



## Virgil L. Stafford Jr.

February 13, 2025

VIRGIL LEE STAFFORD JR., was born on AUGUST 18TH , 1963 at HURLEY HOSPITAL IN FLINT, MICHIGAN.

The son of VIRGIL LEE STAFFORD SR., of Memphis Tennessee and GERTRUDE “TRUDY” (MOSLEY) STAFFORD of Edwards, Mississippi. Virgil Sr. had come north after WWII in search of factory work. It was in Flint MI where he met Trudy and married in March of 1963. A few months later, they welcomed Virgil Jr.

### Celebration of Life

Life started for Virgil Jr in a modest home on Avenue A in the heart of Flint. He first attended

Dort School down the street from his childhood home. It was there, Virgil took an interest in

running. From the age of 9, until his parents, Virgil Sr., and Trudy died in 1999 and 2010

respectively, Virgil would call 6306 Sally Court in Flint, Michigan home.

He attended Brownell Elementary School, and the short lived “Flint Academy “ before

ultimately attending and graduating from Flint Northwestern High School (N-Dub) as a

Wildcat! It was at N-Dub where Virgil would meet most of his lifelong friends. Called "The Gutter-Buddies", they were members of N-Dub's track team at its core. Virgil loved running track/cross country and the friends that came with it. Before leaving Northwestern, Virgil had won a slew of medals, six varsity letters, and a bunch of titles. At the end of his school days in Flint, Virgil would attend the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle (UICC) on a track scholarship. Chicago would become a second home to Virgil, and the place where he would later meet the love of his life. UICC is where Virgil began his college track journey and went on to graduate to earn his B.S. Degree. Years later, Virgil began his lengthy career in the Cyber-Security Industry as a Senior Account Executive where he left an extraordinary impression on all those who knew and worked with him until his passing.

It was in his second home of Chicago in 2013, when Virgil met his true love, soulmate and best-friend, Lori Blake while visting in Chicago for the 4th of July weekend. Virgil and Lori's union happened all by faith. Virgil crossed paths with Lori while he was on a blind-date that went wrong. An unexpected turn of events took place by divine intervention. Let's just say, his blind date was unable to hold her water and an open seat happened to become available and it was there, when Lori took her seat next to Virgil, not knowing

that she had  
just found her “One”. The introduction of Virgil and Lori happened.....the rest  
is history and  
they committed their love for one-another and married 8 years later on July  
31, 2021 in  
Chicago.

When Virgil wasn't hard at work, he could be found either next to Lori,  
enjoying laughter  
with family and friends, watching football or dancing throughout the house  
whenever he  
had an extra moment.

Virgil accepted Christ at a young age by attending Morningstar Missionary  
Baptist Church  
with his mother. Although he attended many churches over the years, he  
eventually settled  
on Triumph as his Church Home and regularly attended service at its North  
Campus.

HE leaves to cherish his memory:

His wife, Lori (Blake) Stafford of Chicago, Sons, Tyler Fields of North Carolina,  
Virgil L.

Stafford III of Detroit, and Marique Stafford also of Detroit. Daughters, Brandi  
(Garrett)

Hammond, of Sidney, Australia and Alexandria “Tornea” Peden of Orlando,  
Florida

Grandchildren: Aria Jade Hammond-3 of Sidney Australia, Ethan Samuel  
Hammond – 3

months of Sidney Australia and Khalil Holland – 7 of Orlando, Florida

Sisters: Faye (Sam) Wells of Dallas, TX and Carla Shelton, of Indianapolis,  
Indiana

Brother: Ellis“Bo” (Darlyn) Stafford of Houston, Texas, Other Brothers, Terence

Greene

and Kevin Croom

Nieces: Tiffany Wells of Dallas, Texas, Maricia Stafford of Houston, Texas,  
Marisa

Stafford, Bellville, Michigan, Diamond Shelton of Indianapolis, Indiana

Nephews: Samuel (Nikki) Wells of Atlanta, GA

Mother-in-Law: Florence Blake of Chicago, IL

Sister-in-Law: Tara Blake (Mario) of Matteson, IL

Brothers-in-Laws: Victor Blake, Tony Blake, Darris Blake, Randall Blake, Eric  
Blake, and

