



Michael Keith Herndon

September 15, 1964 - February 5, 2026

Michael Keith Herndon received his healing and entered eternal rest on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 5:16 a.m. at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Christiansburg, VA. He was born in Farmville, VA on September 15, 1964. Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Charles E. Herndon, Sr., and Ernestine Watkins Herndon.

Michael graduated from Prince Edward County High School. Knowing his mother and aunt's commitment to and support of education, Michael continued his education at Howard University earning both a B.A. in Communication (1984) and an M.A. in Student Development (1986). After returning to Farmville, Michael accepted a position at Longwood College (now University) as a Resident Education Coordinator (REC) he remained in this position from 1989 – 1995. In 1995, Michael was accepted into the Higher Education and Student Affairs program and in 2001 ten days after his oldest son was born, Michael completed his defense earning his Ph.D. As a life-long learner, in 2023 Michael continued his education and earned a master's in divinity.

Michael was employed in the Division of Enrollment Management within the Office of the University Registrar at Virginia Tech as director of summer and winter sessions from 2008 until his passing. He was instrumental in the development and implementation of Virginia Tech's first Winter Session and

the Summer Start program, formerly known as Summer Academy. Prior to joining Enrollment Management, he spent more than a decade in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, where he served as director of undergraduate studies from 1997-2008. His connection to the department began in 1995, when he joined Virginia Tech as a graduate assistant. He later served as an academic advisor from 1997-2001 before being named assistant director. In 2002, he was promoted to director and assistant professor (non-tenure track), a role he held until 2008.

Everywhere Michael lived he was a part of the community. He was a member of the NAACP for 40 years, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for 31 years, and was the youngest member of the Prince Edward County school board from 1991-1995. Additionally, he was a part of the Boy Scouts of America from 2012 until his passing and volunteered at Radford University's Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

Michael was baptized at 9 years old at Race Street Baptist Church. He would speak about attending morning worship services with his mother and numerous afternoon programs at Race Street and other churches in the surrounding community. At his mother's insistence, Michael began piano lessons and once his piano teacher deemed him ready, he started playing for church choirs in the community. He continued playing for choirs, at programs, funerals, and weddings in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. up until his passing.

Michael continued his Christian walk each day by reading his Bible, praying, praising, and sharing a deep relationship with the Lord. He often recalled a quote he learned from a deceased minister and family friend, Mrs. Tricia Sowell, "Put the word of God in you before you need it, so that when you need it you will have it and won't have to go searching for it." Michael and his family attended church services and made life-long friends at St. Paul AME

(Blacksburg, VA), Christian Growth Center (Christiansburg, VA), and most recently St. Paul UMC (Roanoke, VA).

Michael leaves to cherish his memory in his beloved wife of 28 years, Jean, and their two sons, Kyle and Sean. His sister, Charlotte Womack and his brothers, Charles Jr. (Wilma) and David Woodson, a devoted god-sister, Angelia Farmer, and former sister-in-law, Carrie Herndon. Michael was adored and loved by his nieces and nephews, Tracy DeBeary, Shabie Anouar, Sonya Woodson, Alma Spragues, DeWayne Herndon, Jon Wilson, and David Woodson, Jr. He will also be remembered by Jean's parents, Deacon Simuel (Les) and Betty Booker, her siblings, Demetria Saunders (Robert), Simuel Jr. (Theresa) and Anthony. Michael never considered them as in-laws but "bonus" parents, sisters, and brothers. Michael was deeply loved by his extended family to include his great-nieces and great-nephews, cousins, and other extended family members. Michael had numerous lifelong friends including Novey Wiley and Dr. Benjamin and Rev. Carolyn Dixon.

Michael was a beautiful representation of being the hands and feet of Christ. He loved and cared for others above himself and was able to brighten any room with his infectious personality and warmth. He rarely turned down anyone who asked for a favor or assistance. He was beloved by his students, many of whom continued to stay in touch with him years after their graduation.

