



Dr. Jack A. Hanberry

June 2, 1936 - January 21, 2021

Reverend Dr. Jack Allen “Big Daddy” Hanberry, of Lilburn, Georgia was born on June 2, 1936 in Denmark, South Carolina to Hurlbut D. and Adelle Hanberry. Gerry and Nell were his siblings, also born to that union. After high school, he received a scholarship and played football while attending Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. He felt the call into the ministry and continued his education by attending the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he met his sweetheart, Barbara. After attaining his Masters of Divinity degree, he began what was to be a 25-year career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. His first assignment was at the Denver, Colorado Correctional Institution, where he served as Chaplain. Their son, Scott, was born while there. After spending less than a year there, he was transferred to the Tallahassee, Florida Correctional Institution, where he also served as Chaplain. It was there that their daughter, Cindy was born. He then transferred to Atlanta, Georgia to serve as Chaplain of the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. After a time there, he was transferred to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he served as Chaplain for the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary and then ultimately the Chief of Chaplains for the Bureau of Prisons. While there, he also attended Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida attaining his Doctorate degree in Theology. After being asked many times by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, he accepted an assignment as the Associate Warden of the Texarkana, Texas Correctional Institution becoming the first Chaplain to become a Warden with the Bureau of Prisons. After only serving there for 9 months, he transferred to serve as the Associate Warden of the Milan, Michigan Correctional Institution. In 1978, he returned to Atlanta, Georgia, in what would be his final move with the Bureau of Prisons, to become the youngest Warden to ever serve at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. Because of his accomplishments there, he remained in that position until his retirement in 1986. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Army, where he served in the National Guard. Over these years, he was given many awards and accolades, more than can be numbered.

He was ordained into the ministry early on and has served bi-vocationally, in churches in each of the areas of the country, where he has been assigned. After retirement, he

enjoyed opening a restaurant in Covington, Georgia that he maintained for several years, which was always a dream of his. After surviving a major stroke in 2001, he was rendered to a wheelchair. His grit, determination, and love for life allowed him to continue with as normal a life as he could. In recent years as his mind began to fail, he remained the gentle giant of a man that he was, so graceful and loving. His eyes lit up when any of his family came by to see him. He has touched so many lives over these years and has now been rewarded with jewels in his crown, promised by the Lord who he served.

For the past 3 years, Jack and Barbara have resided at Sunrise Five Forks Senior Living, in Lilburn, Georgia, where the staff has fallen in love with them and have cared for them in an unbelievable manner. The restrictions of the pandemic of 2020 were tough as those who lit up his eyes didn't get to interact with him as much. On January 21, 2021 at approximately 5:07 PM, with his loving wife of 60 years along with his son and daughter by his side, Jack stepped out of his wheelchair for the first time in 20 years and into the presence of his Lord and Savior, where he quickly heard, "well done thy good and faithful servant". Thank you to Agape Hospice for their loving support during these final days. Thank you also to the ongoing ministry of Yellow River Baptist Church, Lilburn, Georgia, where Jack and Barbara hold their membership.

Jack was predeceased by his parents, Hurlbut and Adelle Hanberry; and his sister, Nell Hightower. His brother, Gerry resides in Fredericks, Maryland. He is survived by his wife, Barbara W. Hanberry; his son, Scott Hanberry [Kimberly] of Grayson, Georgia; and his daughter, Cindy Dunham [Gerry] of Monroe, Georgia. He is also survived by his grandchildren; Dr. Brad Hanberry [Brittany] of Lilburn, Georgia, Brock Hanberry [Amber] of Boston, Georgia, Lauren [Blake] Williams of Lilburn, Georgia, Blake Dunham [Julia] of Monroe, Georgia and Peyton Dunham of Monroe, Georgia. Great-grandchildren include; Ella Rae Hanberry, Colton Hanberry, Stone Hanberry, Sonny Hanberry, Savannah Williams, Chloe Williams and Stella Dunham.

The family will receive friends at Tom M. Wages Funeral Services on Sunday, January 24, 2021 from 3:00 PM 6:00 PM. Additional visitation will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM, just prior to the 11:00 AM service at Rehoboth Baptist Church located at 2997 Lawrenceville Highway, Tucker, Georgia, with Tommy Crider and Kevin Creasman officiating. Interment will follow at Floral Hills Memory Gardens, directly across from Rehoboth Baptist Church. In keeping with COVID restrictions, masks will be required at all venues with social distancing followed. As much as we would love to and as sad as it makes us, we will be refraining from hugs and kisses. Just know that we love and thank you for your love and support.

