



## Mr. Richard Butler

December 21, 1952 - April 18, 2019

Condolences are being expressed to the family of Mr. Richard Butler, age 66, who passed away on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at Duke University Hospital.

Brother Richard Butler was born on December 21, 1952 to Virginia Butler Kelley and the late James Butler, Sr. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of Overbrook High School in Philadelphia. Upon graduating from high school, Richard moved to Durham, North Carolina, where he attended North Carolina Central University. He majored in Music and this was a true love of his. Richard met and married his wife, Vanessa, in 1994.

Richard was employed with Duke Medical Center, where his career spanned 30 years. Richard had a rich baritone voice, and he took pride in sharing this gift. In his love for singing, he sang with an acapella group that performed at various events and did Christmas caroling each year. He performed often in the Duke Show Tunes event as a Duke employee. He was a member of the Kent Brooks Ensemble during his time at Greater St. Paul Church. He was also a current, dedicated member of the 100 Men in Black Choir, and was known in the Choir as "Bowtie". He sang at weddings and other special occasions, and he was active with this passion for music until his health failed. Richard attended First Calvary Baptist Church and was a longtime supporter of the Ministry. He was a man given to prayer, and he was always ready to pray for others.

Surviving relatives include his loving wife, Vanessa Butler; his daughter, Tina Outen of Durham; his mother, Virginia Butler Kelley of Philadelphia, PA; his brother, James Butler, Jr. of Philadelphia, PA; his aunt, Bessie Butler of Philadelphia, PA; his grandchildren, Jatovie of California, Sade (Carlos) and Torian of Durham, NC; his brothers-in-law, Norman Smith (Esther) of Washington, DC, Frezell Outen (Susan) of Portland, OR, Robert Outen and Larry Outen both of Durham, NC; his sisters-in-law, Linda Evans, Robin Outen Leathers (Wayne), and Michelle Brockington (Alphonso) all of Durham, NC; two great-grandchildren, Christian and Joel; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will take place on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at First Calvary Baptist Church, 1311 Morehead Avenue, Durham, North Carolina 27707. Family members will greet friends at 11:00 a.m. and the service will follow at 12:00 noon.

# Cemetery Details

## Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St  
Durham, NC 27707  
(919) 560-4154

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**APR 25.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Calvary Baptist Church  
1311 Morehead Ave  
Durham, NC 27707  
[info@firstcalvary.org](mailto:info@firstcalvary.org)  
<http://firstcalvary.org>

## Celebration of Life

**APR 25.** 12:00 PM (ET)

First Calvary Baptist Church  
1311 Morehead Ave  
Durham, NC 27707  
[info@firstcalvary.org](mailto:info@firstcalvary.org)  
<http://firstcalvary.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Richard Butler* ”

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Diane Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler* ”



**Diane Cox** - April 28, 2019 at 02:23 PM



*I TOO WILL MISS HIM*

**Linda M. Leake** - April 29, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ *Diane Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler* ”



**Diane Cox** - April 28, 2019 at 02:21 PM



“ *Diane Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler* ”



**Diane Cox** - April 28, 2019 at 02:20 PM

DC

“ *Diane Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler*



Diane Cox - April 28, 2019 at 02:19 PM

DC

“ *Diane Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler*



Diane Cox - April 28, 2019 at 02:19 PM

DC

“ *Diane Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler*



Diane Cox - April 28, 2019 at 01:59 PM



“ Was saddened to hear about the lost of Mr. Butler aka “Bow Tie.” He was a nice man, very compassionate and caring, never forget about 3 or 4 years ago how he slipped in my hand a Christmas Card, once I got home and opened it not only did he write words of kindness and wisdom on the Christmas Holiday but a big token a love was also in the card. Him and my grandmother and aunt knew him and spoke very highly of him. I also remember his great singing voice and choir directing as a kid at Greater Saint Missionary Baptist Church on Juniper Avenue.



