



## Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner

December 16, 1949 - September 13, 2017

Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner, 67, peacefully passed away September 13, 2017, after a courageous five-year battle with a rare brain disease. Vern was born December 16, 1949, to Carrie and the late Dennis Garner, in Washington, D.C., the second child of seven. He graduated from Osbourn High School, Manassas, Virginia, in 1968.

Those left behind to cherish his memory include his loving wife of 37 years, Barbara; daughter Melissa (Robert); daughter Julie (Greg); grandchildren Madeline, Benjamin, Josephine and Ava; brother Larry (Brenda); sisters Gloria, Sherry, Donna (George) and Brenda (Tim); numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and an abundance of friends, colleagues and neighbors. Vern was predeceased by his brother Dwayne, his first wife Bonnie and others dear to him.

Vern served in the U.S. Air Force after high school and was deployed to Vietnam as a cryptographer. He was later assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency at the Pentagon. Vern was proud of his military service and deeply appreciated those who serve.

After his time in the military, he began his career with IBM as a computer programmer and spent the next 35 years working in sophisticated computer-related positions for major Department of Defense contractors including Loral,

Lockheed Martin, and BAE Systems, many times without even changing the physical office in which he worked. His intelligence, work ethic and leadership skills served him well as he moved to upper management positions. Vern was highly respected and always took time to mentor his staff. He had the reputation of being one of the best managers in his division; everyone who worked with Vern wanted to be on his team.

Vern was known for his love of fishing and boating. He dreamed of owning a house on the water and that wish was fulfilled when he built his dream home on Lake Gaston, N.C., and retired there in 2009. He and his family spent wonderful days on that lake, fishing, boating, swimming and spending time together; it always had a special place in his heart.

Vern was a kind, generous, patient and loving man, always putting the needs of others before himself. He was an amazing father and grandfather, providing sage advice, help at the drop of a hat, and most importantly, unconditional love and acceptance. There was absolutely nothing he wouldn't do for those he loved. He also had lots of "adopted" children along the way, those who looked to him for the same love and support. Vern had the gift of making friends with anyone he encountered; he made everyone feel very special. The minute you met him, you loved him.

The funeral service will be held on September 21, 2017, at St. Thomas United Methodist Church in Manassas, Virginia, with Pastor Steve Garner, Vern's cousin, officiating. The service will include time to visit with family from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., a memorial service at 11 a.m. and a reception in the church's fellowship hall at 12:00 p.m. The burial will take place at Stonewall Memory Gardens, following the reception. The family welcomes flowers as well as donations to the CurePSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) organization at [psp.org](http://psp.org) or by mail to CurePSP, 30 E. Padonia Road, Suite 201, Timonium, Maryland, 21093.



# Cemetery Details

## Stonewall Memory Gardens

12004 Lee Highway  
Manassas, VA 20109  
<http://www.stonewallmemorygardens.com>

# Previous Events

## Family to receive friends

SEP 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas United Methodist Church  
8899 Sudley Road  
Manassas, VA 20110

## Service

SEP 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas United Methodist Church  
8899 Sudley Road  
Manassas, VA 20110

## Reception

SEP 21. 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM (ET)

St. Thomas United Methodist Church  
8899 Sudley Road  
Manassas, VA 20110



# Tribute Wall

GA

“ Vern was the most loving, generous man i have ever met. I love him and Bobbie so much. He will be truly missed. His service was one of the most beautiful and personal services i have ever been to. His family and Pierce did a perfect job. Loved that his cousin Steve did the most perfect ceremony and his nephew James played taps beautifully for him. I know Vern is smiling down from heaven so honored by the ceremony. So many people loved and cared for him at the end. Larry and Brenda, Diane and John, Patty, Michelle, Johnny and Nancy, his girls and their hubbies but mostly Bobbie took such wonderful care of him and showed him so much love. All of his family and friends all are so loving and amazing. Rest now Vern. I love you and will miss you.

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**Gail** - September 23, 2017 at 08:13 AM

TB

“ I was fortunate to know Vern as a colleague and friend for 15 years at IBM/Loral/Lockheed Martin/BAE Systems - right up until he retired. His office was located only a few doors down the hall from mine during most of that time and his door was always open to colleagues and friends. Vern was truly one of the kindest, most caring and considerate human beings I have ever had the privilege of knowing. He would generously offer assistance and advice to anyone who could benefit from it. Once, I casually mentioned I was looking into buying a flat panel TV (ubiquitous today) and Vern immediately told me he had recently done a considerable amount of research in Consumer Reports and various home audio/video magazines. The next day he showed up at my office, gave me a huge folder of ratings articles on flat panel TV's, and wished me luck with my purchase. This was typical of the kind gestures that defined Vern.

