



## Clarence Dorsey Reed

April 1, 1928 - March 5, 2021

Click here to view a live stream of Mr. Reed's memorial service (<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1624038520120987>)

Clarence Dorsey Reed, 92, died on March 5, 2021 at Goodwin House in Falls Church, Virginia. He led an extraordinary life that took him from a one-room schoolhouse in rural East Tennessee to his retirement as an executive in charge of training for the U.S. branch of a major automobile manufacturer. More important to him and those he loved, he helped to mentor countless individuals he encountered along the way, transforming their lives and leading them to success in ways they never expected. The tributes to him from those he counseled virtually all reflect a common phrase: "he changed my life." A loving husband and father and deeply religious person, he spent his life giving joy to others with his gentle sense of humor and genuine interest in anyone he chanced to meet.

Dorsey was born on April 1, 1928, in Valley Forge, Tennessee to Frank and Elizabeth Reed. He graduated from Elizabethton High School in 1945 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17, serving in the Pacific on the destroyer U.S.S. Robert K. Huntington (DD781) until 1949. He was on the Huntington in July 1946 for the first atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll, which occurred within sight of his ship. He finished his naval service as a Gunner's Mate Third Class, having been awarded commendations that included the World War II Victory Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

Dorsey's first civilian job on his return to Elizabethton was as a deputy sheriff for Carter County. Using his GI Bill benefits he enrolled in classes at East Tennessee State College in Johnson City in September 1949, but could not finish his studies because the Army National Guard unit he had joined was called to active duty after the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950. Before leaving for training at Fort Drum, Dorsey married Barbara Sue Jennings, another graduate of Elizabethton High School, who would be his beloved wife for the next 62 years, until her death in 2013. They spent their honeymoon in snowy Watertown, New York. Because of his prior leadership training in the Navy, Dorsey was selected to return to Tennessee to help prepare the next company of National

Guardsmen. Prior to his retirement from the service, he rose to the rank of First Lieutenant and acting commander of the local National Guard company.

Following his return to Elizabethton, Dorsey took vocational courses to become a lab technician and served in that role at local hospitals while his young family grew with the birth of two sons (Steve in 1952 and Kevin in 1956). In 1957, he was offered a position as a pharmaceutical representative for Bristol Myers, requiring a relocation to Little Rock, Arkansas and later to Nashville, Tennessee. Dorsey subsequently was hired as a director of training for Heil-Quaker, a manufacturer of HVAC equipment and then became the director of training for Nissan USA when the company established its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Smyrna, Tennessee. His pioneering health and wellness programs for Nissan employees garnered national recognition.

Dorsey is survived by his two sons, Steven Reed and his wife Anne and retired USAF Maj. Kevin Reed and his wife Susan; three grandchildren, John Reed, Robert Reed and his wife Katie, and Margaret Reed Millar and her husband Tom; four great-grandchildren, Ruby Reed, Wells Reed, Jack Millar and Reed Dorsey Millar; and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life for Dorsey will be held in the Tetrick Funeral Services Chapel in Johnson City on Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday after 10:00 a.m. until the hour of service at 11:00 a.m.

A committal service will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 12:30 P.M. in the Happy Valley Memorial Park. Those wishing to attend are asked to meet at the cemetery no later than 12:20 p.m.

The family suggests that donations be made to one of the following charities that Dorsey supported for many years:

La BECA Women's Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 7064, Alexandria, VA 22307 ([www.labeca.org](http://www.labeca.org))

Red Cloud Indian School, 100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770 ([www.redcloudschool.org](http://www.redcloudschool.org))

St. Joseph's Indian School, P.O. Box 326, Chamberlain, South Dakota 57326 ([www.stjo.or](http://www.stjo.or))

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# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Tetrick Funeral and Cremation Services  
3001 Peoples Street  
Johnson City, TN 37604

## Funeral

JUN **26.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Tetrick Funeral and Cremation Services  
3001 Peoples Street  
Johnson City, TN 37604

## Committal Service

JUN **26.** 12:30 PM (ET)

Happy Valley Memorial Park  
2708 Elizabethton Hwy  
Johnson City, TN 37601-7107

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ I am Dorcas Hale, I have known Dorsey and Barbara Reed for at least over 30 years They have been our Rock of Encouragement since we have know them both ! We were members ( my husband Lee, went to Heaven in 2016, of Cornerstone Church, JC TN! I just want the Family of these Godly People to know they are so sadly Missed, but we remember all the Gospel Truths they both taught us along the Way!❤️🙏!!!🙏🙏🙏 God Bless your Family and Glory to God for you Parents Memories in all our Hearts ! We will Never Forget The Reed’s influence on our Life!❤️ Dorcas Hale and my Daughter Angela Benfield Barbara’s helper for a while! God Bless and Comfort your Hearts🙏🙏🇺🇸🙏

Dorcas Hale - June 27, 2021 at 06:52 PM



“ Dorsey was one of the most special men I have had to privilege to know. He had such a heart for the Lord and was such a loving husband to Barbara.

