



Ernest Dean Vaughn

February 4, 1940 - February 9, 2025

A cherished light of his community and a true man of God, Ernest (Ernie) Dean Vaughn, 85, of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away peacefully at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital - Indianapolis on February 9, 2025. Ernest was born on February 4, 1940, in Goodwater, Alabama, to Tellis and May (Bradford) Vaughn. He moved to Indianapolis as a child and graduated from Crispus Attucks High School, where he excelled in wrestling and track and field.

Following his military service, Ernest returned to Indianapolis and – blessed with a remarkable ability to uplift and motivate others – rose to become a superintendent at Allison Engine Company, Div. of General Motors. There, he also was an enthusiastic leader of fundraising efforts for the United Negro College Fund. After retiring from Allison, Ernest remained committed to enriching the lives of those around him in myriad ways, particularly through his focus on property development. No matter the job, Ernie Vaughn got it done and done right.

While Ernest's accomplishments were impressive, his immense heart truly set him apart. Ernest's interests included cooking, gardening, photography, Corvettes, and travel – whatever he did and wherever he went, he drew people to him and built meaningful connections. He was always giving out bunches of his collards, sending guests home with extra helpings of his cornbread and ribs, taking professional-looking pictures of loved ones, friends, and new acquaintances, and making sure he had the latter's number to stay in touch. Guided by kindness and compassion, Ernest saw the goodness and potential in everyone he met.

Ernest was a devoted, endlessly loving, wise, and patient father to his daughter, Niki Keeter, and he had especially close relationships with his niece Terry Bluit, grandniece Chelsi Bluit, and grandnephew Aaron Bluit. He also is survived by his beloved granddaughter, Norah Keeter, and sister, Mary Moore, as well as many other family members and dear friends.

The family extends a sincere thank you to all those who have offered their condolences. Despite our profound sadness at his passing, we can be cheered by memories of Ernest's generosity, warmth, humor, and thousand-watt smile. Ernest Vaughn made a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him, and he is deeply missed.

Cemetery Details

Crown Hill Cemetery

700 W. 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **22**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Quincy J Webster Funeral Chapel
2805 North Franklin Road
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 297-7956

Service

FEB **22**. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

FS

“ From Frank & Linda Schultz’ purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernest Dean Vaughn.



From Frank & Linda Schultz’ - February 21, 2025 at 10:34 AM

FF

“ Fredie Vaughn Crutchfield & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest Dean Vaughn.

Fredie Vaughn Crutchfield & Family - February 20, 2025 at 10:31 PM

FF

“ Fredie Vaughn Crutchfield & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ernest Dean Vaughn.



Fredie Vaughn Crutchfield & Family - February 20, 2025 at 10:31 PM

FC

“ I will cherish the memories I have of Cousin Ernest. As children he, I and other Cousins would enjoy roaming the woods near our grandparent's home.
Dear Ernie, you are gone for now but never forgotten.
Love Always, Fredie "Dot"

Fredie Crutchfield - February 20, 2025 at 09:52 PM

CA

Earnest, I will hold to my heart all the good times we spent together, and all the conversations by phone. You were a SPECIAL cousin and friend. Margaret thought you were OK too. Much LOVE. Curry.

Curry Adams - February 22, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ *Leroy Greenwood lit a candle in memory of Ernest Dean Vaughn*



Leroy Greenwood - February 20, 2025 at 11:33 AM

TF

“ *We extend our sincere condolences to the family of Ernie Vaughn. We pray that God watch over and guide you as you mourn the loss of your loved one. Ernie was liked by all he met. I met Ernie a long time ago during the Circle City Classic Activities. We became friends and i was very glad to know him. He has moved to his Heavenly Home and will be missed. May he rest in eternal peace.*

The Greenwood Family - February 20, 2025 at 11:29 AM

MB

“ *MANY LOVE & PRAYERS TO ALL THE FAMILY DURING THIS TIME! HE WAS A GREAT GUY AND SO GLAD I GOT TO KNOW HIM! LOVE TO YOU ALL~ MONICA BURCH*

MONICA BURCH - February 18, 2025 at 10:51 AM

MR

“ *Mr. Ernie Vaughn will be truly missed in the neighborhood. He was definitely a pillar of community. He was a wonderful gentleman. He was an amazing Landlord and older brother as he described our relationship. I will be praying for his daughter and his family during this time of loss. Just know that he loved you beyond words and he spoke of you often. You have my deepest sympathy.*

Sincerely,

Marilyn Robertson and family

Marilyn Robertson - February 13, 2025 at 04:11 PM

VS

“ *Sending condolences to the family during this difficult time. Grateful for the time spent with Ernest, and the wonderful conversation that Terry and I shared with him. Hoping that you gain strength in the memories that you hold dear to your heart.*

🙏❤️ Love to the family!

Virginia Spivey and Family

Virginia Spivey - February 12, 2025 at 11:26 PM