



## Sidney Grant Snell Jr.

December 19, 1958 - October 3, 2020

New River Valley Legend Sidney Grant Snell Jr. left this world and joined his parents with our Heavenly Father on October 3, 2020. Sidney was born December 19, 1958 in Radford VA to the late Sidney Grant and Nannie Bell Freeman Snell. He had a strong faith and really loved the Lord. Sidney was the best little brother five sisters could have. His love for the five of them was always on display. He will always have their backs even in spirit and they had his till the very end.

Sidney Snell was a once in a generation student athlete. He had an astonishing prep career in football, basketball, and track and field at Blacksburg High School. In 1991 he was recognized for his high school accomplishments by being inducted into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame. Sidney was rewarded for his success at Blacksburg High School in 1977 with a scholarship to play football and basketball at Virginia Tech. The family still fondly remembers the visit and offer made by Coach Jimmy Sharp in their Blacksburg home. His accomplishments continued throughout his college career, where Sidney went on to set records on the football field at Virginia Tech. Sidney left Virginia Tech as one of the best players to ever put on the maroon and orange. Sidney also had a love for softball and golf. He was known to show up, hit a home run or two and leave the ballpark. No matter what he put his hands on he was widely respected amongst his peers and you knew you were winning if he was on your team.

Even though Sidney left this world too soon, he lived an extraordinary life! He loved and was loved by so many. His infectious smile, humble spirit, and humorous personality were steady foundations of his life, and key reasons why he will be deeply missed. Sidney was such a great man that he helped make everyone feel they were his best friend!

Left to Cherish his memory are his most gracious sisters for having such an incredible brother, Doris (Sidney) Lee, Sylvia (Nathaniel) Bishop, LaVern (Lee) Walls, Connie Grant Snell, and Denise (Cornell) Howard. He also leaves his beloved dog Kacey. Sidney's many admiring nieces and nephews will miss his joking and loving ways. Also left to cherish his memories are his aunts, uncles, cousins and dearest friends.

There will be a public viewing Saturday October 10, 2020, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg VA for those who would like to pay their respects.

The family will have a private service following.

In keeping with Covid 19 guidance and restrictions masks and social distancing must be maintained. In lieu of flowers the family asks contributions/donations be made to Sylvia Bishop for a developing scholarship in honor of Sidney Snell.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **10**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Played against him in high school, it was like trying to tackle a train. Really nice guy. Barry Skeens

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**barry skeens** - September 01, 2022 at 09:33 PM

DF

“ Larger than life personality! I worked with Sidney at Arnolds in the late 80's and have many fond memories of his smile, laugh and great sense of humor. He helped get me on track with finishing school and getting my life squared away. The few times I came back to Va Tech, I always made it a priority to stop in and see Sid. He touched so many lives. Rest in peace.

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**David Faircloth** - December 29, 2020 at 08:26 AM

GP

“ Growing up in Blacksburg and playing all Sandlot sports, there was Sidney, and then the were the rest of us. A truly gifted athlete with a heart of gold, great sense of humor and infectious smile who always elevated any event he attended. RIP Sid

*Gar Pristou*

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**Gar Pristou** - October 10, 2020 at 04:41 PM

JC

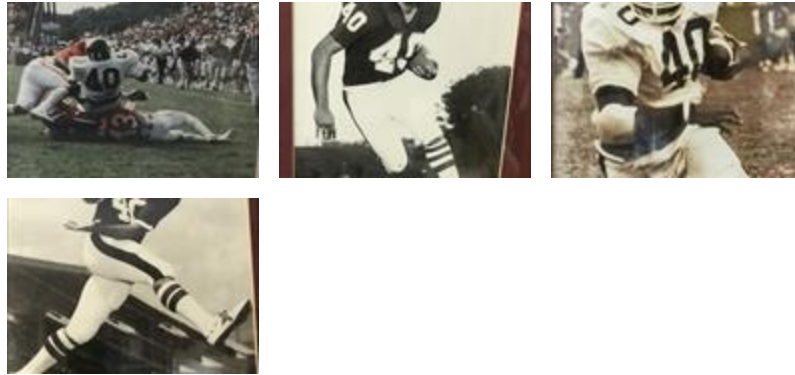
*We always kept up with Sidney, during high school, college and would run into him on occasion. Watched him play at Tech but remember him playing basketball in a tournament in Charlottesville. Most recently at Duncan Hyundai. In fact he sold me my last car. Absolutely a sweet and nice guy.*

