

Edward Jackson Sanford

May 27, 2025

On May 27th, 2025, Papa transitioned peacefully in the comfort of his home, beside the love of his life, as he took a nap. He left this world just as he lived—calmly, gently, and surrounded by love.

More than anything else, Papa loved Momma—Delores Coleman, his wife and life partner of 44 years. Their love was a quiet, enduring bond built on loyalty, care, and unwavering devotion. Every single morning, without fail, Papa made her coffee—a simple, sacred act that spoke louder than words. He never wanted to be far from her side. She was his heart, and their love was a blessing we were all lucky to witness.

Together, they built a life centered around family—filled with care, loyalty, and lasting love.

Edward and Delores had one beloved son, Delward Jackson Coleman, who passed away in June 2020.

Papa also embraced and helped raise three cherished stepdaughters and their children as his own: Jennifer Dorn, Marybelle Coleman, and Kimberly Coleman, along with Anibal Joshua Coleman, Alex Coleman, and Faith Coleman. His love was full, unconditional, and ever-present.

He was a loving father-in-law to Alan Dorn, the devoted husband of Jennifer Dorn. Edward deeply valued Alan's presence in the family and appreciated his kindness, loyalty, and respect. He also had a very close and loving relationship with a long time friend, Hugo Rojas, who often brought him food and care while in the rehabilitation center.

He was the proud grandfather of 13 grandchildren, all of whom he absolutely adored:

Christian Dorn, Joshua Coleman, Jeremiah Dorn, Gabriella Coleman, Alex Coleman, Raquel Rojas, Jordan Rojas, Faith Coleman, Olivia Coleman, Kyra Hillmon, Jeremiah Stackhouse-Coleman, Jazmine Stackhouse-Coleman, and Jessiah Stackhouse-Coleman.

His face would light up with pure joy whenever he saw his grandkids. His love for them was a constant light in his life—a deep well of pride and happiness.

Papa was also blessed with two great-grandchildren: Zachariah Coleman and Ezra Greatness Boateng—the next generation who will grow up hearing stories of the strong, kind man who loved them before they were even born.

Professionally, Papa was a dedicated electrician—a man who not only worked with his hands but also with heart and precision. At work, he was known for his passion, reliability, and incredible sense of humor. His friends and coworkers called him “Steady Eddie,” a name he wore with pride. He'd come home telling us all the crazy jokes and riddles they shared on the job, laughing just as hard every time he told them.

He had a mind full of curiosity. He loved reading about trains, airplanes, and racecars—anything that moved and had a story. He followed horse racing faithfully, knew the horses and the odds, and loved every moment. Football Sundays were sacred, and he never missed a game. He also loved boxing

and kept a close eye on politics—always informed and thoughtful.

Papa was a history buff who could talk endlessly about different eras, wars, and world events. His passion for knowledge didn't stop there—he also knew a remarkable amount about animals, and would often surprise us with fascinating facts. His conversations were rich, thoughtful, and full of unexpected wisdom.

Everyone who knew Papa has a story—a sacred memory they carry. There are too many to write down, too many to fit into one speech. But each story is a thread in the fabric of the legacy he leaves behind. Whether it was a quiet conversation, a funny joke, a helping hand, or a shared moment of joy—those memories live on in every one of us.

Papa didn't need big words or grand speeches. His love showed in his presence, in his actions, in the quiet ways he made us all feel safe, valued, and cared for. He had a gentle humor, a warm smile, and a heart that gave endlessly.

He leaves behind more than memories. He leaves behind a legacy of devotion, patience, curiosity, humility, and most of all—love.

Edward J. Sanford—lovingly known as Papa or Jackson—thank you.

For your love.

For your life.

For your steady presence, your quiet laughter, and the light in your eyes when your family was near.

We miss you deeply, but we carry you with us in every coffee made, every train heard in the distance, every Sunday game, and every smile among your

grandchildren. You are with us, always.

Rest peacefully, Edward J. Sanford.
Your love lives on in every one of us.