He was so kind to all who came across his path in life and he will be missed.



Laura Graham - June 26, 2021 at 07:58 PM



“ When I met Dorsey I was 12 years old, my godparents Anne and Steve Reed always took me to visit him in summer and without doubt I was so happy every time I used to visit him for the following years because he was such a happy and emotional person.

Dorsey taught me a lot about the meaning of living each moment, that everything we do is with passion. Dorsey’s unconditional love taught me that life is beautiful and that every moment in which we live is to demonstrate with the same sincerity and passion the same love and incomparable joy that he left us.

Andres C. Bardales - June 26, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ Andres C. Bardales sent a virtual gift in memory of Clarence Dorsey Reed



Andres C. Bardales - June 26, 2021 at 12:08 PM

JJ

“ My Uncle Dorsey and my two cousins, Steve and Kevin, were the highlight of my Christmas vacations in Elizabethton, TN, as a young child. We included our cousin, Alan Merritt, in our marathon gaming experiences . On occasion we let my sister, Whitney Johns Martin play. It bonded us and taught us the importance of family.

As a young man with two sons of my own, we introduced them to Uncle Dorsey as we lived in Nashville also. Having an uncle close by was formative as they had no grandfathers still alive. At the death of my mother, Charlotte (his sister.), Uncle Dorsey welcomed us to stay with him during the funeral at his home in Johnson City, TN. But I got a chance to really connect during his stay in Alexandria VA. I would drive down from Baltimore and we would have long discussions about life,, the Navy, and God. He helped me become the man that I am today and I am grateful for having his influence and wisdom in my life. I will miss you. Jeffery Johns

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**Jeffery Johns** - June 26, 2021 at 10:56 AM

TB

“ What a wonderful person! A man who gave all he had to others. Who was the best encourager of life than anyone I have every know. He has been such a blessing to myself and my whole family. I will keep my promise to him, I will meeting him at the Eastern Gate in the very near future. He's there now waiting for everyone and cheering us on.

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**Tena Jean Bates** - June 26, 2021 at 12:44 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Clarence Dorsey Reed.



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June 25, 2021 at 11:58 AM

MM

“ Much love, Whitney and Charles Martin purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Clarence Dorsey Reed.



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**Much love, Whitney and Charles Martin** - June 22, 2021 at 06:30 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Clarence Dorsey Reed.*



June 14, 2021 at 05:53 PM

RS

“ *I was Dorsey's immediate manager during Dorsey's final years at Nissan before his retirement. We had a close knit work group and we welcomed Dorsey's mentoring and wisdom. He must have been one of the first twenty people hired for our new gigantic, manufacturing complex in Smyrna. He was the epitome of calm, patience, flexibility, clear headed focus, goal oriented, positivity, people focused, servant minded and encouragement. He loved to laugh and did his best to share his laughter with everyone. His major joy in life was investing in others and helping them to achieve their goals and dreams. He was a self taught expert in spiritual goal setting and meditation techniques. Story telling and piercing personal questions were his major teaching tools.*

*He raised untold dollars for the United Way by founding and managing our annual Nissan Major Motion Challenge running events. He hosted, guided, and supported untold numbers of American Nissan employees sent to Japan for training. His presence in Japan assisting so many meant the world to them, given it was many's first international travel experience. He was critical in the design, building and management of our 33,000 square foot fitness center and recreation park.*

*He had a God given knack for making money, but investing in and enjoying people was what most energized him. Always a gentleman, and always ready to lend an ear. I was so fortunate to have worked with and enjoyed Dorsey's friendship and mentoring me for many years.*

*Rob Spruill*

Rob Spruill - March 13, 2021 at 05:32 PM

LE

“ *A great American!*

Lee - March 11, 2021 at 08:48 AM