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**Janet Croy** - October 12, 2020 at 01:07 PM

DC

“ Sidney was the manager and heart and soul of Arnold’s Restaurant and Sports Bar from the mid 80’s thru the 90’s. Everyone loved Sid and those who returned to Blacksburg over the years made a point to be sure to stop in Arnold’s and see him. Sid would DJ late night and his love of music had his personal soulful touch which seemed timeless over the years. Always happy, had that laugh, caring, generous, sincere .... just one of a kind , a once in a lifetime friend that I will miss dearly. RIP Sid. David Chapman



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**David Chapman** - October 10, 2020 at 09:22 AM

RA

“ Words could never express the pain one feels when you lose a sibling. I pray you find peace and comfort through the memories you have of Sidney. Sending my thoughts and prayers to the entire family.

*Matthew 5:4*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

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**Rhonda Beasley Allen** - October 10, 2020 at 01:13 AM

FJ

“ When I read Sidney's obituary, I could feel the love I know his family and friends have for him. My tear-filled eyes were trying to read every precious word recognizing that every word certainly displayed Sidney's fine character, generous heart and his contributions to the community. His sister Sylvia and her husband NL have been Alan and my best friends since a very young age and all of the family is dear to us. Sylvia always talked about her baby brother. There is nothing more powerful than living a life that touched so many lives and he touched many. Sidney, I know you are looking down and saying family take care of yourself don't worry about me I am with my maker and now I am free.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Love Alan & Freda*

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**Freda Johnson** - October 10, 2020 at 12:49 AM

KH

“ Dearest Ones, my life changed forever last Saturday but the one thing that will always remain the same is my love and respect for Sidney....we had many happy years together since I returned home. He was a huge part of my happiness and I cannot fill the void left by his departure....a part of me is now gone. I am so honored to have been his childhood friend and to be a part of his loving family. I deeply deeply send my condolences to you all and pray for strength In these theses coming days. All my love, Katie Heiskell.

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**Katie Heiskell** - October 09, 2020 at 10:11 PM

TK

“ Teresa and Ron Kenyon purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..



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**Teresa and Ron Kenyon** - October 09, 2020 at 06:22 PM

KR

“ To the Snell family.

*I was saddened to hear of your loss. I will always remember the vast array of sports memories Sidney provided from little league thru BHS and Tech and softball games on the intramural fields and all over Virginia, but they will pale in comparison to the great friend that he was. Sidney was always a bright smile and a laugh. He looked out for us smaller teammates and always set us up to succeed. He was so easy going and fun to be around. The best memories will be the ones away from the sports fields and just hanging out at some ones' apartment or road trips to softball games, or playing golf with the guys long after college was over and remembering the good old days from BHS/ Va. Tech. He has gone way to early, but be assured he was loved by everyone he met including his sports opponents that he routinely defeated. I will always smile when I hear a reference or remember a story involving Sid... truly a generational athlete but more importantly just one of the greatest people I will ever be fortunate to have known. R.I.P. Sid. Love and condolences. Ken Ritchey*

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**Ken Ritchey** - October 09, 2020 at 11:13 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..*



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October 09, 2020 at 05:43 AM



“ *Gladys L Dow lit a candle in memory of Sidney Grant Snell Jr.*



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**Gladys L Dow** - October 08, 2020 at 09:54 PM