*He will be truly missed in my life!*

*P.S., I'll see you in the rapture with my Savior!  
Chaquan McNeil*

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**Chaquan McNeil** - April 27, 2019 at 10:25 PM



“ Charisse McAllister lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler



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**Charisse McAllister** - April 26, 2019 at 02:24 PM



*Such a warm and welcoming gentleman that loved the Lord!!!  
I can remember seeing him walking through the halls at work with his dapper swag and bow ties :) singing with a smile...he will truly be missed!!!*

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**Charisse McAllister** - April 26, 2019 at 02:30 PM

KS

“ *Richard always knew how to brighten a room. His positive outlook on life was contagious. My best memories are hearing Richard sing while he was at work. His voice soothed the soul.*

*Kristy Everette Sartin  
Duke Cancer Institute*

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**Kristy Sartin** - April 26, 2019 at 08:48 AM

PP

*Pastor A. L. and Min. Pat Pegram*

*We were saddened to hear of the passing of Brother Richard. We will ways remember his awesome voice singing in the choir at Greater St Paul.*

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**Pat Pegram** - May 07, 2019 at 08:54 PM

WG

“ This kinda news always leaves me with feeling's of comfort and sadness. Richard was a good friend of mine for years at a time when we both worked at Duke Hospital's Cancer Research CenterJordon Ward. The environment there was truly a place were faith, hope, and friendships flourished. There were many great people there who I will always remember and cherish and Richard stands out like a beaken of clear light. We had so many good time's and hard one's with coworkers and families without him the center would not have become one of the best places in the world to receive cancer treatments. On a more personal level Richard and I had many a talk about faith and truly his was steadfast he is in Glory. One of the things I'll take from our relationship is a saying I had during those times, The last breath is always better than the first.

*Reading some of the condolences brought back one of my fondest memories I have of our friendship. We worked nightshift and every once and awhile we would go out on one of balconies at Duke South and Richard in his perfectly dressed self would sing out so loud yet wonderfully his voice carrying out over Duke University Hospital and Durham N.C.*

*William Groblewski and Family*

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**William Groblewski** - April 26, 2019 at 07:33 AM

RV

“ True class. A gentlemen with a great singing voice. Always looked forward to seeing him at work. He will be missed.

*Ryan*

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**Ryan Virgil** - April 24, 2019 at 09:07 AM

KK

“ I talked to Richard almost every day for ten years; he was a sweet, dignified, and charming person. I'm sad that he is gone, but I'm very glad to have had such a wonderful friend for so many years.

Ken Kuzenski - April 24, 2019 at 07:27 AM

AS

“ A great colleague, always warm and welcoming. I'll miss his smile and bow-ties.

Anthony Sung - April 23, 2019 at 04:52 PM

TD

I will truly miss him. He was a loving husband, grandfather, and a wonderful father. Richard have been in my life since I was 16 yrs old. Now I'm 50. He was my rock, he lift me up when I was down, and he was a praying man. He will truly be missed !

Tina aka his daughter - April 23, 2019 at 11:26 PM

NI

“ Nikki lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler



Nikki - April 23, 2019 at 04:28 PM

NI

such a sweet, sweet, soul with a beautiful voice.. he will definitely be missed <3

Nikki - April 23, 2019 at 04:31 PM

MN

“ *"Bow Tie", "100 Men In Black" will truly miss you. We know that you are up there in Heaven singing in that Heavenly Choir.*

*To the family,  
God be with you in your time of sorrow.*

*Maurice Noble  
Former Member of "100 Men In Black"*

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**Maurice Noble** - April 23, 2019 at 12:20 PM

KB

“ *Vanessa, please know that you and your family are in my prayers during this time. Some of my fondest memories include the years of music ministry with Richard. His earnest love for God and carrying the gospel in song was an inspiration to me. I count it an honor to have labored with him on this side of heaven. Now he has gone on to receive his reward.*

*Love you! -- Kent Brooks (your former Minister of Music),  
Springfield, Ohio.*

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**Kent Brooks** - April 23, 2019 at 10:49 AM

RT

“ *I'll be praying for the family of Mr Richard Butler a true friend of mind for over 45 years. Love you Richard and will miss calling you and talking about the good old days At tip top fish house God bless my friend forever*

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**Ronald Bratcher aka Tack** - April 22, 2019 at 04:25 PM

BB

“ *Brian Bates lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Butler*



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**Brian Bates** - April 22, 2019 at 04:00 PM

BB

“ *I remember Richard walking through the halls of Duke Hospital singing and bringing joy to all that heard his wonderful voice. Richard was a wonderful, kind man and will be missed.*

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**Brian Bates** - April 22, 2019 at 03:59 PM