



Mr. Calvin Norman Drew Sr.

December 23, 1937 - October 2, 2025

Calvin Norman Drew, Sr., age 87, a resident of Humboldt, Tennessee, and formerly a longtime resident of Montclair, New Jersey, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, October 2, 2025, with his wife by his side.

Calvin was born in Morristown, New Jersey, on December 23, 1937, to the late Wesley and Bettie Ermitt (Morgan) Drew. He was raised in Montclair and attended Montclair Public Schools, graduating from Montclair High School with the Class of 1956. Calvin was a U.S. Army veteran, serving with the 82nd Airborne Division. During his service, he earned the Parachutist Badge, signifying his completion of airborne training and qualification as a paratrooper.

Calvin furthered his education at the McAllister School of Embalming. He began his mortuary career with L.L. Taylor Funeral Home in Morristown and Vauxhall, New Jersey. In his younger years, Calvin also worked as a longshoreman (Local No. 1533) in Newark, New Jersey. He was a longtime member of Union Baptist Church in Montclair, Calvin served in many capacities, including Chairman of the Trustee Board.

Calvin owned and operated Drew Funeral Homes in Montclair, Newark, Vauxhall and Morristown, New Jersey, for over 45 years. He considered it a true calling and honor to serve those communities, his family and friends

during their most difficult times. His deep sense of purpose in funeral service was one he proudly passed down to his children, all of whom have followed in his footsteps and worked in the funeral industry. Calvin served as Past President of the Garden State Funeral Directors Association (GSFDA) and was a member of both the New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association (NJSFDA) and the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA).

Outside of his professional life, Calvin was deeply involved in community and fraternal organizations. He served as a board member of the Union Development Corporation, overseeing the Matthew G. Carter Apartments in Montclair, where he once held the position of Vice President. Calvin was a Past Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge No. 52 in Montclair and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Sardonias Consistory No. 41 and Golconda Temple No. 24 Shriners in Newark, New Jersey.

Calvin found great joy in his many affiliations and treasured the relationships he built throughout his years of service. His longest and dearest commitment was to The Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEW). His involvement began over 60 years ago as a member of George E. Cannon Elks Lodge No. 585 in Vauxhall, New Jersey. Over the decades, Calvin served in numerous leadership roles, including Past Exalted Ruler of George E. Cannon Elks Lodge No. 585, Past Chief Antler of Council No. 121, New Jersey State Treasurer Emeritus, Grand Commissioner of Beauty & Talent, and most recently, as Grand Lodge Treasurer-a position he proudly held until his passing.

Calvin is survived by his wife, Stephanie Drew; his children, Calvin (Patricia) Drew, Dwayne (Trina) Drew, Monica (fiancé Stanley Southall) Sadler and Morgan Drew; daughter-in-law Andrea Drew; eight grandchildren, Norma, Joshua, Tyler, Jamie, Imani, Wesley, Austin, and Miles; three great-grandchildren Iman-Ali, Iyaan and Emeri. He is also survived by his foster

daughters, Chantá Williams-Pelham and Tiesha (Antonio) Puryear-Robinson; his sister Nancy McDuffie and Lemuel (Jackie) Blackwell. He leaves behind many dear nieces, nephews, cousins, and other beloved relatives and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Wesley and Bettie Ermitt Drew; stepmother Margaret Drew; sons, Todd Drew and Paul Drew; grandson David Drew; and his brother Howard (Mattile) Drew.

A visitation will be held in Tennessee on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Lane Chapel CME Church, 1197 Gibson Wells Road, Humboldt, TN 38343.

In New Jersey, a visitation will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10:00 – 11:45 a.m. at Union Baptist Church, 12 Midland Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042, followed by the funeral service at 12:00 p.m. at the church. The service will be available via Livestream on the church's website. Interment will immediately follow the service at Rosedale Cemetery, Montclair, NJ.

Cemetery Details

Rosedale Cemetery

408 Orange Road
Montclair, NJ

Previous Events

Family Hour

OCT 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Lane Chapel C.M.E. Church
1197 Gibson Wells Road
Humboldt, TN 38343

Family Hour

OCT 11. 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Union Baptist Church
12 Midland Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042

Celebration of Life

OCT 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Union Baptist Church
12 Midland Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042

Tribute Wall

AG

“ Calvin Drew, when we first met Calvin, we Call him wallflower, he came to the party. He wouldn't dance and stand all night on the same wall Calvin Quiet personality and fun demeanor was his greatest asset, His friends were his friends for a lifetime. Calvin, it was our pleasure to know you and to share Our lives in Montclair

Ann H Gayle - October 11, 2025 at 11:58 AM

AP

“ Condolences to the entire family. Bro Drew was always a pleasure to work with and it was an honour having him at the Bahamas State Association Convention.

