



Mr. Cornelius Perry Jr.

November 28, 1924 - April 7, 2026

Cornelius Perry, Jr. was born on November 28, 1924 to the late Cornelius Perry and Gertrude Nicholson in Franklin County, North Carolina. Cornelius, at 101 years old, was the last of his siblings to transition into eternal rest. Cornelius was raised in a nurturing and loving home along with his brothers and sisters: John Perry, Alonzo “Buster” Perry, Thelma Singletary, and Delores Smith. Cornelius has deep spiritual roots in the Gospel Spreading Church of God from childhood, which grew into a life devoted to Christ. He was ordained as a deacon on May 13, 1973 at the Washington, DC Gospel Spreading Church of God and served as the Deacon Board Chairman, spanning decades.

Cornelius joined the United States Navy on August 5, 1943 becoming a Machinist’s Mate S Third Class. He received an honorable discharge on May 5, 1946. Anyone who knew him was aware of the wisdom, knowledge and leadership that he carried in every career. Cornelius was denied acceptance into drafting school because of segregation but transformed that into “good trouble” by defying the US military’s mess hall rules when he sat in the “white only” areas and spoke up when injustice was present. Yet, justice was served on April 3, 2026 when the US Navy presented Cornelius with an award honoring him for his service to the United States for advancing universal hope of freedom and liberty for all.

Cornelius did not allow his time or talents to be idle. Following his military service, he worked for the US Postal Service (USPS) and owned an upholstery business. Upon his retirement from the USPS, he worked for the Washington, DC Gospel Spreading Church through his late 90's. Anyone who knew Cornelius was well aware of his keen sense of style, his encouraging smile, and wise counsel. He minced no words and always spoke truth wrapped in love.

Cornelius loved puzzles, reading books, studying the Bible, and spending time with his family, which was always his most important responsibility and joy. His marriage to Lucille Scott on June 21, 1947 produced three sons: Kenneth, Michael, and Paul. Michael's time with Cornelius and Lucille was a brief two months before his passing. However, their time was fondly spent enjoying time with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Cornelius did not have any birth daughters, but through the marriages of Kenneth and Paul he gained two daughters whom he loved as his own: Edith and Elnora. Cornelius was so proud of his sons and his four grandchildren: LeWan Jones (Elex), Lisa Prandy (Chico), La'Tina Arrington (Saeed), and Lennell Perry (Brooks). He was equally marveled by his 11 great-grandchildren: Khalil, Azanaa, Zoie, Kaia, Caiden, Averi, Alex, Tate, Elliot, Theo, and Everett.

After 41 years of marriage, Lucille's time with Cornelius on earth came to an end in 1988. He later married Eloise Roseboro, who gave him 22 wonderful years before her passing. From this marriage, he is survived by Tracie Craddox and her children: Zachary, Fotios, and Lazaria. Cornelius also leaves a legacy to a host of nieces, nephews, and sons and daughters whom he took on and treated with the same admiration and respect that he gave his own children. He will always be remembered as a gentle giant in the eyes of us all.

Cemetery Details

Maryland National Memorial Park

Baltimore Avenue (Rte 1)
Laurel, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gospel Spreading Church of God
2030 Georgia Ave NW
Washington, DC

Service

APR 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Gospel Spreading Church of God
2030 Georgia Ave NW
Washington, DC

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I was so saddened to hear of Deacon Perry's transition ... he was a man of God who possessed the character and integrity of that servant-leader position. He was always approachable, humble, and kind. He was an example of a disciple of Jesus Christ, in word and deed. I can recall various interactions with him, and his responses would be so measured, which showed he gave a lot of thought to sharing his heart.

His legacy is so rich because of whom he served, and I know, his children and extended family are blessed because of it. I have so many fond memories of him in Sunday School and when he was on the Deaconate Seat, and even when storms would come into my own life, he was a trusted friend.

Kenny and Paul, along with your families, may you find comfort, in the God of All Comfort, who is faithful to see you through this season.

Jose & Yvette Wood

Jose Wood - April 20 at 12:15 PM

DH

“ Sorry. Deacon Perry was a man among men. Will never forget the words of wisdom that he poured into me. Prayers already gone up.

Donald & Jacqueline Harris - April 17 at 08:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Cornelius Perry Jr..*



April 16 at 06:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Cornelius Perry Jr..

April 16 at 06:14 PM



“ *We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - April 14 at 08:52 AM