Musical Selections:

Ethel Ford

Betty Lou Morton

Eulogy by Dr. Decker Tapscott

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
3200 Golansky Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-878-CARE (2273)
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

Service

JUN 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
3200 Golansky Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-878-CARE (2273)
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

Tribute Wall



“ We had the beautiful opportunity to meet this great couple when looking for a babysitter for our daughters Shawna and Autumn. They loved our kids like our own Papa will be missed very much so but he is with the Lord now. We dedicated a memorial tree in his honor but it says anonymous

Rob Mac - June 09, 2025 at 10:48 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward Jackson Sanford.

June 09, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ Besides all the fun we had ribbing each others sports team ! My memory of him was i was trying to install an garage disposal, I got it in, but it did not work so I'll call my buddy Alan to help me he came over and he couldn't figure it out either so he came up the ingenious idea of let's call my father-in-law, so we called him and he said simply did you check the switch? Yeah it was the switch ! Rest my friend !

Louis Williams, Jr. - June 08, 2025 at 11:07 PM

VC

“ My favorite Unc on my daddy’s side. My Unc that road with dad all the way to Richmond multiple times to help me move to yet another apartment and made fun of that same box that held fashion magazines I just couldn’t throw away. 📦



My Unc that loved trains like my daddy and got so happy about their discussions he could hardly say a word from excitement. 🚂

My Unc that I visited in a Fairfax nursing home on a bright sunny day who recognized me before I could get to him and oh how we talked about college football my favorite sport. He was so sharp and knew more about the players from my favorite team than I did! 😊🏈

My Auntie’s Shadow everywhere she went. Just the other day when we were on the phone, I could hear his voice in the background adding to the discussion.

What kindness, such a smile, what super duper memory that I couldn’t help but to envy. 😊

Uncle Eddie, you will always be in my memories. We will cherish you for the remainder of our days here. Thank for being my Auntie Delores’ Rada-Da. I Love You and Her Dearly. 📧💙💜

My best,
Niece Viola “VeeVee” Coleman

Viola Coleman - June 07, 2025 at 03:22 PM

MH

“ *Marcus & Kandis Haggins purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Edward Jackson Sanford.*



Marcus & Kandis Haggins - June 07, 2025 at 11:27 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Jackson Sanford.*



June 05, 2025 at 11:24 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward Jackson Sanford.*

June 05, 2025 at 11:24 PM

JC

“ NOTE: Trying this posting again (sorry if it pops up later as a duplicate):

Uncle Eddie, was one of the sweetest, kindest, and most loving persons in the world for my dear aunt Delores (and the family). He loved all of us very much. I'll always remember how he really loved to joke about what he was eating or drinking too (when I was around), because he knew I would lecture him about it. Always so jovial.

I will never forget how close he and my father (Russell Coleman— Aunt D's brother) were too. Dad said they were Joking about food just a few days ago. Once we all went to a train show and my father used Uncle Eddie as his human shield and lookout man while dad gobbled down two hotdogs that he knew I would not approve of. But to all of our surprise, I walked up from the other side, and (caught them red-handed). Startled, they screamed and giggled like two little boys, and wouldn't stop laughing afterwards because they knew they were caught. Such good friends and jokesters together. Such great times & memories.

I also loved how he and my aunt took care of each other... but God knows best and knew it was time for Uncle Eddie to stand by His side now. He will surely watch over my auntie & the family like an Angel, from Heaven. So perfect. So beautiful. What a blessing to have known my Uncle Eddie.

Until we meet again, Unc! See you soon.

Love, Maxie & Joaquin

jean coleman - June 05, 2025 at 10:37 PM

AA

“ Adejoke A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Jackson Sanford.

Adejoke A. - June 05, 2025 at 08:02 PM

MJ

“ Maxie and Joaquin purchased the Simply Elegant *Spathiphyllum* for the family of Edward Jackson Sanford.

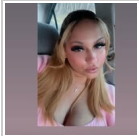


Maxie and Joaquin - June 04, 2025 at 09:26 PM

MJ

“ Maxie and Joaquin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Jackson Sanford.

