



Westley "Wes" Unseld

March 14, 1946 - June 2, 2020

Click here to view or download the Funeral Program (<https://www.marchfh.com/download/148092/UnseldWesProgram.pdf>)

It is with profound sadness that we share that our adored husband, father and grandfather Wes Unseld, passed away peacefully on the morning of June 2, 2020 surrounded by family following lengthy health battles, most recently with pneumonia. He was the rock of our family – an extremely devoted patriarch who reveled in being with his wife, children, friends and teammates. He was our hero and loved playing and working around the game of basketball for the cities of Baltimore and Washington D.C., cities he proudly wore on his chest for so many years.

His legacy lives on in the family he treasured – his daughter Kim, son Wes, daughter-in-law Evelyn, grandchildren Layla and Wes and the love of his life for 50 years, his wife Connie – and in the community through the Unselds' School, where the entire family contributed to enriching the lives of Baltimore's youth.

We would like to thank everyone who knew and loved him, personally and professionally, for their support during this loss. We will share information in the near future about how we will celebrate Wes' incredible life.

At this time, the family would appreciate privacy as we navigate this difficult loss. In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to the Unselds' School using the following link:

<https://monumentalsports.formstack.com/forms/wesunseldschool>

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to
The Westley Unseld Scholarship Fund
c/o the Unseld School
250 S. Hilton Street
Baltimore, MD 21229

Westley S. Unseld was born on March 14, 1946 in Louisville, Kentucky to Charles Dorsey and Cornelia Sissel Unseld. He was nurtured in a Christian household where he had extraordinary role models in his parents. They placed an emphasis on hard work, education and family values.

Wes was a man of moral strength and possessed a passion for reading. He read everywhere even in the locker room. He was an ingenious scholar, honor student and awesome athlete at Seneca High School. He won state titles in discus and shot put but basketball became his premier sport.

He was a fearless contender. Mentally and physically he was a quiet competitor who established himself as an outstanding passer and defender. He had a determination to achieve and his demeanor during a game was intimidating.

He led Seneca High School to two state basketball championships and his points and rebounds were staggering. He was a wonder to behold with his two handed overhand floor length pass. He had wit and strength that made him a legend. He graduated from high school with a stellar average of 24.5 points and 21 rebounds and was named Kentucky's "Mr. Basketball."

Accomplishments didn't diminish after Seneca High School. They continued to transcend and become even more impressive when he entered the University of Louisville. His rebounding and field goal percentages made him twice All-American. His records reveal that he was the Cardinal's all-time leading scorer for a three year player. His 20.6 statistics per game and 18.9 rebounds remains a Louisville record.

Professional basketball showed his real talents with his bone jarring picks and full court passes. He was unstoppable and became an instant success. He played thirteen years for the Baltimore/Washington Bullets. He was the second player in NBA history to be chosen Rookie of The Year and Most Valuable Player in the same season. His rebounding numbers were impressive especially since he was a mere 6 foot 6 inches and his competition was much taller. He mastered rebounding and the power and precision of the outlet pass which became his trade mark.

He had many accomplishments during his career. He was a five time NBA All Star who led the charge to four final appearances. The height of success came for the team in 1978 when they became NBA champions and he was MVP.

He was a true leader who was unselfish, he would rather pass than score. The Bullets began their dynasty when Wes joined in 1968. He retired in 1981 and became Vice President. He began coaching in 1988 and was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

In 1996, he was named to the NBA 50th Anniversary Team of the 50 best NBA players. He received many honors and awards and simply said, "It's very nice, but I don't know if I deserve them". Wes was a graduate of the University

of Louisville with a double major in education and history. He had numerous fond memories of the institution because that's where he met his wife, Connie Martin.

Wes has always taken part in community affairs. He volunteered with disabled children at James Lawrence Kernan Hospital and was a presenter and speaker on drug abuse prevention at Baltimore County schools.