*He will be truly missed by all who knew him.*

*My condolences and prayers especially go out to his family.*

*Tom Butash*

*PS I have no doubt Vern is now having fun boating and fishing in that big lake in the sky!*

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**Tom Butash** - September 21, 2017 at 10:47 AM

BR

“ My sincerest condolences to the family of Vern Garner. I worked with Vern several years ago, and it was an honor to work with, and get to know Vern.

*Sincerely,  
Brian Rollins*

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**Brian Rollins** - September 21, 2017 at 07:32 AM

AH

“ *What a great guy! I remember standing side-by-side with Vern at a Tux Rental shop in Manassas, looking into one of those three-way mirrors at each other - in matching Tuxes, no less - the day before Tim and Brenda Grembowski's wedding. Probably the last time either one of us was in a Tux. What a sight!*

*RIP, Vern.*

*Andy Hough*

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**Andy Hough** - September 20, 2017 at 08:39 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



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September 20, 2017 at 03:46 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



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September 20, 2017 at 11:23 AM

AL

“ Vern was a great manager and a caring person and I will never forget him.



Alice - September 19, 2017 at 08:08 PM

YF

“ Your DLA Public Affairs Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.



Your DLA Public Affairs Family - September 19, 2017 at 02:51 PM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.



September 19, 2017 at 02:51 PM

LJ

“ Love, Kim, George & Allie Johns purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.



Love, Kim, George & Allie Johns - September 19, 2017 at 02:31 PM

TD

*“ I met Vern and Barb over a year ago and working with them both we've become friends talking about all sorts of things. Vern especially loved talking about fishing and the lake I also talked about all the Big Fish stories from my Dad and husband. Sure miss you and know you are in a better place. I've got a new Angel watching over me. Toni Drees*



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**Toni Drees** - September 19, 2017 at 11:30 AM



*“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



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September 19, 2017 at 10:49 AM

LW

*“ Love, Tansill & Wayne purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



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**Love, Tansill & Wayne** - September 19, 2017 at 06:28 AM

MM

*“ It's clear you served your purpose in life and touched the lives of all you came in contact with. I'm honored to have been welcomed into your life. And although we joked about the "micro-management" of your days activities over your last year...you could not have had a better caregiver than Barb. I'll miss you buddy!*

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**Matt McKeon** - September 18, 2017 at 05:42 PM



“ *i sure did like Vern he always made me feel welcome at his place he was fun to be around will miss this man you are missed Vern james and family*

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**Jameslacefield Jamesautorepair** - September 18, 2017 at 05:28 PM



“ *The Chandler's purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



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**The Chandler's** - September 18, 2017 at 01:11 PM



“ *We met Vern and Barb a couple of years ago at a support group for Parkinsons' and PSP patients and their care givers. I'll always remember his beautiful smile even as he suffered the ravages of PSP.*

*Rest in peace dear Vernon.*

*Patricia (and John) Casciano*

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**Patricia S. Casciano** - September 18, 2017 at 12:33 PM



“ *When you saw Vern in the hallway at work it just brought a smile to your face. He was a pleasure to work with and a wonderful colleague. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

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**Stephanie Lockhart** - September 18, 2017 at 10:27 AM

JG

“ Julie Goodrich purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.



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**Julie Goodrich** - September 18, 2017 at 08:35 AM

JG

“ Julie Goodrich purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.



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**Julie Goodrich** - September 18, 2017 at 08:32 AM

KC

“ Vern always had a smile for everyone! He wanted everyone he met to know the joy that radiated from deep within him! He was well & truly loved by so many!



*Liza, Barb, Melissa, Julie & our entire Garner family! Russ & I send lots of love to each of you & prayers for comfort during this difficult time!*

*Our hearts are filled for having known such a wonderful man! He will be missed. ~Kim*

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**kim cornwell** - September 17, 2017 at 05:32 PM

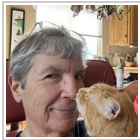


“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



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September 17, 2017 at 05:12 PM

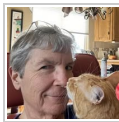


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**Anne Cady** - September 17, 2017 at 02:59 PM



*Photo I took of Vern in 2006 at a friend's retirement party. Miss him.*

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**Anne Cady** - September 17, 2017 at 04:02 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



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September 16, 2017 at 09:55 PM



“ *VERN: I WILL KISS YOUR FOREHEAD ONCE AGAIN SOMEDAY. MISS YOU. LOVE,RED.*

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**SUE CORNWELL** - September 16, 2017 at 09:47 AM

JM

“ *May there be comfort in knowing that someone so special as Vern will never be forgotten. RIP. jm*

John Mannix - September 15, 2017 at 07:54 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



September 15, 2017 at 03:53 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Vernon (Vern) Roy Garner.*



September 15, 2017 at 03:08 PM