



Sye Cockrel, Jr.

February 26, 1937 - April 10, 2023

On Monday, April 10, 2023, Sye Cockrel, Jr. (86), with family by his side, was guided by angels into eternal rest. He was a Christian, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son, Brother, Uncle, Nephew, Cousin and a good friend.

Born on February 26, 1937, to Sye Cockrel, Sr. and Cynthia Jones in Detroit, Michigan, he had 2 brothers, Kenneth (deceased) and Jesse, and 2 sisters, Novella and Shirley. In 1952, their parents passed unexpectedly, leaving Sye as the eldest at age 15.

Sye was educated in the Ferndale School System and left school in his senior year to join the US Air Force, where he continued his education while stationed in Germany. Upon his return to civilian life, Sye continued his education, receiving a Bachelor of Science from The Ohio State University in 1968 and a Master of Arts from Central Michigan University in 1973.

Sye married the girl next door, Harriet J. Sims, and to this union, 2 children were born, Damon and Cynthia. Sye was a career civil servant with the Federal Government, applying his computer programming skills at many locations and in various capacities. He had a passion for tennis, playing competitively and recreationally from age 15 to 79.

Sye was predeceased by his parents, Sye, Sr. and Cynthia Cockrel and his

brother Kenneth V. Cockrel, Sr. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 61 years, Harriet J. Cockrel; son, Damon A. (Christina) Cockrel and daughter, Cynthia A. (Andrew) Crossley; 5 grandchildren, Benjamin Crossley, Zachary Crossley, John Crossley, Chad Keller and Dereck (Lindsey) Keller; his siblings, Novella Cockrel, Jesse (Cynthia) Cockrel and Dr. Shirley Cockrel-Akpulonu; 2 sisters-in-law, Sheila Murphy-Cockrel and Angela R. Sims, and brother-in-law Fred (Kathleen) Sims; 4 great-grandchildren, Makenzie (Cole) Gordon, Hayden Keller, Kyler Keller, Briggs Keller and a great-great-grandchild, Josephine Gordon.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 am Monday, April 24, 2023 at RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME AT POWELL, 450 West Olentangy Street, Powell, Ohio where the Visitation will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 pm Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

9571 North High Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

APR **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

MT

“ Met Sye Cockrel when I worked at what was called DCSC now DSCC. He was a Supervisor that I provided Position Classification support for and networked with many of our friends (a small network of African Americans that would hang on occasional Fridays at the DCSC Officers Club), and played bidwhiz cards every blue moon, etc. If I recall, he was an expert at playing tennis and he'd brag on how he and his wife won and/or attended these tournaments. It amazed me then because he was twice my age. He was always bragging on his children too.

He encouraged me to attend a local eatery to get my lunch within 30 minutes at Lox Bagels used to be on Broad Street near the Kahiki. That gentleman was always kind to others and always smiling. Never heard a bad word come from his mouth. He garnered the respect of anyone he came in contact with. Rest in peace my friend, Sye. Marlene Craig-Tucker

Marlene Tucker - May 02, 2023 at 01:04 PM

FK

“ Fred and Kay purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Sye Cockrel, Jr..



Fred and Kay - April 23, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Sye Cockrel, Jr..



April 21, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Sye Cockrel, Jr..



April 21, 2023 at 04:25 AM



“ *Love, Bill and Tricia Johnson* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Sye Cockrel, Jr..



Love, Bill and Tricia Johnson - April 19, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ *Philip and Betty Sims Brown* purchased the *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* for the family of Sye Cockrel, Jr..



Philip and Betty Sims Brown - April 18, 2023 at 02:00 PM

SN

“ Sisters Shirley and Novella purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Sye Cockrel, Jr..



Sisters Shirley and Novella - April 17, 2023 at 11:31 AM

BM

“ Thank you, sye, for the great memories on the tennis court. We sure had fun, didn't we? Rest in peace.

Bob Mellon

Bob Mellon - April 16, 2023 at 04:14 PM

JZ

Sye I remember as a friend and neighbor back in the 80's. A good person! God speed!

Joy zimpfer - April 19, 2023 at 10:04 AM

TS

“ I first met Sye working as a college intern at DLA. Sye was a wealth of knowledge. I enjoyed the time we spent discussing world events. He encouraged me/he actually pushed me to go into management. LoL

Sye was a good guy. May he rest in peace.

Tanya Smith - April 14, 2023 at 02:27 PM

RB

“ *Sye was my first supervisor at DLA. He was strict but gave me invaluable career advice.*

Reginald Bryant

Reginald Bryant - April 14, 2023 at 12:16 PM