



Rev. Ernest W. Perry

November 20, 1937 - January 3, 2016

The Rev. Ernest W. Perry, 78, Harrisburg, PA, died January 3, 2016 at PinnacleHealth Community General Osteopathic Hospital.

He was born November 20, 1937 in Brooklyn, NY; served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and married the former Yolanda Simpson in 1958.

He was an over-the-road tractor-trailer operator for about 30 years and later a shuttle bus driver for Dauphin County Transportation. He was a member of Teamsters Local 776 and former president of its political action committee, D.R.I.V.E (Democratic, Republican, Independent Voter Education).

After years of being an active church lay member, Ernest returned to school and earned a Bachelor's in Theology from Andersonville Baptist Seminary. He served as President of the Central Baptist Association Layman's Movement. He was ordained first as a deacon at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, and later as a minister at Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church.

He served as a volunteer at Dauphin County Prison where he created Walking The New Life Ministries; served as a volunteer at a number of state and federal prisons; and successfully completed studies in the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Program at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in the Chaplaincy Program. Under Walking the New Life Ministries, he and his wife Yolanda adapted Prison Fellowship's "Going for the Gold" resources into a 12-week pre-release program. They created an aftercare program to reduce recidivism and then founded Walking The New Life Christian Fellowship to provide a sanctuary experience for ex-offenders and others who were not

being well served by traditional churches.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Electra Wood of Harrisburg, PA. Surviving are his beloved wife, Yolanda Perry of Harrisburg, PA; daughter, Cristina Perry of Dallas, TX; sons, Tony Perry (Beth) of Astoria, NY, and Marcelo Perry of Harrisburg, PA; grandchildren, Nathaniel Perry and Justin Perry, both of Harrisburg, PA, Christian Perry of Dallas, TX, Ed Maneval of Harrisburg, PA, and Jennifer Pollard (Kerry) of Telford, PA; great-grandchildren, Bryan Young of Brooklyn, NY, and Serena Pollard of Telford, PA; sister, Earlene Holt of East Orange, NJ; nephews, Ronald "Pop" Holt of Woodside, Queens, NY, Reginald Holt of Chantilly, VA, and Ricardo Holt of Arlington, VA; godsons, Gregory Crayton (Debbie) of Uniondale, NY, and Ronald Morrow of Harrisburg, PA; and a host of dear friends.

He requested no funeral. His cremains will be interred at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to The American Diabetes Association, PO Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312 or Walking The New Life Ministries, PO Box 4124, Harrisburg, PA 17111-4124.

Tribute Wall

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“ Dear Yolanda and family,
I remember Reverend Perry when I worked at Polyclinic Hospital I respected him and liked him very much. He was always the gentleman with a wonderful sense of humor and a goodness in him that was obvious with his involvement in his many social causes and how he treated his fellow man. My sincere condolences to you all.

Carol O'Hara

Carol O'Hara - January 10, 2016 at 12:34 PM