



Henry L. Gillis

June 16, 1935 - July 6, 2012

Henry Lee Gillis, Sr., entered into eternal rest on July 6, 2012, at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, VA. Early in his life he accepted Christ as his savior and was baptized at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Lincolnia, Virginia, and later joined Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. He was born Henry Lee Johnson on June 16, 1935, in Louisa, Virginia, to the late Thomas M. Johnson and the late Maggie Louise Johnson Gillis. Since he had used the name Henry Lee Gillis from early childhood when his mother married John Mitchell Gillis after the death of his father, he legally changed his name to Henry Lee Gillis. He was predeceased by his only sibling, James "Skip" Edward Gillis. Henry received his education in public schools in Falls Church, VA, where he attended with his good friend the late Eugene "Slim" Tucker who also would become his brother-in-law. He married the late Geneva G. Gillis on July 23, 1955, and from that union seven children were born. He supported his rather large family as a Machine Operator for the Washington Gas utility company where he worked for twenty-six years and received numerous awards and honors until his retirement in 1995. While employed at Washington Gas, Henry was also the founder, Chief Executive Officer, and chief mechanic of H.L. Gillis Trucking; a business that employed drivers to haul from private construction sites and assisted the Virginia Department of Transportation with snow removal during adverse weather conditions. He was also a skilled brick mason and talented designer who initiated and completed his own home improvements. He visited Mt. Sinai at the urging of Bishop

James C. Wells and joined Mt. Sinai under the leadership of the late Pastor David Durham in 1981. Though Henry was quite fond of both these gentlemen, neither had a greater impact than Virginia J. Gillis who he affectionately referred to as his "Queen." Henry and Virginia wed at Mt. Sinai on October 20, 2001, under the thunderous applause of the congregation and celebrated their tenth anniversary this past fall. Henry loved reading God's word and cherished listening to Virginia pray and read scriptures aloud; he was comforted by her readings within an hour of his final resting time Friday after-noon when she recited his favorite scripture " Psalm 23. Henry considered himself blessed with faith, family, and Virginia J. Gillis. Earlier this week Pastor Queen described him as a diligent servant. He joined the Mt. Sinai Usher Ministry in 1985, became an Honorary Usher in 2010, and served on the Security Ministry as well. Henry was a member of Family Unit #10 and supported anything and everything Mt. Sinai related. When not engaged in activities related to the church, he enjoyed cheering the Redskins and Wizards to victory with his wife, Virginia. Left to celebrate his legacy and precious memories are his devoted and faithful wife, Virginia J. Gillis; Henry Gillis, Jr., Shirley Gillis-Camper (Roy), Annette Gillis, Sherman Keith Gillis (Robin), Eva Gillis (Alvin Lewis), and Frances Gillis. (He was preceded in death by his first-born, daughter Brenda Louise Gillis Nelson.) He also leaves step-daughter Paulette Branch (Lane); sister-in-laws Bertha Tucker, Mary Booker Tucker, and Florine Culley; grandchildren Henry Gillis, III, Dana Nelson, Frederick Nelson, Danielle Camper-Jackson, Erinn Hamlin, Geneva Gillis, Gena Gillis, and Daynen Korneagy Gillis; step-grandson Eric Branch; great grandsons Julius Gillis, Nehemiah Jackson, and Erinn Hamlin, Jr.; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, dear friends, and treasured Mt. Sinai family. Please [click here](#) to view the video tribute

Tribute Wall

EJ

“ Ginny, as you already know, you and Henry are very special to me. I feel your pain and you and the girls are and will continue to be in my prayers during this period and forever. Feel free to call me at any time. Ernestine

Ernestine G Johnson - January 23 at 02:48 PM

M#

“ Annette
Please accept our sincere sympathy on behalf of the entire Discipleship group #13. I can imagine what you are going through having lost my own father years ago. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need anything. Again please know that our prayers are with you and your family in your time of lost
Michelle Jackson President Discipleship group # 13

Michelle Jackson- President ASBC #13 - January 23 at 02:48 PM

PM

“ Annette, I am so very sorry to hear about your dad's passing. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Please let me know if there is ANYTHING I can do.

Patty Mekanui - January 23 at 02:48 PM

AB

“ Annette, I just received the news about your father. I hope that you will find strength in the love of family and in the warm embrace of friends. I'm here if you need me. your buddy!

Ann Berry - January 23 at 02:48 PM

SC

“ Aunt Virginia,
Please know you have my deepest sympathy. I will keep you and
Henry's family in prayers during this difficult time.
Shirley

Shirley Carney - January 23 at 02:48 PM

ES

“ Aunt Virginia,

Although our hearts are saddened by your loss, our thoughts and
prayers are with you.
May the peace of the Lord be with you during this time of
bereavement.

Eric and La Verne (Holman) Sadler - January 23 at 02:48 PM

FT

“ To the family of our past neighbor and friend Henry. We give our
deepest sympathy and condolence. We loved Henry and will miss
him dearly. You will be forever in our prayers. RFT

Frank & Barbara Timmons - January 23 at 02:48 PM

AB

“ Virginia

"Be Still and know that I Am God"
Sometimes it's difficult to understand why God allows us to endure
such sorrow, but always remember that He is there with you,
through every moment. May His promise of Eternal Life comfort
you, may His Enduring Love ease your grief. Our prayers are with
you and The Family.

Albert & Hellene Burns - January 23 at 02:48 PM

TF

“ Dear Virginia,
Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your dear Henry. Yours was a very special love and I remember when you and Henry married. I am sure he is looking down on you and the members of the family he loved and requesting the blessings for all. God bless you and Paulette and all your family during this time of loss.
Terri and Chuck Facini

Terri Quattrone Facini - January 23 at 02:48 PM

MM

“ The Mt. Sinai Baptist Church Security Ministry would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies to our sister in Christ Mrs. Virginia Gillis and family.
The BIBLE tells us in Psalm 116:15 that: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
Mrs. Gillis and family take comfort in knowing that even in this your time of sorrow our LORD is standing with you.
If there is anything that the Security Ministry can do to assist you please do not hesitate to give us a call so that we may be of service to you.
GOD keep you and BLESS you.

MSBC Security Ministry - January 23 at 02:48 PM

CC

“ Henry,

I just found out that your father passed away, so sorry to hear that.

Cynthia

Cynthia Cornelious - January 23 at 02:48 PM