Chris Blake, all from Chicago, IL

A host of other relatives and Special Friends

Virgil is Preceded in Death By: Gertrude Stafford – Mother, Virgil L. Stafford  
Sr., - Father,

Ella May Mosley - Grand Mother, Jesse Mosley- Grand  
Father, Emma Stafford – Grand Mother, Bud Stafford –  
Grand Father and Sister, Barbara Key

The family would like to express our special thanks to everyone who has  
taken the time to

call, text, send words of encouragement and stop by. Your love, support,  
inspiration and

prayers are greatly appreciated

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **27**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 702-5367  
info@kempfh.com  
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

## Family Hour

FEB **28**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Triumph - Northville  
16115 Beck Road  
Northville, MI 48168

## Funeral Service

FEB **28**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Triumph - Northville  
16115 Beck Road  
Northville, MI 48168

# Tribute Wall

FJ

“ *Virgil just crossed my mind, and I Googled and found this. We were tight back in college at UIC. Wow!* ”

Fernando Jones - July 04, 2025 at 01:46 PM

LJ

“ *My prayers and condolences to the family may God give you the strength peace comfort and love you will need on this journey. May you all grieve for as long as you have to there is no timeline.* ”



LaTina R Jones - March 01, 2025 at 10:44 PM

TG

“ *My deepest condolences and prayers to the family! So sorry for your loss* ”



Terri Gilmore - February 28, 2025 at 08:32 AM

CA

“ *CaSandra V. Alexander purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..* ”



CaSandra V. Alexander - February 28, 2025 at 07:46 AM

CA

“ *CaSandra V. Alexander planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..*

CaSandra V. Alexander - February 28, 2025 at 07:46 AM

EC

“ *Virg...Coach...shared some good times and laughs with you at the barbershop, Bar7 and beyond. May you eternally rest in the peace that passes all understanding - Your boy E...*



Eric Cook - February 27, 2025 at 09:43 PM

JS

“ *My friend, I am at a loss for words and thoughts right now. You accepted me as your friend and brother. We have shared many memories and this pic is one our best. Rest well my Brother.....  
Jayke  
#@omniepic @motorcityeliteent*



Jason Lampkin Sr. - February 27, 2025 at 09:28 PM

SM

“ Shereasher & Devon McDonald purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**Shereasher & Devon McDonald** - February 27, 2025 at 08:13 PM

SM

“ Shereasher & Devon McDonald planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

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**Shereasher & Devon McDonald** - February 27, 2025 at 08:13 PM

LA

“ Les and Carmela Allen purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**Les and Carmela Allen** - February 27, 2025 at 02:04 PM

LP

“ So very sorry for your loss Carla and family. I didn't personally know Virgil but I have the upmost love and respect for you and your family. May God give you strength and help you hold on to fond memories of Virgil. Heaven has a new angel now. Love, LP and family

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**Lisa Patterson** - February 27, 2025 at 12:25 PM

LW

“ Lawrence & Danica Walden purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**Lawrence & Danica Walden** - February 27, 2025 at 08:25 AM

LW

“ Lawrence & Danica Walden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

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**Lawrence & Danica Walden** - February 27, 2025 at 08:25 AM

MB

“ Virgil and I started at Q1Labs/ IBM at the same time and I was always impressed how easy it was to talk to Virgil. He always had a smile on his face and when we talked it was not long before I did too. Virgil had a laid back way of connecting with you that put you at ease and got you liking him instantly.

Over the years we would reconnect at events and it was so easy to catch up like we were neighbours. I am deeply sorry to hear of his passing and send my condolences to his friends and family. Virgil was great man who impacted others and he will be missed.



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**Michael Bright** - February 26, 2025 at 10:48 PM

AO

“ Our hearts are broken 💔 to learn of the passing of our dear friend & classmate. Flint Northwestern C/O 1981 sends our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Virgil. I'm so glad I was able to see him last year & take a picture.... He will never be forgotten. Rest well my friend....



