 - March 25, 2017

Celebrating The Life Of George Russell Finley, Jr.:

George Russell Finley Jr. best known as “G” was born on March 6, 1940 in Atlanta, Georgia to the late George, Sr. and Beatrice C. Finley. He had five siblings: Wilma (preceded him in death), Cleophus, Leona, Eleanor, and Irvin.

At the age of four (after his mother's passing) G moved to Birmingham, Alabama where he remained until he relocated to Detroit in 1954. While growing up in Ensley, he attended Holy Family Catholic Elementary School where he served as an altar boy. He was a devout Catholic. He spent most of his summers in Cleveland, Ohio, where he became a dedicated fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes. He also loved the Cleveland Browns and Indians.

Upon graduating from Cathedral Catholic High School in Detroit in 1958, he attended Lawrence Technological Institute. In 1959, he enlisted into the United States Navy until his honorable discharge in 1963. While in the Navy, he met the love of his life, Gloria Griffin “Gigi.” On November 28, 1964, “G” and “Gigi” were joined in Holy Matrimony. To this union four children were born: George Russell III, Gina Renee, Greg Renard, and Geneé Renita.

In 1965, he became the first black stationary engineer hired by Detroit Edison. He was eventually promoted to Supervisor, where he remained until his

retirement in 2002 upon completing 37 years of service.

He was an active league member enjoying the sports of bowling, baseball, football, and his greatest love was golf. He travelled frequently with the Blue Tees and Foursome Golf group and his bowling teams. George's membership in golf leagues allowed him to travel and play golf on some of the most famous golf courses in the U.S. He enjoyed travelling and took his family on many trips by car to several states in the U.S. He also had a passion for cars, especially Cadillacs.

George loved his life and enjoyed sharing and caring for others. He was the most thoughtful man you could have as a friend. He was a devoted husband and father and will truly be missed.

George Russell Finley Jr. departed this life on Saturday, March 25, 2017.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI 48442

Previous Events

Funeral Service

Tuesday, Apr. 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's of Redford Roman Catholic Church
14601 Mansfield
Detroit, MI 48227

Family Hour

Tuesday, Apr. 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's of Redford Roman Catholic Church
14601 Mansfield
Detroit, MI 48227

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. George Russell Finley, Jr.*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *To my dear family... Sending all my love and condolences from California. May you all be lifted in prayer and continue to help each other through this difficult time. My best memory of Mr. Finley is when we were driving down I-75 on the way shopping in Toledo we were like 7 years old. Genee and I were arguing over a sausage McMuffin we both wanted. Mr. Finley pulled over on the freeway and grabbed a plastic knife out the trunk and cut it in half and ended all the bickering immediately. It was classic! I'll never forget! I know you all have so many warm memories with him that will keep his legacy alive. You all are in my prayers.*

Nakia Franklin - April 03, 2017 at 06:38 PM



“ *The children of the late Samuel and Vivian Stansbery, Valerie, Andre and Artie, send their condolences. May God continue to Bless the family during this time of sadness. You have our deepest sympathy.*

Valerie, Andre and Artie Stansbery

Valerie Stansbery - April 03, 2017 at 03:16 PM

ML

“ I'm very sorry for your loss. As an electrical foreman I worked for George on many large and small power distribution projects. He was a true gentleman and joy to work with. His sense of humor and easy going manner made him fun to work for. I'm sure he enjoyed his favorite sport of golf after retiring. May he rest in peace.

Mike Lukasavage - April 02, 2017 at 11:14 AM

DB

“ Derrick, Phyllis Ingram/Charles, Danielle Burch purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. George Russell Finley, Jr..



Derrick, Phyllis Ingram/Charles, Danielle Burch - March 31, 2017 at 11:52 AM

RO

“ I'm sending the family my condolences . George was a fitness member at the DMC fitness center and he would always come in with a smile on his face . He will truly be missed . May God bless Mr. George and his family today and all the days to come .

Robin

Robin - March 30, 2017 at 09:11 AM

ML

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort embrace you with peace and hope as we all look forward to the time when even death will be no more. Rev 21:4. You have my deepest sympathy.

Ms Laverne - March 30, 2017 at 06:14 AM

TR

“ George was a very dedicated Edison employee. Had some fun times with him. One time we were working together and he wanted to stop at Emily's Across the Street to get some ice cream. I told him I didn't want any, but he went ahead and got me an ice cream cone. As he was walking back to the truck, I locked the doors and he was stuck outside holding two ice cream cones. He had a few choice words forme when I finally let him into the truck.

Tim Reno - March 29, 2017 at 12:33 PM

RH

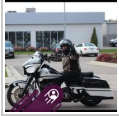
I am going to miss the best neighbor anyone could ever have. He was like part of our family. I would enjoy conversations with him out in the backyard, in the front yard, on the side walk, while we did our grass. When ever we needed something he was ALWAYS there. I remember once when the lights went out and I called him in the middle of the morning hours, when my grandma said, "don't call George, its too late"...but I called anyway and told him our lights had gone out...a few minutes later he was knocking @ our door with his flash light and some fuses to check the fuse box in basement. I was so glad he was able to change it and get our lights back on...that was the kind of man he was. A caring neighbor, a great husband, father, grandfather and friend that will truly be missed. Rest in heaven, Mr. Finley

Rhonda - March 29, 2017 at 06:40 PM

GE

Yes!!! Thank you so much! My daddy was a wonderful man and provider! He was funny too! 😊

Genee' - March 30, 2017 at 09:19 PM



I too had the pleasure of meeting George while working at a power plant for Detroit Edison. We had a lot of fun back in those days both at work and away. I remember how fierce of a competitor George was on the softball field back in those days. Great hands and not a bad bat either! But his love was for the game of golf and he had many a story to tell about his favorite courses and how he beat everyone he played with every time he stepped on a course! George was a good and kind man who made all around him better. He will be missed. May his family know how much he was liked and respected. Rest In Peace until we meet again. Gene Preston, Atlanta, GA.

Gene Preston - April 02, 2017 at 09:13 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. George Russell Finley, Jr..*



March 29, 2017 at 11:57 AM