



Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr.

May 25, 1951 - May 24, 2026

Vernon "Rocky" Cleveland Ridgely, Jr.

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Vernon Cleveland Ridgely, Jr., was born on May 25, 1951, and fully lived — in every sense of the word — until the early hours of May 24, 2026, the day before his 75th birthday. He was born to Constance Hatcher Ridgely and Vernon C. Ridgely, Sr., in Baltimore, Maryland. Arriving well past his due date, his Godmother announced to the room: "...the Rock is finally here..." No one ever called him Vernon again.

Rocky spent virtually his entire life as a proud resident of Baltimore City. He attended William H. Lemmel Junior High School and the City College of Baltimore, where he played varsity football as a running back and wide receiver, graduating in 1971. He went on to earn his Associate of Arts degree from the Community College of Baltimore, and shortly thereafter enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. His four years of honorable service took him to remarkable locations around the world, highlighted by his membership on the Marine Corps Basketball Team.

From the time he left high school, Rocky channeled his natural talent and deep passion for style into a career in fashion — modeling and organizing

fashion events. Following his honorable discharge from the Marines in 1977, he built upon that foundation by joining some of the most respected men's fashion retailers in Maryland, including Bernard Hill, Hyatt & Co., and most recently Gian Marco on Charles Street. In all, Rocky's distinguished career in fashion spanned more than 50 years, during which he touched the lives of countless men and women who simply wanted to look their best.

Beyond fashion, Rocky's passions ran wide and deep: good food, travel, the Cowboys, the Ravens, Eagle Harbor, Cape May, jazz, Ridgely Family Reunions, being a charter member of the Neptune Yacht Club, and loving his family and many friends. Rocky had a rare and genuine gift for keeping in touch — a phone call, a check-in, a show of presence in the moments that mattered — making everyone in his orbit feel seen and loved. Rocky cherished his spiritual connection and the relationships forged at Bridgeway Community Church which sustained him throughout his faith walk.

He had a bond with his parents that was extraordinary in its closeness and devotion. He adored his mother, "Connie," and the feeling was entirely mutual. Friends still smile remembering how she let him drive her winged Chrysler — the "Batmobile," they called it — when he was still in high school. He accompanied Connie and her friends to Shriners' conventions in cities across the country, and even coached her Eastern Stars drill team to victory in a national competition. With his father, Vernon Sr., Rocky shared household projects, trips to the barbershop, mani pedis, and the quiet joy of helping each other through life — including cooking and selling home-made meals to raise money for White Rock Church. His father loved him dearly and Rocky knew it.

In 1970, Rocky took a girl to her junior prom on a blind date arranged by his best friend. Thirty-one years later, in 2001, they reconnected at a mutual friend's dessert party after which he decided to call her. Thirteen fun-filled years of mutual vetting followed, after which Rocky knew he had found his

future. The final step was securing her mother's blessing — who, upon being asked, looked at him and said: "...you know, she has three children..." Rocky didn't flinch. On October 25, 2014, one of the most eligible and confirmed bachelors of the modern era left the battlefield for good. Norma Gene Parker Hall Ridgely, her three children, and "Pop Rock" became a family, and the rest is legend. Rocky stepped up as husband, father, grandfather, and as a man — filling a space in the children's hearts that only he could fill — endearing himself to the larger family in a way that is rarely seen and never forgotten.

Left to mourn his passing and celebrate the great fortune of having known him are his beloved wife, Norma; son Amon (Shannon); daughters Amara (Chelsea) and Arielle (Terry); granddaughter Aaliyah; father Vernon Sr.; sister Phyllis; niece Sarah (Andrian); great-nephew Rey; the Pajardos, the Blackwells, of course the Ridgelys, and the multitudes who claim him, proudly, as family and friend.

Boots up, Rocky. May you rest in immortal, profound, and joyful peace.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Baltimore City College Alumni Association Scholarship Fund in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely Jr., or to the family's memorial fund via Venmo:

@RockstarMemorialFund

Baltimore City College Alumni Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 21494

Baltimore, MD 21282-1494

Please designate "For Scholarship Fund" and note "Donation Honoring Vernon 'Rocky' Ridgely Jr." on the check.

Today's Events

Public Viewing

JUN 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Upcoming Events

Wake

JUN 9. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Funeral Service

JUN 9. 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Demetrius, Ashley Nazario-Davis & Boys purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..*



Demetrius, Ashley Nazario-Davis & Boys - 3 hours ago



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..*



Yesterday at 09:29 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..*

Yesterday at 09:29 PM

CS

“ *Rocky you were such a loving friend to our son, Justin, and a great mentor all the years you both worked together. I'm glad Justin had a chance to see him 4 yrs ago after we moved to Florida. Rocky has now been reunited with his loving Mom. She was such a beautiful person. Norma, Justin and I, Carol, his Mom will keep you and the girls in our prayers. 🙏*

Carol Stehman - June 05 at 07:40 PM

CS

“ Carol S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..

Carol S. - June 05 at 07:14 PM

RC

“ Ramona R. Carver purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..



Ramona R. Carver - June 05 at 02:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..



June 05 at 09:45 AM



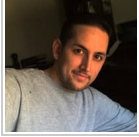
“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..

June 05 at 09:45 AM

SS

“ Sandy Ringgold and Linda Shields planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..

Sandy Ringgold and Linda Shields - June 04 at 08:03 AM



“ Thank you for taking me under your wing and being my mentor for many years. Most of all thank you for being my friend and like family to me. I will forever cherish all of the moments that we had together. I love you Rockstar. Peace be with you.



Justin Stehman - June 02 at 08:16 PM

AM

“ 9 files added to the album Rocky Ridgely



Amara - June 02 at 04:54 PM

JJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers extend to all of you who are faced with the displeasure of losing a loved one to our worst enemy called Death, in these critical situations it's normal to feel helpless not knowing where to turn. However, our heavenly creator has assured us in HEB: 6/11 that it is impossible for him to ever forget us, He also stated in John:5/28/29 that all those who have fallen asleep will here is voice , So GOD is given us all his promise of hope of us being together once again. Meanwhile we can give our thanks to the funeral directors: for their perfectonal assistance and their heartfelt concern toward the unfortunate friends and families; THANKS.

Joseph Jones - June 01 at 01:21 PM

EA

Our prayers and condolences for Rocky and his family. May the Creator have mercy on him and grant him eternal life.

Earl El Amin - June 05 at 06:50 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..



May 31 at 03:04 PM

LP

“ Lynne Barney Porter and Marion Porter purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..



Lynne Barney Porter and Marion Porter - May 29 at 02:55 PM

LP

“ Lynne Barney Porter and Marion Porter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..

Lynne Barney Porter and Marion Porter - May 29 at 02:55 PM

PA

“ Peter and Gail Atwater purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..



Peter and Gail Atwater - May 29 at 11:36 AM

PA

“ Peter and Gail Atwater planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..

Peter and Gail Atwater - May 29 at 11:36 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..



May 29 at 11:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..

May 29 at 11:23 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Vernon "Rocky" Ridgely, Jr..*



May 28 at 02:10 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love, and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Life Tribute Center - May 28 at 10:23 AM