



Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence

October 9, 1945 - December 31, 2025

A smile, laughter, encouraging words, the sharing of wisdom, skilled knowledge, and life lessons...Vaughn L. Spence was “the man” to many. He had a vibrant personality and was someone who commanded a strong presence with a kind heart. Born on October 9, 1945 to Carrie B. and Isaiah Spence, Vaughn was affectionately known as “Tootsie” by immediate family and childhood friends, and “Papa” by his grandchildren. Vaughn accepted Christ during his younger years. His parents, along with his infant daughter, Katherine, preceded him in death.

Vaughn attended Wilbur Wright High School in Detroit where he excelled scholastically and athletically. Upon graduation from Wilbur Wright High School, he moved to Los Angeles California staying with his older sister, Charlotte, and began attending Los Angeles City College. He received a draft notice from The U.S. Army while in LA and was required to return to Detroit. While waiting for orders he met the love of his life, Patricia Walton on July 7, 1966. While attending city college, he became a member of Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc. through the Lambda Chapter on December 31, 1964.

Before he left for Germany, he told Pat he wanted to marry her. Her response was, “Okay.” Vaughn was deployed to Germany in September 1966 and remained in Germany until August, 1968. Vaughn and Pat exchanged many letters throughout his two years of service in the Army and when he returned,

they were joined in holy matrimony on December 7, 1968. While in the Army, Vaughn exhibited advanced proficiency serving in the position of Sergeant as part of the bridge crew. As a bridge specialist, Vaughn helped to manage teams in bridge operations while stationed in Germany. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) for his service during the Vietnam wartime period.

Vaughn was hired as a finance manager for Household Finance, upon his return from Germany, and remained in the credit and finance sector until he was tapped to become a part of HUD, under President Johnson. When the administration changed, he suddenly found himself unemployed but was immediately snapped up as a road manager for his brother-in-law of The Detroit Emeralds. He traveled with the group, for various concerts/tours, until he got a call from Pat about a position at Ford Motor Company. He started working for Ford on June 6, 1976. At Ford, Vaughn was a pipefitter for Rouge Steel until he transferred to Ford working at the Dearborn Stamping plant. He became a member of the UAW Local 600. He retired from Ford in June 2006 as a project coordinator after thirty years of service.

Vaughn loved sports, coaching basketball in his spare time, and becoming an avid golfer prior to his retirement from Ford. He continued playing golf in his retirement, with Pat playing alongside him. Vaughn and Pat enjoyed many traveling excursions across the world, visiting 46 states and over ten countries. Throughout their marriage, many of these trips included numerous vacations with family, and visits to see their children/grandchildren, celebrating many family milestones. He continued his love of reading, journaling, attending jazz concerts/festivals, sports, and being active through volunteering.

A loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Vaughn went home to be with the Lord on December 31, 2025. He leaves a long-lasting

legacy and will be greatly missed by, his loving wife, Patricia; his siblings: Charlotte Steptoe (Greg), Sandra Mitchell (James); his children: Kevin King, Dr. Lester K. Spence, Khari Spence (Dinah), Chanda Schwartz (Leonard); his grandchildren: Imani, Kamari, Kiserian, Niara, Khari, Sommer, Vaughn Brycen, Aayden, Leonard III, Liam, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Family Hour/Memorial

Saturday, Jan. 17. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

Saturday, Jan. 17. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

MN

“ *Much love, Sarah, Mark, and Nina purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.*



Much love, Sarah, Mark, and Nina - January 17 at 07:51 AM

SH

“ *Stephanie H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.*

Stephanie H. - January 17 at 12:14 AM

AC

“ *AFFINITI SPRING '1989 DST Nu Chapter planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.*

AFFINITI SPRING '1989 DST Nu Chapter - January 16 at 07:52 PM

MS

“ *Martha Glover Harrison and sons purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.*



Martha Glover Harrison and sons - January 16 at 01:15 PM

MS

“ Martha Glover Harrison and sons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.

Martha Glover Harrison and sons - January 16 at 01:15 PM

TF

“ The Haywood Davis Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.



The Haywood Davis Family - January 15 at 02:56 PM

YF

“ Your School District U-46 family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.



Your School District U-46 family - January 15 at 10:17 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.



January 15 at 08:23 AM

RD

“ Roosevelt D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.

Roosevelt D. - January 10 at 12:42 PM

GW

“ Gilbert and Larcenia White purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.



Gilbert and Larcenia White - January 07 at 10:31 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.



January 06 at 11:31 PM

DH

“ Diarra & Jarred Hugle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence.

Diarra & Jarred Hugle - January 06 at 11:31 PM

JD

“ Jeffrey Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Vaughn Lester Spence



Jeffrey Davis - January 04 at 05:46 AM

RC

“ Vaughn was a leader at the Dearborn Stamping Plant, but he was also my good friend. The last time I saw him was at a jazz concert in Dearborn with his very sweet wife Pat. He was such a strong presence and had such pride and joy concerning his children. My prayer is to see him again when its my time to enter eternity with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Rick Coogan - January 03 at 09:38 PM