In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make donations may make Bible donations to Gideon's International at <https://www.sendtheword.org>.

Condolences may be sent or viewed at www.wagesfuneralhome.com. Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, A Family Company, 3705 Highway 78 West, Snellville, GA 30039 (770-979-3200) has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Tom M. Wages Funeral Service - January 24 at 10:12 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Warden Hanberry as i knew him. He was a wonderful man, stern and loving. I dated Scott for a while in high school and we would go back to the house. It was always such a pleasure to see him. So sorry Scott and Cindy.



kennette morris - February 09 at 12:31 AM



“ Jack and Barbara have been a blessing to me and to my family since I was a teen. What a blessing that later “Big Daddy” Jack and Barbara became near and dear to my children as well. Barbara, we love you dearly and are so thankful that “Big Daddy” was such a sweet part of our lives all these years. His memory will always be in our hearts. Our prayers are with you. ... Stacy, Robie, Erica & Evan Robinson

Stacy Robinson - January 27 at 11:31 AM



“ Betty Jane Wilson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry



betty jane wilson - January 27 at 09:19 AM



“ My condolences to the family. I worked with Jack since 1983 in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Atlanta and can wholeheartedly say he was the best Warden I worked with. The Heavens receives a true hero.

Regards,
Efrain Rivera



Efrain Rivera - January 25 at 05:02 PM



“ My heart is with you Barbara and your precious family. Jack was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. He was such a prince of a guy.

I will always remember Jack as he always could light up the room with his presence!

Such a testimony to all.

I am just getting over Covid so I couldn't come to the visitation or the homegoing service.

I'm sorry I couldn't give you a real hug, but I am sending you a big VIRTUAL ONE!!

My prayers, love and hugs to all of you!

Tina Hubbard

Tina Hubbard - January 25 at 10:30 AM



“ Bobbie Kern lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry



Bobbie Kern - January 25 at 05:07 AM



“ As a young man I met Jack at First Baptist East Point, GA, my home church (My parents were Robert and Betty Hall and my grandmother was Mary Owens). I was so impressed by this giant (literally) of a man, that I wanted to follow in his footsteps. Although I never became a chaplain, I did serve in the pastorate for 14 years. After stepping away from active ministry, I have now continued to serve in lay ministry for over 32 years. I will always remember Jack and his gentle spirit. My prayers are with the family at this time. God Bless. - Rev. R. David Hall

David Hall - January 24 at 04:18 PM



“ I met Jack in our Sunday School class at First Baptist Snellville and he was one of the most likeable men I have ever met. He will surely be missed. Don Abernethy

don abernethy Sr - January 24 at 01:17 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 24 at 12:44 PM



“ God blessed me by putting Jack in my life many years ago. We became lifelong friends and I was honored to visit with Jack almost every week and we would tackle whatever task he had in mine, from working on minor repairs to rabbit cages and building trailers. We would have lunch and talk about all subjects. I did learn to never disagree when trying to locate a bolt or screw, he kept everything and I would go through all his storage drawers until we found it. We laughed a lot. It was a blessing and honor to that God brought us together.



gary brown - January 24 at 12:24 PM



“ 61 files added to the album LifeTributes



Tom M. Wages Funeral Service - January 24 at 10:06 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 23 at 09:26 PM



“ Joy Redding And Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry



joy Redding and Family - January 23 at 05:47 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 23 at 01:44 PM



“ Sending sympathy, prayers and love to all the family. Loved Mr. Jack and all the family. Lots of good memories from being neighbors at the Atlanta prison and time at Snellville First Baptist. He will be greatly missed.

Sandra Hayes - January 23 at 01:25 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 23 at 11:34 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 23 at 11:29 AM



“ Kidsplay Therapy Center purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



Kidsplay Therapy Center - January 23 at 11:24 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 23 at 11:03 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 23 at 10:57 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Jack A. Hanberry.



January 23 at 10:40 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jack Allen Hanberry.



January 23 at 09:55 AM