He will be missed by family, friends, and all who knew him. Michael's passing leaves a hole in our family which can never be filled, but as he always said...

"All is Well"

Cemetery Details

Odd Fellows Cemetery

Gross Street
Farmville, VA 23901

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-3211
mccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net
<https://mccoyfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

FEB **11**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Jericho Baptist Church
615 Franklin Street
Farmville, VA 23901

Tribute Wall

SP

“ I’m deeply saddened to learn today of the passing of my dear friend Michael Herndon. We worked together at VT, and I had the privilege of knowing him as a man of faith, integrity, honor, and genuine kindness. Michael was the kind of person whose character left a lasting impression on everyone around him. He carried himself with grace, compassion, and quiet strength, and he touched many lives in meaningful ways.

My heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to his family and all who loved him during this incredibly difficult time. This is a tremendous loss, and he will be greatly missed.



Samuel Conn, Ph.D. - May 22 at 07:43 PM

SH

I had the privilege to work with Michael on a few projects at VT. He made significant contributions. I always admired his humble approach and humor. Please accept my sincere condolences and sympathy.

Simin Hall - May 22 at 08:19 PM

TA

“ *Theta Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.*



Theta Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha - February 19 at 06:03 PM

TS

“Gone back home and from labor to reward. May your spirit soar on the wings of doves forever. 2Corinthians 5:1-10

Thomasine Stroble - February 16 at 07:34 PM

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“-- purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.



-- - February 13 at 09:52 AM

LC

“Such a beautiful soul! Prayers to your family on the loss of such an incredible man. I worked with him a few times in his final weeks and he was so sweet. He sure loved his family. We laughed together one day about what he called the "killer fish" on his lunch tray and made up a story about it (because it was so dry and we tried to jazz it up). Thank you for sharing his beautiful life story.

Lisa Carter - February 11 at 09:05 PM

KG

“Kim & Steve Garnett purchased the Sharing Comfort Gourmet Gift for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.



Kim & Steve Garnett - February 11 at 01:32 PM

JA

“ To his family, you have my condolences. May he R.I.P.

JAPalmer - February 11 at 10:51 AM

MP

“ Michael is one of the most admirable individuals I have ever met in my life. He is deeply missed but I will never forget him. He is one of those special people, a beacon of light and joy. God bless his family.

Michael Parrish - February 11 at 08:06 AM

CS

“ Dear Jean and family - Sending the deepest heartfelt sympathy to each of you. When I learned this news, I was broken, as I have never met such a kind , loving, compassionate person as Michael Herndon. I am so blessed to have worked with him so many years in Lane Hall (what happens in Lane, stays in Lane we would joke). Oh how I loved his laugh. May it bring each of you peace knowing how many people's lives he touched with his kind heart. Praying for peace as you walk through the days ahead.

Much Love,
Carol Sue

Carol Sue Slusser - February 10 at 01:37 PM

SW

“ Words cannot express the feeling of loss I experience from your passing. I know that God has you in his arms, that you are safe, and there’s no more pain. We never had bad times, so I’ll remember all of our good times. I love you Unc!

Sonya M. Woodson



Sonya Woodson-Walker - February 09 at 01:18 PM

NW

Missing my brother right now. This hurts. Gotta live right to see him again. I will.

Novy Wiley - February 16 at 08:48 PM

CA

“ Dr. Herndon was my academic advisor when I was majoring in interdisciplinary studies at VT back in the late 1990s. He then served as a practicum advisor for me while I was in graduate school working on a masters in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and even allowed me to guest lecture a class he was teaching. We stayed in touch over the years and he served as a mentor and friend to me while working in higher education. Michael was truly the nicest person and was always there for myself and others. I am forever thankful for his patience and willingness to pour into my life. My testament to his love and commitment to others is just one of surely thousands of lives he impacted during his time at Virginia Tech, he embodied Ut Prosim. - Clay Adams

Clay Adams - February 09 at 11:34 AM

DW

“ *Dr. Tremayne Waller purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.*



