



## George Durden

George arrived on this earth on January 17, 1941 in Houston, TX. His parents, Junius Durden and Hilda Alexander Durden proudly welcomed their baby boy into this world. Throughout his life George would enjoy a close relationship with both his parents. George graduated from Yates High School where he enjoyed much success in the areas of mathematics and electronics. George learned to love electronics through his father, who operated a small electronics repair shop in Sunnyside. Following high school, George attended Prairie View A&M University and majored in electrical engineering. While at Prairie View, George once again became well known for his intellectual abilities and electronics expertise. George became an urban legend on campus when he was electrocuted on the roof of the girl's dorm attempting to repair their television antennae. Coincidentally, lightning struck twice that year because it was then that he met the love of his life, Dora Sue Ward, a freshman at the university. He often told his children stories of how he fell in love with her from the very first moment he laid eyes on her. George would walk from Sunnyside to Acres Homes in his pursuit of love. They were married in 1963, and enjoyed a happy union for over fifty-two years. Their first child was born in 1965 and it was then that George returned to college to pursue a degree in mathematics from The University of Texas. George and Dora had three children: Angelia, Wanda, and George, II. He believed that his children had the ability to fulfill any dream as long as they were committed, exhibited patience, and worked hard to achieve their goals. He pushed his children in

school and in life. George was an excellent father who never hesitated to help his children in their endeavors. George shared his love of fishing with his children and granddaughter who received her first fishing lesson when she was only 3 years old. In 1991 George began a new chapter in his life when he was blessed with the birth of his grand-daughter, Brittney Quezada. He cherished his time with Brittney taking the time to teach her computer programming as a very young child. He marveled at her intelligence and spoke about her accomplishments incessantly. Brittney and her grandfather shared a very special bond from birth. Oftentimes, as a small baby, she would cry and cry until George would send Dora upstairs to retrieve her from her room. Once in his arms she would smile and the two would stay up all night watching Star Trek and movies until the early dawn. George loved Brittney with all his heart. She can find comfort in knowing that he will serve as her guardian angel watching over her from heaven. Throughout his career as an electrical and software engineer he worked for many of the top aerospace companies. His first job at Schlumberger convinced him that he needed a degree to achieve his dream of working on complex electronics. In fact, he was one of Schlumberger's first black employees. He received his degree in mathematics from Texas Southern University. Over the course of his career he worked for such companies as NASA (Houston and Florida); McDonnell Douglas; Boeing; Lear Jet; Lucas Oil (England); Lockheed Martin; BAE Systems; and, E-Systems Corporation. Early in his career he formed a lasting friendship with Herbert and Margie Duke. He and Herbert worked on many contracts together. Both men worked at many of the same companies. Their families would enjoy a special closeness that continues to this day. Always the dreamer, he formed a construction company in 1975. Given his entrepreneurial spirit from his father, he went on to form his own engineering firms in the 1980's. Durden Technical Services and Data Technical Systems sought and received government contracts. George wanted to leave a legacy for his children and employed them in his businesses. He taught them to use the computer, learn processing software, and exposed them to the early

internet (ARPANET). George loved to travel. In fact, he infected his children with the travel bug early in their lives. He lived and worked in places like New York, New Jersey, Michigan, England, Seattle, California, Arizona, Minnesota, Florida, Alabama, and Wisconsin. His home base would always be Houston because of his love for his family and friends that resided there. Like his father, George loved to fish. He and his friends, Johnny Stewart, Sam Ellis, and Herman Jenkins would often go to Freeport, San Luis Pass or area lakes to enjoy a day of fishing. Often his children and nephews were invited to tag along. He believed that children needed to have knowledge of simple things in life that could bring satisfaction and relaxation. George loved his family. He loved his wife, children, nieces and nephews. He cherished, loved, and respected his father and mother until their deaths. He loved his sisters Judieth and Patricia. The time he spent with George Nelson, II (Bubba) were some of the best times of his life. The two would work on cars and construction projects together. He often remarked that Bubba was a genius when it came to working on cars. Shelia always had a special place in his heart. He talked about her sweetness and goodness as a person. He loved her coconut-pineapple cakes. He looked forward to Portia's daily sports reports and was very proud of her career and world travels. George met his future son-in-law, Mark Kramer, in 2005. George realized that he and Mark shared similar qualities including a love of family, a strong work ethic, and a love for cooking. Ultimately he came to respect and cherish Mark as a son. George shared some of his most coveted recipes with Mark over the next 10 years, and gave up his title as the "Crawfish King" and Barbecue Master. He loved mentoring, developing, and coaching kids. Brittney, Meggan, Matthew, Lauren, Jacob, and Beth were all encouraged to do their very best in school and life. He enjoyed tutoring children in math and science. He believed that math was a universal language that could bring people of different cultures together, generate progressive ideas, and resolve worldwide conflicts. George also taught children to think about the existence of alternate universes filled with

intelligent life. George is preceded in death by his: Father, Junius Durden; Mother, Hilda Alexander; Brother, Junius Durden, II; Sister, Patricia Stewart; and, Son, George Henry Durden, II. He leaves to cherish his memory: Wife, Dora Sue Ward-Durden; Daughters, Angelia Durden and Wanda Quezada (Mark Kramer); Grand-children Brittney Quezada, Jacob Kramer, and Beth Kramer; Sister, Judieth Durden; Sisters-in-law Rachel Brewer, Betty Dawson (Lorris), and Barbara Wilrich. George was a spiritual person and thought deeply about the meaning of life. In the end, he found solace in knowing that he fulfilled his purpose and mission in life. His children, nieces, and nephews are recipients of a legacy of excellence, pride, and love. George will be memorialized on Saturday, August 1, 2015 at 1:00 PM. Services will be held at Distinctive Life Cremations and Funerals at 5455 Dashwood, Bellaire, TX. 77401.

# Tribute Wall

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“ Dora, Angelia & Wanda,  
At this difficult time in your lives, we pray that God will grant you the serenity and peace that you need to get through the loss of Big George. Stay strong and know that you are remembered in our thoughts and prayers. May care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. Our most sincere condolences in the loss of Big George.  
Love,  
Jean, Shelia, Portia & Punnie

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**SHELIA WARD** - October 09, 2017 at 01:54 PM

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“ George Durden

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