Arnenia Peoples Odum - February 26, 2025 at 08:06 PM

RF

“ Reggie Bryant and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



Reggie Bryant and Family - February 26, 2025 at 07:41 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



February 26, 2025 at 02:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

February 26, 2025 at 02:49 PM

KC

“ Ken Corbett purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**Ken Corbett** - February 26, 2025 at 12:18 PM

KC

“ Ken Corbett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

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**Ken Corbett** - February 26, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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February 26, 2025 at 06:01 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

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February 26, 2025 at 06:01 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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February 26, 2025 at 12:22 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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February 25, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

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February 25, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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February 25, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

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February 25, 2025 at 10:24 AM

RH

“ Rochelle Hughes purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**Rochelle Hughes** - February 24, 2025 at 05:01 PM

CF

“ Virgil you were a wonderful person, kind hearted and soft spoken. As even as even gets, you were the best neighbor and friend a brother could have. Thank you for being you. You will be missed ~ Ciers Family

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**Ciers Family** - February 24, 2025 at 02:36 PM

3D

“ 3520 Board of Directors purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**3520 Board of Directors** - February 24, 2025 at 11:19 AM

BF

“ Belk Family lit a candle in memory of Virgil L. Stafford Jr.



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**Belk Family** - February 24, 2025 at 09:13 AM

LF

“ Love Grit and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**Love Grit and family** - February 23, 2025 at 02:40 PM

RR

“ Raymond And Carolyn Reese lit a candle in memory of Virgil L. Stafford Jr.



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**Raymond and Carolyn Reese** - February 22, 2025 at 08:57 AM

RR

*Our sincere condolences to Lorie and family. You are in thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. May God comfort and keep you today and in the days to come.*

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**Raymond and Carolyn Reese** - February 22, 2025 at 08:59 AM

DO

“ I met Virgil while I was attending SIU. Actually he met my brother and his friends while he was visiting me on the basketball court. They hit it off instantly. From that day forward Virgil had become a part of our family. I will miss his sense of humor. He was just the best person you could call friend. My condolences to the family. I pray God sends his comforting angel to surround you.

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**Debra Offett** - February 21, 2025 at 06:15 PM

J(

“ *I'm in extreme disbelief and devastated on the passing of Virgil. My deepest condolences to Bo and the family!*

James Edwards (Stinker) - February 21, 2025 at 12:24 PM

TA

“ *I had the honor of knowing and working with Virgil for over a decade across IBM and Anomali. He was always one of the most positive, smart and well liked team members. He made an impression with his purity of spirit, and genuine love of people and life on a daily basis. He was someone you aspired to emulate and a constant reminder to be your best self. I'll miss you my friend.*

~Tony

Tony Aurigemma - February 19, 2025 at 10:23 PM

SS

*I had the pleasure of of meeting this gentleman. He was married to my cousin Lorie the love was so beautiful and strong it will continue to be everlasting 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️*

Steohanie (Blake) Smith - February 20, 2025 at 07:37 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..*



February 19, 2025 at 04:22 PM

DK

“ It was truly an honor to work alongside Virgil Stafford. He was not only a dedicated and talented colleague but also a kind and supportive presence who always brought positivity to those around him. His contributions and camaraderie will be deeply missed. Wishing his family strength and comfort during this difficult time—our deepest condolences are with them.

David K - February 19, 2025 at 03:26 PM

KP

My prayers and condolences to Viril Stafford III, family, and friends.

Kim Peterson - February 19, 2025 at 05:55 PM

RA

“ Virgil's passing is truly saddening. He was always a sweetheart and smiling. My prayers go up for his Family, Friends 🙏

Rachelle - February 19, 2025 at 02:18 PM

RB

“ Wishing you peace and strength during this difficult time. You are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless you. Gerald and Rhonda Bealore

Rhonda Bealore - February 19, 2025 at 01:58 PM

SD

“ My sincere condolences to the family, I remember running Track with the Stradfford young men, Virgil and Bo. To the family praying God peace and comfort, know that he is watching over you all!



