



Jackie Cunningham

April 7, 1955 - January 2, 2026

Jackie Robinson Cunningham peacefully passed away on January 2, 2026, at Hebrew Center for Health & Rehabilitation, West Hartford. He was born April 7, 1955 in Hemingway, SC to the late Fred and Emma Cunningham.

Jackie attended Zion Baptist Church in Middletown CT at an early age. He went to Middletown High School where he graduated in 1975. He was the President of the Black Student Union. He played Football and ran on the Track team. He was untouchable and amazing Star for both teams. Jackie joined the Military (Army) where he served for 4 years. He also served with the Army Reserve for many years. Jackie was employed by Durham Manufacturer. He had a passion for cooking. He loves his Lobster and a T-Bone Steak. He enjoyed Cowboy Movies and watching Football. The New York Giants was his favorite team. Jackie was an Umpire for Middletown Baseball & Softball teams for several years.

Jackie leaves to cherish his memories, 3 sons, Imari (Tishara) Watson, New Britain CT, Jashone Cunningham, Middletown, CT and Dwain Leary, Virginia, 4 sister- Betty James, Mary Cunningham, Ruby Cunningham, Margie Cunningham; 2 brothers- Fred Cunningham, Nelson (Gail) Cunningham; all of Middletown, CT. 5 grandsons, Craig Watson, Imari Watson Jr, Ronald Watson, Elijah Watson, and Jeremiah Leary. 1 granddaughter- Lashonna-Walker-Cunningham who he calls his Little Angel. 1 great grandson Mason Watson.

2 God daughters- Aaliyah Wright, & Ebony Daniels both of Middletown CT. A host of nieces and nephews that he loved so much. A special person in his life was his ex-wife, Sheila Leary.

Jackie was predeceased by his parents Fred & Emma Cunningham and his brother Jessie Cunningham.

Cemetery Details

Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery

317 Bow Lane
Middletown, CT 06457

Previous Events

Calling Hour

JAN 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion First Baptist Church
16 James Moses Avenue
Middletown, CT

Funeral Service

JAN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion First Baptist Church
16 James Moses Avenue
Middletown, CT

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Tammy Sessoms lit a candle in memory of Jackie Cunningham*



Tammy Sessoms - January 20 at 12:55 PM

MP

“ *Condolences to the family...love from Marvin and Denise Privott, the Privott, Young, and Belin families...prayers of comfort and strength going up..* 🙏💕👼✨

Marvin/Denise (Young) (Belin) Privott - January 15 at 08:55 AM

TB

“ *My fellow Vet I salute you, I remember those nice morning and evening rides to and from Durham MFG and our conversations and laughs, you always greeted people with a smile! R.I.P. brother jack you will be missed!*

Timothy bell - January 14 at 07:48 PM

SL

“ *My Best Friend, I am really going to miss you Jackie. I will always keep your memories alive. Sleep in peace!* 💔😭

Sheila Leary - January 14 at 07:21 AM

CU

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cunningham - January 12 at 10:59 PM

FF

“ Cunningham Family



From The Cunningham Family - January 12 at 08:56 PM

FF

“ You will be missed dearly, but not forgotten!!!
Rest in Peace! We Love You!
From your Family the Cunningham



From The Cunningham Family - January 12 at 08:55 PM

MC

“ May The Lord Keep My Family In Perfect Peace During This
Difficult Time 💕💕

Maxine Brown Cooper - January 12 at 08:43 PM