He has been equally engaged in projects, programs and with community groups in Washington, DC. He used his position in a positive manner to serve and help others. His leisure time was involved in gardening, culinary arts, woodworking, photography, fishing, reading and playing with his dogs. He was an avid traveler and participated in basketball clinics in South Africa, Japan, Vietnam, Mexico, Nigeria, Kenya, Israel, China and the Philippines.

In 1978, Wes helped his wife Connie establish Unselds' School, a private school that nurtures children from pre-school through eighth grade. It was a dream that became a reality and represented his compassion and commitment to children. His support and presence was invigorating and so meaningful for parents, staff and students. He served in many roles at Unselds' School but enjoyed being the gentleman that greeted everyone daily. He was an awesome figure and immediately made a positive impact.

Wes is preceded in death by two sisters, Sandra Austin, Charles Jeanne Clemons and a brother George Unseld. He is survived by: Connie, his wife of fifty years; his daughter, Kimberly; his son Wes Jr.; daughter-in-law Evelyn; and two grandchildren Layla and Westley.

He leaves to mourn siblings, Reginald Unseld (Barbara), Robert Unseld, Isaac Unseld (Pam), Stevie Bedford and Larry Bedford along with several nieces, nephews as well as great-nieces and -nephews.

Wes was a man who can be remembered as the rock of the family and the community. He was a caring and compassionate individual that seemed larger than life. He touched our lives and made it better.

Although he was a Hall of Famer, NBA MVP, All American and Mr. Basketball, none of these accolades could compare to his greatest achievement which was his family. He loved his two children, grandchildren, and his wife who was his partner for a lifetime

Cemetery Details

King Memorial Park Cemetery- Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21244
(410) 944-8300
info@kingmemorialpark.com
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 12. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD

Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Westley "Wes" Unsel, Please Click the Link below.



March Life Tribute Centers - June 11, 2020 at 10:08 AM

BS

“ He was a force to be reckoned with, may Mr. Unsel rest in power. A champion among champoins!

Brian Shaw - June 04 at 08:26 AM

JC



James Edward Cornelius - January 15, 2025 at 11:00 AM

BC

“ Bobby Carter lit a candle in memory of Westley "Wes" Unsel



Bobby Carter - October 14, 2020 at 01:44 PM

MF

“ So many years ago we had the privilege of interacting socially with Wes and family as parents at Friends school. Wes was always engaging. Our love and prayer for his friends and family who miss him dearly. What a blessing he was to us all

Michael & Deborah Sterrett & family - October 03, 2020 at 02:07 PM

KF

“ Our sincere sympathy we send to your family during this sad time. For years it had been a joy watching Wes perform his skills. He will be remembered not only as a professional but as a person who cared for others, he will be deeply missed. Daily may God continue to give his needed comfort and support.

Kindred Family - September 09, 2020 at 05:35 AM

M(

“ 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 (Randallstown) - July 22, 2020 at 12:19 PM

SB

“ I always had fun with Wes. I remember when he married my cousin Connie and we had a few minutes to talk. He always found time to talk with me. Ever time the bullets came to Chicago, he made sure we had tickets for the game and would spend time with us after the game. He was a great man, cousin, and an authentic human being. We lost touch over time, but the memories are still there. RIH Wes, I know you are no longer in pain. Much love to my beautiful cousin Connie. We will always love you. Rev. Stevie Barnes, M.Div.

Steve Barnes - July 07, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Westley "Wes" Unseld.



July 03, 2020 at 05:10 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Westley "Wes" Unseld.



July 03, 2020 at 05:07 PM

MH

“ I have know Wes for a little over 50 years. I met him through Connie Martin, my best friend in high school. Connie later became Mrs. Westley Unseld. Connie, thanks for allowing me to sing at your wedding.

I remember Wes's imposing physical appearance. But more significant was his pleasant amicable personality. But he was no Shrimp. Wes stood up for what was important. My memory recalls a time when at U if L basket ball game and everyone stood as Steven Foster's "My Old Kentucky Home," Wes kept his seat in protest. I tried to find this story on line. But I could not find it. Wes was ahead of his time in rightly objecting to this song which praised false Negative stereo types of slaves in the original words to the song..."it's summer the darkness are gay" - just one reference in the song.