Angela Poitier - October 11, 2025 at 08:08 AM

AD

“ With deepest sympathy and sadness...to his beautiful wife Stephanie and to the family. When I met Bro. Drew he welcomed me aboard the National Level Beauty & Talent Department with open arms. Drew, Stephanie, the officers and members showed me love and warmth. They had me working and taking a part immediately. Thank you for having faith & confidence in me. Your kindness will never be forgotten. May God continue giving the family comfort & strength. Rest in peace my dear Elk brother & friend. (PGDR, Dt. A. Davis, Liberty Temple #800:Florence, SC)



Audrey Davis - October 10, 2025 at 12:04 PM

DS

With heartfelt condolences, I extend love and sympathy to Stephanie and the family. May God continue to bless and keep you. (Donna Seymour)

Donna Seymour - October 22, 2025 at 05:52 PM

SS

“ *Although I did not know Mr. Drew he certainly has my respect. His daughter Morgan is a wonderful leader and funeral director. My prayers and condolences to all of you.*

Shawn Smith

Shawn Smith - October 09, 2025 at 10:17 PM



“ *Lorenzo Ross lit a candle in memory of Calvin Drew*



Lorenzo Ross - October 08, 2025 at 11:54 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Calvin Norman Drew Sr..*

October 08, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Calvin Norman Drew Sr..



October 08, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ When I first met Mr Drew and he found out that I was in the funeral business like he was we would always talk and share things I will ask him a whole lot of questions but I'm going to say you're going to be missed so my condolence go out to the family he was a good man

Bruce Torrence - October 07, 2025 at 04:30 PM



“ I Only Met Mr Drew, When I Was Younger, Living In East Orange, He Would Come To EO To Visit With My Uncle Jack Jones, Who Was A Classmate And Friend, At Montclair High School, Rest In Heaven Mr. Drew.

Darryl Wyatt - October 06, 2025 at 08:38 PM



To my step dad, Calvin I've known you for over 61 years of my life. Your Best friend Russell Overton will greet you with open arms. Todd and your youngest son will reunite with you again. I always enjoyed myself coming to the house in Montclair Todd and I and Dwayne always played hide and seek in the funeral home lol, hiding around the caskets with dead people inside them, we were young. I always watched my dad he always seem to have a good time around you. I guess that's why when he passed away Russell left you his 50ft that. It was a pleasure to have known you and your family and children, to whom I talk to regularly. Rest in peace...love always....

Lorenzo Ross - October 08, 2025 at 12:05 PM

ET

“ *Mr. Drew and my father, the late Orlando K. Perry, were like brothers. Remembering all of the great times spent together as family. Prayers and condolences to all.*

Elizabeth Tracey Perry Tisdale - October 06, 2025 at 08:33 PM

TR

“ *My Patriarch, My Poppy*

What a life.

What a legacy.

What a blessing you were to me.

If there's one thing we know well, it's the circle of life and the Lord, and that's all because of you.

While this loss cuts deep, I know you prepared us for this day long before we were even old enough to understand. Poppy, I can't thank you enough, for giving me a childhood I can brag about, for giving me a home full of love, faith, and structure.

I'm so grateful I was able to see you and tell you just how much I loved and appreciated you, for being such a vital part of my life. I'm sorry I didn't get Aden down to see you, but I promise, he knows all about his Pop-Pop. I'll share every memory, every lesson, and all the love you poured into me.

Losing you has left a hole in my heart, but your legacy will live on. I love you beyond words. And I promise to keep your girls and this family together, just as you would want.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Job well done, Poppy.

Your girl,

Tiesha



SC

“ Mr drew was like DAD to me growing up as a little kid Paul drew the baby was my best friend I love the drew family he was an awesome man he always had that smile I remember him and I went to Mr Caggiano funeral we sat together he was telling me how nice it was and how many acres he had in Tennessee we laughed so much about other things but I'm glad I had an opportunity for him to be in my life rest well Mr drew I will never forget you love always from the Campbell family

steve campbell - October 04, 2025 at 03:38 PM

MM

“ The best friend & neighbor a person could ask for, always willing to lend a helping hand.. his smile & memories will last a lifetime 🙏🙏

Milton & Bobbie Manley - October 04, 2025 at 10:24 AM