“ *I was fortunate to meet Sidney Snell on my only trip to Blacksburg many years ago with Brutus Lee. Sidney was and still is a very special uncle to Brutus and his admiration of Sidney is apparent when he speaks of him. Rest In Peace Sidney, you are missed. xo Stephanie Lee*

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**Stephanie Lee** - October 08, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ *I am proud to say that Sid was my car guy. I trusted him 100%! I am saddened to hear that he has gone. Rest In Peace my friend! Grateful to have known him for so many years.*

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**Joe Young** - October 08, 2020 at 05:48 PM

CW

*What a great guy Sidney was. Humble and kind hearted always. I was very fortunate to call him my friend. Rest In Peace and without a doubt the best athlete by far to grace the New River District!*

**Christopher Woods** - October 09, 2020 at 10:13 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..



October 08, 2020 at 05:28 PM

LC

“ *Larry Bradshaw and Thomas Collins* purchased the *Lavender & White Sympathy Basket* for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..



**Larry Bradshaw and Thomas Collins** - October 08, 2020 at 05:07 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..



October 08, 2020 at 04:47 PM

BP

“ Many happy memories of Sidney, but some of the most vivid are from the fall of our freshman year at Tech, when he, Tank, Renee and I and a handful of his new teammates spent a lot more time than we should have hanging out at Spanky’s. We always had to make sure the guys got back to Hillcrest on time or “their asses were grass and coach was gonna mow it with the minute lawnmower!” And then there was the introduction to “Make My Funk the P.Funk” in Fuller’s basement... Connie, Denise, my heart goes out to you and your sisters. I had a chance to see Sidney several times in recent years, and he always spoke so fondly of your kids, it was obvious he loved being an uncle. No words for how much he’ll be missed. R.I.P. dear Sid, take care of my girls til I get there. XOX, Becky Wise Potter

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**Becky Wise Potter** - October 08, 2020 at 03:37 PM

ED

“ Evelyn L. Dow lit a candle in memory of Sidney Grant Snell Jr.



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**Evelyn L. Dow** - October 08, 2020 at 03:26 PM



Shawna Lafon

“ One of my earliest memories is when my dad , Monte Hale, would take me to Sidney’s BHS basketball games when I was probably only 6 or 7. My dad also worked the field gate near the VT locker room during games & I would go with him and Sidney would sometimes give me a “high 5” when they were going in & out of the locker room.

Fast forward many years and he and my husband are working together at Hokie Honda and my husband will tell you, for probably 5 years I couldn’t look at Sidney without blushing! My husband had told him who he was married to and Sidney remembered and he would just smile and hug me.

I am proud to call him my friend and was never more honored then the night he was inducted into the inaugural class of the BHS Hall of Fame, and he sat right beside me. I also captured a picture of him with my daughter, who I named Sydney. 😊

The world has a little less light in it now. How lucky was I that I got to call my childhood hero a friend?

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**Shawna Lafon** - October 07, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ Haven’t seen Sidney since high school. An amazing athlete, friend and an all around great guy. You will be missed by your family and people, like me, and the friends you’ve touched in your life.

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**Scott Surbaugh** - October 07, 2020 at 09:50 PM



“ Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..



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October 07, 2020 at 09:42 PM

TS

“ *The Sebolts purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..*



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**The Sebolts** - October 07, 2020 at 07:59 PM

MS

“ *Having known Sid for so long I got to see the side many didn't. Just a great genuine guy. Give you the shirt off his back (if you were a xxl) :) When we started playing softball at VT and beyond he and the others always made me feel like part of the family. Donald Wayne, Paul and Stevie I am so sorry for this loss. Oh to go back to the days of softball golf with Monty and the team down in Independence, VA.....*

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**Mike Sebolt** - October 07, 2020 at 07:55 PM

MC

“ *Sidney will be missed! I played ball at tech from 82-86 right after sunsets last year but somehow knew Sidney as though he was still current on the hokie squads I played with. He knew all of the players and always had a smile and some words of wisdom about something you were going thru. Often times if I was a buck short on a bill at Arnold's Sidney would reach in his own pocket at say I got you. Always very cool, very nice and an all round GREAT guy. Your family and friends will miss knowing you are out there Sid! Rest In Peace my brother. Love at prayers to the Snell family ! Mike Clapp*