Just as Wes cared about this issue, even more, I witnessed him loving anything his children cared about. I saw him totally involved as Kim was trying to train a new dog that she was passionate about... Wes was passionate about the dog training too. He loved Connie, Kim, Westley. He was a mentor and father figure to many of those that he coached too.

Wes supported Connie and the Undsel School from its inception forward. Connie, I know you will misS him as a life partner.

Wes will he remembered as legendary figure in life, as a husband, as a father, as coach, as a businessman, and as a man!

Madeline Maupin Hicks - June 27, 2020 at 12:49 PM

LM

“ Extending my sincerest condolences to the family.



Linda Middleton - June 24, 2020 at 09:34 AM

PK

“ Prayers and condolences Mrs Constance and Kimberly I pray your strength during this time.



Peggy Kellam - June 20, 2020 at 11:42 AM

PG

“ Dear Unseld Family,
You have my deepest condolences, may the Lord our God provide you with peace, comfort and strength during these trying times, in Jesus name, Amen. From Pamela Gaskins, Washington, DC

Pamela Gaskins - June 19, 2020 at 10:31 AM

AG

“ Adria Greene lit a candle in memory of Westley "Wes" Unseld



Adria Greene - June 16, 2020 at 04:39 PM

Akos Amaning

“ Unseld family
Our prayers continue for you, your mother, sister and family. May this throw give you warmth and comfort as you carry the memories of your father. A great man has left this earth but will forever be in our hearts. Great memories will live on. All our love, Emmanuel (Marie, Gladys and Franklin) Amaning.



Akos Amaning - June 13, 2020 at 10:02 PM

JM

“ I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of your husband "Wes" Unseld. Unfortunately, I did not know him personally but, I do remember seeing him play both college and professional basketball. I do remember you as a fellow class-mate at Du Valle Jr. High School. My deepest condolences are extended to you and your at a time such as this. May the Grace and Mercy of God be with you and your family and may he Rest In Peace.

*James "Butch" Mimmes
Du Valle Class 1963
Louisville, Ky*

James Mimmes - June 13, 2020 at 04:25 PM

OA

“ Ms. Connie,
So sorry for your great loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve.

*Kim & Wes Jr,
No matter how old we are, it's never easy to lose a parent. Praying you have all the comfort you need at this time of painful loss.*

*Be at peace with God,
Nana. Akua, Adwoa & Owusu Amaning*

Owusu Amaning - June 13, 2020 at 10:07 AM

RA

“ *When I first visited Baltimore in May 1978 from Ghana (West Africa), the Washington Bullets were playing for the NBA championship. I did not know that 33 years later my daughter would marry into the Unseld Family. When I first met Wes prior to my daughter's engagement and subsequent marriage to his son Wes Unseld, Jr., he welcomed my family to his home and cooked for us. He and I ate from the same plate-I thought I was back in Ghana! I have never met anyone so kind and always willing to help.*

When I visited Wes in October 2019, we planned to get together this summer just to have fun with the grandchildren. I did not envision that things would turn out this way. However, the Lord knows best.

To Ms. Connie, Wes Jr., and Kim - Beatrice and I, together with Pamela, Richard Jr., and Richmond, extend our wishes for all kinds of healing as you and the rest of the family say goodbye to a great man who meant so much to all of us. And as you mourn this loss, know that the Amoako family mourn with you as well.

Richard Amoako and Family

Richard Amoako - June 13, 2020 at 12:13 AM

TO

“ *When I was a young kid, my mother provided me the opportunity to experience the Wes Unseld Basketball Camp. It was truly a great chance for me to become a better basketball player. Mr. Unseld was a great mentor to all of the youth athletes. You could tell that he truly cared for each of us. Basketball was not the only lesson learned, family values were also instilled. I am so glad to have attended such camp with this gentleman who was full of greatness. Thanks Mr. Wes! Rest In Peace. Tony Sewell*



Tony - June 12, 2020 at 10:43 PM

JP

“ *4 files added to the album Memories Album*



Jim Pollin - June 12, 2020 at 09:36 PM

JP

“ I remember the day my father came home and told us he had drafted Wes. I did not realize he had drafted another family member. Wes was family. I can't remember many family events and milestones that Connie and Wes were not a part of.

