



## Mr. Samuel John Griffin Jr.

December 27, 1945 - February 6, 2026

Sam Griffin, beloved husband of Darlene V. Griffin (Grable) transitioned from this earthly realm after a brief illness on February 6, 2026, in Fayetteville, NC at 80 years of age.

Sam was born on December 27, 1945, to the late Esther (Smith) and Samuel John Griffin Sr., in Buffalo, NY. He was raised in Gainesville, GA and attended E.E. Butler High School, where he excelled in various sports, but ultimately fell in love with the game of golf.

After relocating to Bridgeport, CT, in 1968, Sam became a contributing member of the community, most notably as a basketball coach of summer leagues for Pequonnock Apts, a basketball official at the Cardinal Shehan Center, an owner of MagCo Golf, and a security guard and golf instructor for the Bridgeport Public School System. He was also the first Black club champion at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course in 1986. After retiring from employment with Mill River Country Club and Great River Country Club, he relocated to North Carolina and continued his passion for golf by joining the Kings Grant community, which remained his home for the last 10 years.

Surviving family, in addition to his wife of 48 years, include his children Jeri of Los Angeles, CA, Tara of Bridgeport, CT, Shayla & Zina of Marietta, GA; his grandchildren Tajai of Shelton, CT, Hanna of Los Angeles, CA and Phoenix of

Stamford, CT; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Fernando and Eva Henderson of Fayetteville, NC and a host of cousins in Connecticut, South Carolina and Georgia.

Honoring Sam's wishes, a memorial will be held and livestreamed on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 2:00–6:00 PM at King's Grant Golf & Country Club, 347 Shawcroft Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28311.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the youth of Bridgeport, CT, at the Cardinal Shehan Center in honor of Sam.

<https://www.shehancenter.org/support/donations>

# Tribute Wall

RE

“ *Darlene and the girls, we're so sorry to hear of Sam's passing. Our deepest sympathies to you and the family. Wishing you feelings of comfort, moments of peace and memories of joy during this difficult time. You're in our prayers and thoughts.*

*The Gomes Family,  
Reba, Tyra, and Marche'*

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**Reba** - March 28 at 02:13 PM

SL

“ *Bless this family as we remember the loss of her loved one sorry for your loss my prayers are with you and family Locklear know as Shelia Sherard*



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**Shelia Locklear** - March 06 at 01:08 PM

CA

“ *Catherine sent a virtual gift in memory of Samuel Griffin*



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**Catherine** - February 25 at 02:21 AM

SB

“ *My heart is aching. I'm so saddened to learn of Sam's passing. He was definitely one of a kind and a good friend of my Dad's. Heaven has gained a great man. Rest well, Sam.*

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**Sheila 'Bunky' Black** - February 19 at 06:37 PM

LC

“ *Fond memories of my friend and schoolmate. From our nights of enjoying burgers and orange crush sodas when Sam worked as the closer at Burger Chefs, our days of cruising around Gainesville and especially our days at Fair Street and E.E. Butler High Schools. We, along with a host of other seniors, played major roles in the Senior Class Play, "The Boarding House Reach". Those memories carried over through many visits while Sam and Darlene lived in Bridgeport and later Fayetteville. I had no idea when I played a solo round of golf at King's Grant Golf Club in May 1997, what significant event would bring me back to this site! Sincere condolences to Darlene, The Griffin Family and friends from my wife Hardy and me. R.I.P., my friend!*



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**Larry Castleberry** - February 19 at 05:54 PM

EP

“ *Darlene, My deepest condolences to you and the family in the passing of a PQ legend "Sam Bam". Sam was a mentor, a golf enthusiast who try to instill the game of golf in us before it every became popular with black men and women. It was in the Lobby of 615 Broad Street where he said to a few of us " This one day is going to be thee sport and if you learn it now, you'll be able to enjoy it." He was right. Sam coached us during the Peoples Savings Bank Summer League and took us all the way to the Ship. You will be surely missed and loved by all of your PQ family and friends. Ernest Pouncy & Family.*



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**Ernest Pouncy** - February 19 at 03:17 PM

SM

“ Sam was 1 of the pillars in my life. I owe much of my maturation as a man to some of the lessons that u learned from him. He was truly one of the most respected men in the entire city of Bridgeport. Sam i love you and I will cherish all the times that we talked about life & me being the best father,son & family man. Thank you for taking the time out to teach me how important it is to carry myself as a gentleman at all times and be the best representation of my family. Rest easy my guy!!!

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**Stafford McCullough** - February 19 at 02:42 PM

SC

“ Will miss my golf friend, always a pleasure seeing him and playing golf, RIP my friend, prayers for your family

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**Stephen P Carter** - February 18 at 09:10 AM

JT

*Prayers to the entire family. I'm gonna miss our conversations and advice. Rest easy Sam Bam. Loved by many...*

*Jeff Timberlake*

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**jeff Timberlake** - February 19 at 10:52 AM