Shaun Dulaney-Davis - February 19, 2025 at 01:38 PM

RY

“ Robert and Kathie Yancey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

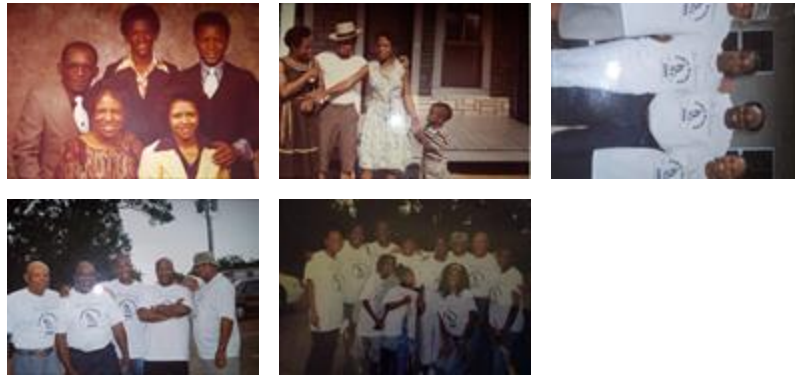


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Robert and Kathie Yancey - February 19, 2025 at 12:06 PM

1D

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



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1st Cousin Zdgar Dawson - February 18, 2025 at 11:52 PM

1D

Boop... see on the other shore. 🙏

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1st Cousin Zdgar Dawson - February 18, 2025 at 11:56 PM

SO

“ Magic happens when two hearts become connected and memories can never be erased. I am so sorry for your loss. A one of a kind and gentle soul kind of guy! Rest in Power my friend! Don't run them too hard!



~ sylvia

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Sylvia Odum-Matthews - February 18, 2025 at 11:19 PM

DJ

“ *Praying for the family and friends of a phenomenal Wildcat classmate!*

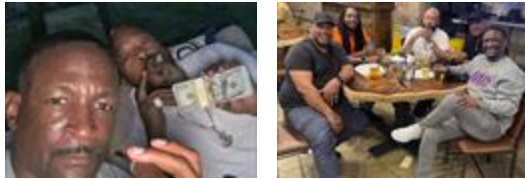
*Truly will miss this world class man!*

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**David D Johnson** - February 18, 2025 at 04:37 PM

JS

“ *My Friend.  
I'm going to miss you.*



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**Jonathan & Tanyae Shareef** - February 18, 2025 at 02:36 PM

PP

“ *Patricia N Peterson lit a candle in memory of  
Virgil L. Stafford Jr.*



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**Patricia N Peterson** - February 18, 2025 at 01:48 PM

ER

*This Budlite is for you brother-in law until we see each other again!  
Eric*

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**Eric** - March 01, 2025 at 07:24 AM

ST

“ Praying for the family of Virgil! You will be missed but will not be forgotten! Shelia Thomas C/O 81 N-Dub 🍀🍀



Shelia M Thomas - February 18, 2025 at 01:20 PM

DC

“ You were a standup guy. We had great times at the Flint Academy. Sending your family much Peace! Rest on Virgil I wished I had made the call months ago.



Dawn Cole - February 18, 2025 at 10:38 AM

CR

“ Virgil, This is a hard pill to swallow. You were such a good guy and definitely gone to soon. My condolences to you and your family!. You will truly be missed.  
Cynthia R.



Cynthia Roland - February 18, 2025 at 08:24 AM

FH

“ Fred & Carisa Hambrick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..

Fred & Carisa Hambrick - February 18, 2025 at 08:01 AM

FH

“ Fred & Carisa Hambrick purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Virgil L. Stafford Jr..



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**Fred & Carisa Hambrick** - February 18, 2025 at 08:01 AM

JS

“ Its very rare to meet a Kindle sprit in this world.  
You were a beautiful person with a giving heart.  
From the moment Jon Jon met you he looked at you as his big  
brother.  
You will truly be missed.  
# A Friend  
# A Brother from another Mother.  
Rest in Peace Big Brother Virgil.

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**Jonathan & Tanyae Shareef** - February 18, 2025 at 01:16 AM

R.

“ RIP my special friend. Till we meet again



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**R.R.** - February 18, 2025 at 01:12 AM

AM

“ *I didn't know he was married either. Sending condolences to the Entire family and friends!* ”



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**Amber** - February 18, 2025 at 01:11 AM

JS

“ *Jonathan & Tanyae Shareef lit a candle in memory of Virgil L. Stafford Jr.* ”



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**Jonathan & Tanyae Shareef** - February 18, 2025 at 01:01 AM

S.

“ *Omg I didn't know he was married!! I'm so sorry for your loss* ”

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**S.C.** - February 18, 2025 at 12:41 AM