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**mike clapp** - October 07, 2020 at 07:11 PM

DM

*Our prayers and deepest condolences to out to the family. We are here for you.  
David and Darlene Mitchell*

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**Darlene Mitchell** - October 07, 2020 at 08:15 PM

DR

“ Sid---I've known you for 48 years and the memories playing sports were terrific but the memories of your generosity were never ending . You were generous with your heart and your soul, your time and your money, your wit and your humor---but most of all your friendship. You always had my back. Love you brother. Rest in peace. Rock



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**Dale Rockey** - October 07, 2020 at 05:07 PM

DW

“ Sidney was a great guy, and will truly be missed. I bought several Honda's from him and can't imagine going back to Duncan "Hokie" Honda and not seeing his smiling face! Asa and I send prayers to his family, and also to his Automotive Family! Heaven just got one of the best! God's Speed my friend!  
Donna & Asa Weber

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**Donna Weber** - October 07, 2020 at 03:49 PM

RJ

“ Much Love and Sympathy for my Neighbors and Family , remembering all the conversations , Fun and interesting times spent with All the Family .

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**Rice Dobbins Jr.** - October 07, 2020 at 03:47 PM

FU

“ *What a fine man and I'm so very proud to call him friend. Looking forward to seeing him again on the other side. My sympathies and prayers to the entire Snell family. Leigh Underwood-Labbie*

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**Frances Underwood-Labbie** - October 07, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..*



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October 07, 2020 at 03:25 PM

DB

“ *One of the great people I have had the privilege to know, he left his mark in many ways while here, he will be missed by many but thankfully we have the memories , I appreciate your guidance and friendship Sid, prayers to all the family and friends  
Danny*

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**Danny Burkholder** - October 07, 2020 at 03:23 PM

RR

“ *Sidney and my brother-in-law Mickey used to baby's for us when they were at VT and it was, thus, so appropriate that he be a part of April's wedding as her DJ at the reception! He didn't even hesitate to say yes when Phillip asked him to do it! His warm heart and beautiful smile will be sorely missed!!*

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**Rhonda Rogers** - October 07, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ *Roses For Sympathy was purchased for the family of Sidney Grant Snell Jr..*



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October 07, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ *We as coaches were blessed over the years to have had the opportunity to work with many outstanding young men in Blacksburg. Sidney would have to be at the top of the list. His attitude, leadership, coachability, and off the charts athletic ability made him one for the ages. To top it all off he was an outstanding man with a gigantic smile and a great friend to so many. Sidney will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by our community. Rest In Peace. We will never forget you. Jim Shockley*

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**Jim Shockley** - October 07, 2020 at 01:31 PM



“ *I have known Sidney since sandlot football..he played for Corning glass and I for A and U mobile homes..always remember him dragging us down the field lol..every time I would see him he would always be smiling..such a good friend..you didn't have to be popular to have him laugh and joke with you..my condolences to his entire family.*

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**Garry Davis** - October 07, 2020 at 01:10 PM

RD

“ Sid was a great guy and the **GREATEST** athlete that I ever saw in person. Sincere condolences to Connie and all the beautiful Snell sisters.

*Ron Davis*

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**Ron Davis** - October 07, 2020 at 12:19 PM

DT

“ Sidney and my husband Dedrick met 18 year ago and have had a special bond ever since. Sid was actually our DJ at our wedding 10 years ago this Saturday. He was a special man. His smile was infectious and we are so saddened with this news. Please know we are praying for comfort and peace for your family during this tragic time. He left his mark on this world and I am certain it will never vanish. Love to you all. Dedrick & Kayla Taylor

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**DEDRICK AND KAYLA TAYLOR** - October 07, 2020 at 11:59 AM