My father loved Wes like a son. Every year at the beginning of training camp Wes let Dad win in a game of shots from the 3 point line. He also Wes let Dad win in who had grown the biggest tomato. Anyone who knew Wes knew he was a fierce competitor but he let his adopted father win like a true good son.

Connie, Wesley, and Kim. My heart is heavy. I love you! Jim



Jim Pollin - June 12, 2020 at 09:28 PM

RP

“ To the Family of Mr. “Wes” Unseld,
We extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to you. Mr. Wes and the Unseld School family has always been a part of our hearts. May the God of all comforts be with in this season of bereavement.

*In His Service,
Reverends Andre' and Roxanne Parson*

Roxanne G. Parson - June 12, 2020 at 07:34 PM

TL

“ Washington DC is filled with National Monuments-- and none is stronger or of higher integrity/quality than Wes Unseld. He is the greatest and most important figure in team history, and most important professional player in DC sports. That is his public legacy. His real legacy though centers on his family , his school and community involvement , his philanthropy and his curiosity. I never spoke to Wes about basketball, I only spoke with with him about history, books to read, documentaries, the civil rights movement ,and family matters. I told Wes he should have become a college professor upon retirement from the NBA.

Wes was a great man, more than he was a great player ,and he was one of the 50 best NBA players of all time. Amazing! He will be missed by all.. and we will make sure to preserve his memories and legacy in the right way. Our family prays for the Unseld family..and we feel blessed to have had him in the NBA firmament and in DC for such a long time. Ted Leonsis

Ted Leonsis - June 12, 2020 at 05:11 PM

JH

“ So proud to be included in the list of alumni from Louisville Seneca High School that includes Mr Westley Sissel Unseld. A great man, role model and humanitarian who led on and off the basketball court. Large in stature and even larger in life. Impact of Mr Unseld's presence will forever be felt everywhere he has been. His legacy is great and his presence will forever influence the future of many. Thank you Mr Unseld for all the things you have done for so many. Rest In Heaven, Seneca Forever.



Jason L Harper - June 12, 2020 at 01:22 PM

CY

“ May the healing power of the Holy Spirit Bring peace and comfort to the Unseld Family. We will continue to pray for your strength in the Lord. God Bless You!
Conrad & Sandra Yorkshire and also former students of Unseld school Robin & Sheri Yorkshire

Conrad Yorkshire - June 12, 2020 at 01:11 PM

AB

“ Maya Angelou said "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Mr. Wes Unseld made us feel like family. He made us feel special, appreciated, loved, empowered, and protected. We are blessed to have known such a beautiful soul.



We offer our sincere condolences to the Unseld family. Mrs. Connie, Ms. Kim and Wes, Jr., we pray that God will continue to comfort you and the rest of your family during this time of loss.

The Blandings
Maurice, Avonette, Jasmine and Jordyn

Avonette Blanding - June 12, 2020 at 01:05 PM

CD

“ While I didn't know Mr. Unselderly personally, his legacy has left a valuable institution in Baltimore City. I pray GOD grants his family peace that transcends all understanding during this season of their lives .



Cozette Davis - June 11, 2020 at 07:38 PM

PN

“ Wes you will be sorely missed. I could never thank you enough for the kindness you showed to my son, Marc Norwood, and me when he attended your school. You will live on in my heart forever.