Dr. Tremayne Waller - February 09 at 09:31 AM

WD

“ *I have never met someone who was so suited to a role as Michael was suited for Virginia Tech Summer Academy. He loved the students and respected the faculty. He found great joy in following the success of all the students who came through the program. He demonstrated care, encouragement, and steadfast Hokie "that I may serve" ethos in each task and person he touched. His loss is a great loss for Virginia Tech. I shall miss my friend. Fly high Michael!*

Wanda Dean - February 09 at 08:59 AM

WD

“ *Wanda Dean planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Keith Herndon.*

Wanda Dean - February 09 at 08:55 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.*



February 09 at 08:55 AM

RJ

“ We remember a true spirit of Christian service from the early years and throughout his life. May the beloved family of Dr. Herndon be strengthened daily with fond memories and divine promises of the heavenly reunion.

Robert and Sybil Jones - February 09 at 08:24 AM

MK

“ With my sincere sympathy to Michael's family. He was a delight to work with and always focused on the student. May the peace of the Lord comfort you.

Marilynn King - February 09 at 07:33 AM

RS

“ I was honored to work with Michael on the executive board of the Montgomery, Radford City, Floyd NAACP where he was first vice president. Michael worked very hard for the branch, finding wonderful speakers, helping to organize the Freedom Banquet, and cheerfully doing anything else to advance the lives of African Americans. Such a good man. I will miss him.

Rebecca Scheckler - February 08 at 06:17 PM

SC

“ St. Paul United Methodist Church-Roanoke purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.



St. Paul United Methodist Church-Roanoke - February 08 at 05:50 PM

WC

“ With peace, Mary Grace Campos planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Keith Herndon.

With peace, Mary Grace Campos - February 08 at 03:58 PM

WC

“ With peace, Mary Grace Campos purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.



With peace, Mary Grace Campos - February 08 at 03:58 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.



February 08 at 12:17 PM

PB

“ Pam Burrell & Randi Beth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Keith Herndon.

Pam Burrell & Randi Beth - February 08 at 12:17 PM

VP

“ VT TRIO Programs purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.



VT TRIO Programs - February 08 at 09:30 AM

VP

“ VT TRIO Programs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Keith Herndon.

VT TRIO Programs - February 08 at 09:30 AM

SP

“ Sandra Joireman (Sean's prof) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Keith Herndon.

Sandra Joireman (Sean's prof) - February 07 at 06:34 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Keith Herndon.



February 07 at 06:34 PM

DF

“ Prayers for his family. I worked with Michael many times over the years and he was always such a kind and helpful person.
Debbie Falls

Debbie Falls - February 07 at 05:11 PM

SM

“ My condolences to the family. I worked with Michael in his early days managing the summer programs at Virginia Tech. He was highly capable and an extremely nice person. It was always a pleasure to work with Michael. I am sorry to hear of his passing and know that he will be missed by many.

Scott Midkiff - February 07 at 04:00 PM

FO

“ This is a difficult message to post because I feel he was taken from us to soon. I'm not trying to second guess the will of the Lord ,but he will be sorely missed. Go forward to your reward little brother you are loved

Fred Oliver - February 07 at 02:16 PM

FO

“ T



Fred Oliver - February 07 at 02:12 PM

FO

This is a hard thing for me to do because I feel he was taken away from us to soon. I'm not trying to second guess the Lord but I wish he could have given us more time. Rest easy little brother you are loved

Fred Oliver - February 07 at 02:19 PM

OA

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to the Herndon family for the passing of Michael. He was a childhood friend and classmate.*

Octavia W Allen - February 07 at 02:02 PM

TO

“ *Herndon Family*
We grew up on Longwood Ave together. Sharing cookouts Halloween, Easter and Christmas with each other's families, more like one large family than neighbors! So sorry to see one of the gang pass on you will forever be a pleasant memory and joy to my heart .

Tawanna Jean Oliver - February 07 at 01:46 PM