



Mr. Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr.

May 16, 1937 - July 5, 2019

Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr., 82, of Lithia, Florida, born on May 16, 1937 in Hopewell, went home to be with the Lord on July 5, 2019. He was a proud member of the Pinecrest Pilots Class of 1955, where he played baseball and football. He was a veteran of the United States Marines Corps. He was a 55 year member of Local Ironworkers Union 397, and retired from Central Maintenance and Welding, Inc. after 20 plus years of employment. Garland was a lifelong member of Little Union Primitive Baptist Church, and served as Pastor for 10 plus years at Little Zion Primitive Baptist Church in Davenport, Florida. His passions were attending the House of God, listening to bluegrass music, guitar, and gardening, which turned into farming considering the size of his "garden." In his later years, he was part of a Blue Grass Group and they got together once a week to play and "Git Pic'n" He was preceded in death by his first wife of 52 years, Bonita Varnum; brothers, Perry Varnum and A.H. "Hank" Varnum; parents, John A., Sr. and Princess Varnum; sister-in-law, Yvonne Varnum; and great-granddaughter, Abigail Cunningham. He is survived by his wife of 6 years, Grace Varnum; children, Sheila Varnum Cunningham (Gary), John Quintin Varnum (Joanna), Lisa Varnum Tapia (Freddy), and Phillip Garland Varnum, Jr. (Patricia); brothers, Jerry Varnum (June), John A. Varnum (Carolyn), Charles Varnum, and Warren Varnum; sister-in-law, Pat Varnum; step-son, Andy Billman; grandchildren, Gary B. Cunningham, Jr. (Danielle), Amanda Edgemon (Zack), Joan Ellen Cunningham (fiance George), James Cunningham, Sr. (Heather), John Q.

Varnum II (Taylor), Justin Varnum, Jared Varnum, Kristy Thomas, Heather Tapia, Gina Tapia, Phillip Varnum III, and Jessica Varnum; great-grandchildren, Brystal, Lilliana, Britt, Julia, Ruth, Rebecca, James, Jr., Kate, and Jasper; and many extended family and friends. The family will receive friends Wednesday, July 10 from 6 - 8:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 S County Rd 39, Plant City. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, July 11 at 3:00 P.M. at Little Union Primitive Baptist Church, 15510 S County Rd 39, Lithia. Committal to follow at Little Union Cemetery. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Little Union Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Service

JUL 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

Little Union Primitive Baptist Church
15510 County Rd. 39 S
Lithia, FL

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr.



Hopewell Funeral Home - July 10, 2019 at 10:24 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr..



July 10, 2019 at 02:57 PM



“ Dear Sheila, Quintin, Lisa and Lil Garland, fond childhood memories of visiting with you all and running back and forth between June and Jerry's and your mom's and dad's house. Your daddy was always so special to my daddy which makes him special to us. I know there were many who greeted Garland at the Pearly Gates. He and Jerry loved to pick on me....Sorry I will not be there with you. But my heart is with you!

Love you all

Nancy Townsend Rogers

Nancy Rogers - July 10, 2019 at 01:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr..



July 10, 2019 at 01:30 PM



“ *Little Zion Primitive Baptist Church* purchased the *Enduring Grace* for the family of Mr. Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr..



Little Zion Primitive Baptist Church - July 10, 2019 at 01:18 PM



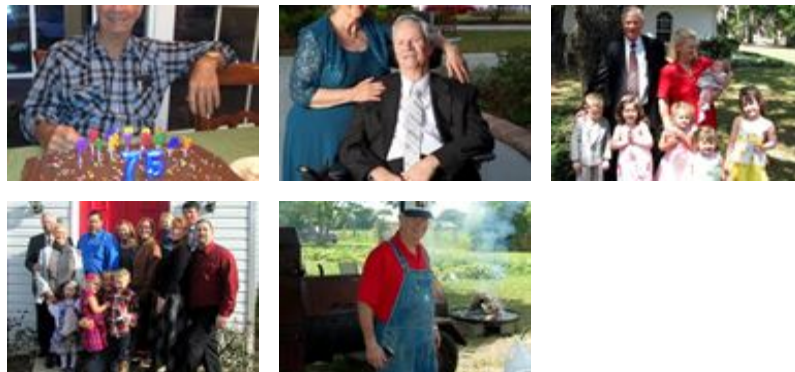
“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mr. Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr..



July 10, 2019 at 12:47 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - July 10, 2019 at 09:22 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Mr. Phillip Garland "P.G." Varnum, Sr..



July 10, 2019 at 01:21 AM

TE

“ I will forever remember when Bro. Guy Hunt was elected Gov. of Alabama and the Eads and Varnums piled in a 15 passenger van that felt like there were 20 people! We loaded our bags, snacks, songbooks, games and headed north. There was singing, laughing, eating, some not so good smells, a lost boot, and probably a couple of arguments. But one thing for sure...there was plenty of fellowship and love and a lifetime of memories. Bro Garland piloted that van like a pro, considering all the chaos behind him. And believe me...there was chaos! He was a fine example of a godly man and father. My heart aches for those he leaves behind, but I smile knowing he is home. Prayers for peace and comfort to the Varnum family.

Jack & Terry Eads

Terry Eads - July 08, 2019 at 08:40 PM

JR

“ Rest in peace my friend from our class of 1955, you will be loved and missed by all.



Joyce Boyette Rich - July 07, 2019 at 10:27 AM

MF

Sheila, condolences to you and all the family. Prayers for you all.

melanie flowers - July 07, 2019 at 04:17 PM

HR

RIP Garland

Harriett Albritton Rowand - July 08, 2019 at 08:44 AM

RD

“ This man to me is my “Uncle Garland”. So many prayed for him and his wife Grace some years ago following their auto accident. Many times it was touch and go for Uncle Garland. I remember going to Shands Hospital to see him. I wasn’t sure how his healing was going to go at that time. It thrilled me when he recognized me and knew it was me! Only prayers and the Lord’s hand pulled him through. His family worked tirelessly to help him receive the care he needed both in hospital and at home. They helped him to regain his ability to walk (with a walker). I’m sure his Varnum stubbornness was a plus as well. From designing and building apparatuses to assist in his care, getting him off and on the treadmill, in and out of the above ground pool they installed to assist with his progress and healing. I very clearly remember seeing this same kind of family love when my Grandpa Varnum had a stroke and needed care. Each “ Varnum Boy” , including Uncle Garland, would take a night staying at Grandma and Grandpas so Grandma could get much needed rest. That kind of love is what I’m proud to say I was raised on. I have so many fond memories of my Uncle Garland. Many gatherings at their house involving bobbing apples and swimming in the pool, and of course eating good food. He always made a point to ask me, “how are those piano lessons coming along?” We had a few deep conversations regarding my playing the piano in church. He being Primitive Baptist and I being Southern Baptist made it interesting. I knew there were no instruments in the Primitive Baptist church and quite enjoyed visiting Little Union from time to time for that very reason. A cappella singing is my first love..(I think he got a kick out of that!) Though our views on some aspects of “worship” were different and our beliefs not exactly the same I know we both loved and served the one and only savior and King and we agreed that’s what really mattered in the end. I believe with all my heart that he’s reunited with Aunt Bonita, Grandma and Grandpa, Uncle Perry (who I never knew), Uncle Henderson, Craig, Aunt Favorite, and oh so so many more. And I believe he’s likely worshipping our savior with instrument in hand and probably at times with just voice..... “Sing it out loud Uncle Garland! Until I see you again...”❤️

Rebecca Varnum Davis - July 06, 2019 at 09:10 PM