



Mr. Clarence Alphonso McDowney

May 14, 1949 - September 25, 2025

It is with great sadness that we share that Clarence Alphonso McDowney was called home to rest on Thursday, September 25, 2025, in his home in District Heights, Maryland, at the age of 76. Clarence brought so much light, love, and laughter into our lives. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He was born to the late Wesley McDowney Sr. and Gertrude Mason McDowney on May 14, 1949, in Westmorland County. He received his education through the Westmorland County Public School System.

Clarence loved and believed in the Lord. He would always say "If the Lord's will" He enjoyed being around family and friends. He was the type of person who would worry about you and not himself. He always made sure to tell family and friends "you be safe". He loved to sing and listen to music. He would sing "Me and My Gang" with so much pride and conviction.

Clarence moved to Washington DC during the 70s. During that time, he met and married Irvinia Wright (Smith). During their 7-year union their child Nakisha McDowney was born.

In the 80s Clarence became employed with Church's Landscaping located in Oxon Hill, MD. He felt a sense of pride in planting shrubs and flowers. He would often be found smiling from the joy his job brought him.

During this time, Clarence began a relationship with Ms. Leslie Wingate. They ensured that the children had respect, love, and a strong family unity.

In the early 2000's Clarence met Ms. Lelia Dais whom he stayed in a relationship with until his death.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Mary Alice, Little Gertie, Curtis, Isabelle, Yvonne, Wesley, Charles, Walter, Abe, Emmanuel, Abraham, and William.

Clarence is survived by his daughter Nakisha Ashanta McDowney, and Son-in-Law, Nathan Edward Smith, Jr.; grandchildren: Tymeka McDowney, Alexis Parker, James Norman III, Jamisha Norman, DanaJuar Mcdowney, Phoenix-Justice Smith, and Egypt- Adorn Smith; great-grandchildren: Journey-Chyenne Parker and Kash-Kamirii Parker; siblings Rev. Welford McDowney, and Mary Wyetta Simms. He is also survived by several sisters-in-law, including Beulah McDowney, Elizabeth McDowney, Jeanette McDowney, Louise McDowney, and Virginia McDowney. A longtime companion, Lelia Dais as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate the life of Clarence on October 13, 2025, in Suitland, MD at 1:00 PM. This will be a time to honor his memory with love, laughter, and heartfelt moments shared with his loved ones. The family will then have an Interment of Ashes Ceremony in King George, Virginia,

Tribute Wall

LM

“ To Aunt Wyetta and the entire family..
My name is Leola Crabbe McDowney. I married Charles (Eddie Boy)McDowney. Just wanted to extend my condolences. I remember Uncle Clarence when he would come to VA on occasion. Very handsome, suave man...easily distinguished as a "McDowney"! Family cherish the fond memories you have of him.

*Blessings and love,
Leola and Eddie Boy*

Leola Crabbe McDowney - October 04, 2025 at 09:38 AM

PS

“ Pretty Baby

*My grandfather Clarence loved me so true,
And with all of my heart, I loved him too.
His voice like sunshine, his laughter so bright,
Calling me “Pretty Baby” felt perfectly right.
That name was my treasure, my secret, my song,
A place where my heart always belonged.
When he passed, I held tight to the sound of his care—
Now his voice lives inside a small, precious bear.
I press the button two hundred times, maybe more,
Each “Pretty Baby” opens a door.
A doorway to love that can never depart,
His voice still beats inside my heart.
He spoke of gangsters, with a mischievous grin,
And said I was one, strong deep within.
I’d stand up straighter, act tough and proud,
With my gangster grandfather, I stood out in the crowd.
Blessed with the gift to see spirits near,*

I feel him beside me, his love crystal clear.

Each night before bed, he's never too far,

Watching over me, my brightest star.

Love you forever, my gangster, my guide—

Pretty Baby forever by your side. ❤️

Phoenix-Justice Smith - October 02, 2025 at 09:03 AM

PS

“ *Pretty Baby*

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Pretty Baby forever by your side. ❤️*

Phoenix-Justice Smith - October 02, 2025 at 08:57 AM

QJ

“ *I remember being at the beach with my uncle while I was pregnant. When I got back from waddling through the sand to the bathroom, he said “ Hey, I saw you waddling through that sand like a pro. You must have really had to go.” we both burst out laughing. It was such a simple, funny moment that made the day unforgettable. Uncle Clearance, you will be missed!*

Queen James - September 30, 2025 at 05:47 PM

MS

“ Uncle Clarence and I had some good conversations. We would often talk about religion. Uncle Clarence I will miss talking to you. Rest in peace.

Michael Simms - September 29, 2025 at 03:50 PM

KS

“ Uncle Clearance, I will always cherish our relationship. You consistently reached out to me and my family to check on us and offer your words of wisdom. You also shared your admiration of my accomplishments and wished me continued success and happiness. We never said goodbye without saying, “I love you!”, which was so meaningful to me. I just learned your middle name was Alphonso and that name seemed quite befitting of you because you were so debonair and sophisticated, like Billie Dee Williams 😊.

karmon simms-coates - September 29, 2025 at 03:02 PM

YB

“ Clarence wasn't just a cousin—he was like a brother to me. He brought laughter and joy into rooms that needed it. His loyalty was quiet but unwavering, and his presence grounding. It was just good being around him.
Though he is no longer here in body, his spirit lives on in every story we tell, every lesson he taught us, and every corner of our hearts he filled with love.
While I will miss him deeply, I will carry him with me always, as I fondly remember him saying “Hey Sis”.

Yvonne Bumbrey - September 29, 2025 at 02:53 PM

WY

“ *My brother Clarence loved spending time with his grand children. He loved singing and was handsome...I'm sure he charmed a lot. We loved him dearly and he will be missed. Rest in everlasting peace brother.*

wyetta - September 28, 2025 at 03:05 PM