



Robert Finley

October 28, 1947 - May 19, 2020

Robert A. Finley, Sr. went home to be with the lord on Tuesday, May 19th, 2020 at the age of 72

years old. He was born into the union of Bob Lanier Finley and Frances Louise Register Finley

on October 28, 1947. He was a congenial man with an easy-going personality that was displayed

in his kind nature. Robert grew up in Old Town Community of Palestine, Texas. Robert attended

and baptized at Mount Vernon AME Baptist Church as a child. As a young kid, Robert attended

Frederick Douglas Elementary where his Great-Grandfather, William Freeman, was the principal

in 1909 and his Great-Uncle, Byron Freeman, was the principal at his time of attendance. Robert

graduated from A. M. Story High School (named after his cousin, Alonzo Marion Story), in 1966

where he was on the football team and a member of the FFA.

After high school, Robert married his first wife, Doris Hamilton in 1968. In their union they had three children: Andre Lanier (Lynn), Cindy Cecelia (CiCi), and Robert Anthony Jr., (Robbie).

Shortly after, Robert enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he did a tour of duty in the Vietnam War on

the USS Constellation. He proudly served as one of the two only African Americans in his Naval Unit.

Robert returned to Palestine and began a career with the Missouri Pacific Railroad in 1971 following his grandfather (Freddie Finley) and his father (Bob Finley) footsteps. Robert

relocated

to Houston, Texas to continue his career as an Engineer with the Union Pacific Railroad after 38

years of stellar service and retired in 2009. Robert later remarried Debra White Finley in 2008

(whom he proceeds in death). Robert lived out his retirement listening to “old school” music,

talking on the phone with his brother, Don Finley, reliving his Naval and railroad experiences,

and watching his old westerns with his wife on television, and spending time with family and

friends during gatherings and events. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Frances Finley. He leaves his wife Debra

D. Finley to cherish his memory, his children, Andre Lanier Finley, Cindy Cecelia, and Robert Finley, Jr. his stepchildren, Tanchel White (Christopher Boone, Fiancé), Kareem White, and Andrea

“Tweety” Landry. Robert is also survived by his grandchildren: Xavion, Christian, Kelci, Robin,

Raven, Jailen, Dylan, Aariah, and Alayah, also his sister and brother, Lillie Robinson (James) and

Donald Finley (Julie). He is also survived by his aunt, Jeanette Tatum of Beaumont, TX., nieces

and nephews: Januari and JoAnna Robinson (Haley), Ashley Finley Burns (Milton), Aaron Finley

(Rachel). Robert also leaves behind a host of family and friends to keep his memory alive.

Cemetery

Houston National Cemetery
10410 Veterans Memorial Drive
Houston, TX, 77038

Events

MAY 28 **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

San Jacinto Funeral Home
14659 East Freeway, Houston, TX, US, 77015

MAY 28 **Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

San Jacinto Funeral Home
14659 East Freeway, Houston, TX, US, 77015

Comments



“ Leroy White..., Robert was a beloved classmate; he always had a smile for you and an encouraging word. To the family: May the Love of God and the Peace of God comfort you during this trying time.

Leroy White - May 28, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ Vernon Denmon & Family... purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Finley.



Vernon Denmon & Family... - May 27, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ I was, that others did not want to be. I went where others did not want to go and did what others failed to do. I asked nothing from those who gave nothing and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness should I fail. I have seen the face of terror. I have felt the sting of fear and have enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love. But most of all, I have lived times best forgotten. At least I am to say that I am proud of what I am. A veteran who served his COUNTRY.
May the GRACE of GOD, Comfort the LIFE of those I Leave behind..
From: Vernon Denmon & Family A.M.Story Class OF 1966..

Vernon Denmon,Jr. - May 27, 2020 at 03:37 PM



“ From your friends from Old Town and A M Story 1966 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert Finley.



From your friends from Old Town and A M Story 1966 - May 27, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ Pauline Birdow Harrison lit a candle in memory of Robert Finley



Pauline Birdow Harrison - May 22, 2020 at 12:09 AM



“ I offer my heartfelt condolences to the entire Finley Family at this time of your loss. I have very fond memories of Robert because we grew up in the same neighborhood. We were classmates from the first grade through graduation from high school. My memories of him are of a clean cut, well dressed, gentle young boy into his manhood in high school. He was never a joiner but always seemed to have a strong character and leadership qualities. I regret that we never had the opportunity to reminisce about our youth and to share stories of what life was like after Old Town. I do, however, feel gratitude to have known him and I will miss him. Please know that you, his family, will be in my prayers as you mourn your loss.

Juanita Pearl (Scott) Taylor



Juanita Taylor - May 21, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ Praying God comfort you during this time of sorrow...for He is there to ease the pain and bring your sorrowing hearts relief...May God Bless your family always.

Pauline Birdow Harrison - May 22, 2020 at 12:18 AM



“ May the comforting ministry of the Holy Spirit guide you through the painful loss of your loved one. Robert was a part of our memorable class of A. M. Story '1966. He was always remembered during our class get-togethers and genuinely missed when he wasn't in attendance. Rest Well, Classmate! Lou Margaret Barrett

Lou Barrett - May 27, 2020 at 07:04 PM