



Mr. William Andrew Magruder

October 15, 1936 - November 17, 2025

William Andrew Magruder peacefully entered eternal rest with his Lord and Savior, Nov.17, 2025 at the age of 89.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law and uncle, William was born on Oct. 15, 1936 in Washington DC, to the late Mary Elizabeth Johnson-Magruder and Herbert Andrew Magruder. He grew up in Georgetown, back then a working class and impoverished neighborhood, which shaped his life and values. He attended Francis Junior High School, where he discovered and nurtured his talents in drawing, cooking and singing. Around 1950, he formed a musical group called “The Blue Jays,” which later became “The Five Blue Notes.” When the doo-wop group’s success didn’t come quickly enough, William—motivated by a desire to support his mother and sisters—enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953. After completing his military service in 1958, William returned home and joined the renowned R&B group, “The Spaniels,” best known for their hit song “Goodnight, Sweetheart, Goodnight.” His time with the group took him across the country, performing alongside some of the greatest musicians of that era. He would often recall those experiences with immense joy and pride.

In 1963, William stepped away from the music industry and transitioned into various careers. He worked in security at the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C., drove a taxicab, and later joined D.C. Transit (now known as the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority), where he remained until his retirement in 1996.

William married the late Rudeen R. Henderson-Magruder in 1970. From this union came two children: Andrea R. Magruder-Fair and Byron A. Magruder. In 1982, he married Mary A. Grate-Magruder, gaining a beloved bonus daughter, Shayla T. Grate-Harris. In 1996, William married Regina Allen-Magruder. Their union was filled with deep companionship, and they remained devoted to one another until his passing.

William was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Elizabeth Magruder; his sister, Barbara Suber; and two stepsons, Christopher and Mark Allen. He is survived by his devoted wife, Regina; his dear sisters, Christine Magruder and Joan Ward-Peace; his beloved children, Andrea, Byron (Charkeena), and Shayla; as well as his grandchildren, Kaia, Byron Jr., and Copelin. He is lovingly remembered by his stepsons Lawrence Allen, Michael Allen (Clydellia), Eric Allen (Cherissa), and a bonus stepson, William McCaleb—all of whom became a meaningful part of his life through his marriage to Regina. He also leaves to mourn his passing many other grandchildren, nieces and nephews, who brought him great joy.

William's memory will live on in the hearts of many family members and friends, who were touched by his warmth, his stories, his music, and his unwavering love.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Gabriel Catholic Church
26 Grant Circle N.W.
Washington, DC 20011-4049

Service

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Saint Gabriel Catholic Church
26 Grant Circle N.W.
Washington, DC 20011-4049

Tribute Wall

EF

“ We can't begin to imagine what you're feeling, but please let us share our heartfelt condolences. In times of distress we need comfort, the soothe the heart. May the peace of God guard your hearts.

Evans family - December 03, 2025 at 10:43 AM

JJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers extend to all of you who are faced with the displeasure of losing a loved one to our worst enemy called Death, in these critical situations it's normal to feel helpless not knowing where to turn. However, our heavenly creator has assured us in HEB: 6/11 that it is impossible for him to ever forget us, He also stated in John:5/28/29 that all those in the memorial tombs will here is voice and come out, So GOD is given us all his promise of hope of us being together once again. Meanwhile we can give our thanks to the March funeral directors: for their perfectional assistance and their heartfelt concern toward the unfortunate friends and families. THANKS!

Joseph Jones - December 01, 2025 at 05:36 PM

FF

“ From Litisha Allen-Joseph and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. William Andrew Magruder.

From Litisha Allen-Joseph and Family - November 26, 2025 at 06:33 AM

FF

“ From Litisha Allen-Joseph and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mr. William Andrew Magruder.



From Litisha Allen-Joseph and Family - November 26, 2025 at 06:33 AM

MW

“ Michelle and Dathan White planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. William Andrew Magruder.

Michelle and Dathan White - November 20, 2025 at 06:34 PM

MW

“ Michelle and Dathan White purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. William Andrew Magruder.



Michelle and Dathan White - November 20, 2025 at 06:34 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 - November 19, 2025 at 10:38 AM