Love,
Pamela Norris

Pamela Norris - June 11, 2020 at 05:28 PM

AK

“ *What a tremendously amazing and gifted individual with his love for people and most of all his family, He was a talented, accomplished athlete and so much more. As a die-hard Bullets fan, and I will be for the rest of my life. I will always keep near and dear to my heart, Wes' abilities on the basketball court and the few interactions I engaged in with he and his beloved, Connie away from the basketball arena. May GOD keep his legacy of love and service going on for the good of his family and community that has benefitted so many who deserve this good and loving quality on life. My deepest condolences to Connie, Kim, Wes, Jr. the grands, the siblings and the Martin family and the Unseld Learning Center & Staff. Be encouraged and allow GOD to console your hearts as you adjust to the absence of your 'dear Wes' I love you and will pray for your strength.*

Alberta Crawford Kinard - June 11, 2020 at 03:37 PM

SL

“ *A great athlete and an even greater human being. I still tell my grandchildren stories about you, and how much I admire you.*

stephen luckman - June 11, 2020 at 10:17 AM

DH

“ *One of the finest human beings I have ever been associated with. Love, Deniz Hardy.*

Deniz Hardy - June 11, 2020 at 09:42 AM

CA

“ Rest in Peace Mr. Wes Unseld....From one of your campers at the Wes Unseld Basketball camp in 1980.....It was definitely a blessing to meet him....he was tough on his campers, but he was getting us ready for life....I appreciated him during his time with the Washington Bullets.....He was never splashy, but was ready for battle every night in the NBA.....He was a great role model as he wasn't the most talented, but he worked the hardest.....

Carlton - June 11, 2020 at 08:08 AM

RE

“ Dear Unseld family,
My first memory of Wes was when I lived in Louisville.
His brother, George, was the basketball coach at Seneca Sr. High School and Wes was a student teacher. Wes towered over us as we were in junior high at the time and he was playing for U of L. Our family attended the games at Freedom Hall and UofL was a powerhouse.
Fast forward to Baltimore: I met Wes again when I worked for WFBR and we were broadcasting the Bullets games and I was lucky to rekindle great memories of his basketball days at L'ville.
Another time I saw him at the Pam Shriver tennis tournament when the Williams sisters first played.
I would always remind him of our “connection” to Louisville.
Probably the last time I saw him was at BWI airport going to a training camp accompanying young men. We both commented on how young they looked! He said because they are!!
A true giant in so many ways. We lost a great one.
My condolences,
Robin Edelstein

Robin Edelstein - June 10, 2020 at 07:24 AM

KP

“ When my family moved to Westerlee in 1992 a few years after I arrived in the US people said: “you live near Wes Unseld, the famous coach“. In this way he defined the community. The Westerlee Community Association sends our sincere condolences to the Unseld family.

Klaus Philipson - June 10, 2020 at 07:19 AM

CA

“ Cynthia Aaron lit a candle in memory of Westley "Wes" Unseld



Cynthia Aaron - June 09, 2020 at 09:50 PM

M(

“ At this time, the family would appreciate privacy as we navigate this difficult loss. In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to the Unselds' School using the following link:
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250 S. Hilton Street
Baltimore, MD 21229*

March Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - June 09, 2020 at 11:30 AM

LT

“ Wes was my favorite athlete. How many people get to work for and with their favorite athlete? I did. I worked at his basketball camp several years. I also did an internship at Unseld's school. Wes was one of the nicest people ever! Connie and family I'm praying that God comforts you.

Leon Thomas



Leon Thomas - June 08, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ My family was sorry to hear of the loss Mr. Wes Unseld. You have have our deepest condolences as you this time. Mr. Unseld and I would laugh and talk about many situations. He was the nicest man that you would want to meet. I'm grateful to God to have the opportunity to have met Mr. Unseld. Mrs. Connie and Ms. kKim just our family is only a call away. Sheik Wright and Family

Sheila Wright - June 08, 2020 at 06:24 PM

MW

“ I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Ms Connie and the entire Unseld family. I was fortunate to meet Mr Wes when my daughter attended Unselds' School. Mr Wes was a very kind man and he will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Margaret and Kristen Williams

Margaret Williams - June 08, 2020 at 12:41 PM

JB

“ We send our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Unseld Family. Our prayers are with you and your family during this time of sorrow.

Love

Jacqueline Bailey

Ashleigh Newkirk

DeAsia Bowens

Jacqueline Bailey - June 07, 2020 at 08:28 PM