Maxie and Joaquin - June 04, 2025 at 09:26 PM



“ To the strongest and funniest man I've ever met I will always always cherish the fun times that we shared together. I will keep in my heart the memories we have together and all the times that you were there to help me and pull me back up. I love you forever, my papa. I will forever be Papa's girl.

Raquel Rojas - June 04, 2025 at 07:20 PM

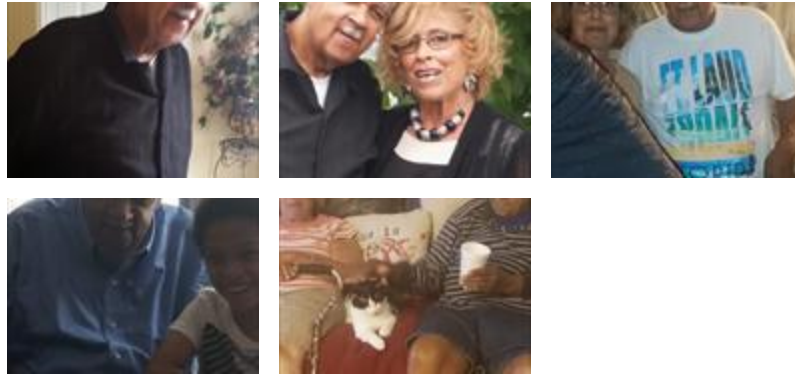
JG

Uncle Eddie, was one of the sweetest, kindest, and most loving persons in the world for my dear aunt Delores (and the family). He loved all of us very much. He really loved to joke about what he was eating or drinking too when around me because he knew I would lecture him about it. Always so jovial. I will never forget how close him and my father (Aaron Russell Coleman—Aunt Delores brother) were too. They were Joking about food just a few days ago. Once we all went to a train show and my father used him as his human shield and lookout man while dad gobbled down hotdogs that he knew I would not approve of. But to all of our surprise, I walked up from the other side, and (caught them red-handed). Startled, they screamed and giggled like two little boys, and wouldn't stop laughing afterwards because they knew they were caught. Such good friends and jokesters. Uncle Eddie had the most friendliest smile too. I loved how he took care of my aunt. They did so much for each other, but God knows best and knows it's time for Uncle Eddie to stand by His side now to watch over her like an Angel (and the family), from Heaven. So perfect. So beautiful. What a blessing to have known my Uncle Eddie. Until we meet again, Unc! See you soon. Love, Maxie

Jean coleman green - June 04, 2025 at 10:04 PM

KI

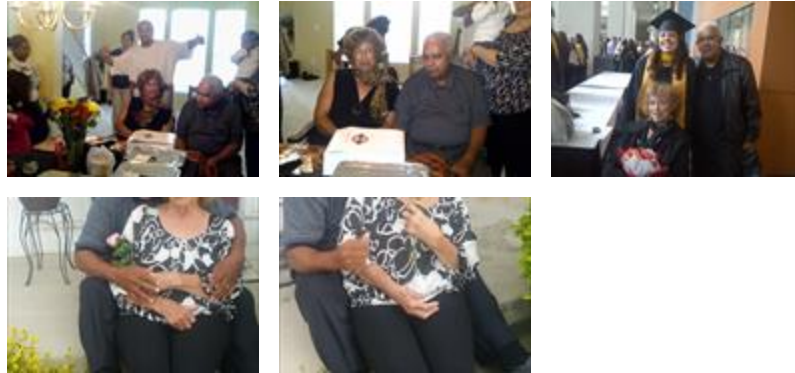
“ 46 files added to the tribute wall



KIMBERLY - June 04, 2025 at 05:22 PM

KI

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



KIMBERLY - June 04, 2025 at 05:21 PM

TM

“ Our sincere condolences to the Sanford Family. May The Lord give you strength and Joys of Remembering a precious and kind man of God.
Blessings and Love



TM-Smith - June 04, 2025 at 03:54 PM