



## Henry Burnette Bell

June 16, 1939 - October 7, 2024

Henry Burnette Bell Sr. 85. was born in Zion Hill, KY to the late William Bell and Helen Winchester Bell on June 16, 1939. He was educated in the segregated Schools of Lexington, Kentucky and was a graduate of the Old Douglass High School Demons where he was a standout Basketball player. He accepted Christ Jesus at an early age and was baptized into the fellowship of the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. H. E. Gerton. He retired from the Fayette County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff for over twenty years.

Mr. Bell was widely considered to be one of, if not the best, shooters to ever play the game of basket ball in Lexington. He was a star player at the original Douglass High School, from which he graduated in 1958.

The scoring machine held Lexington's single-game scoring record of 54 points for more than three decades. That feat was achieved well before the three- point-shot era, and he didn't even play in the fourth quarter of the game.

After an illustrious high school career during which the sharpshooter averaged more the 30 points per game, Mr. Bell went on to play basketball at Jackson State College, now a university, in Jackson, MS. He was also a long time basketball referee who was inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Frame in 1992.

The first of Mr. Bell's LAASHOF inductions came in 2022. His 1956 Douglass team, coached by the legendary Mr. Charles Livisay, was runner-up in the 48 -team National Negro High School Basketball Tournament, held at Tennessee State College, also now a university. At that time, all

black high schools were not allowed to play in the KHSAA and other similar tournaments.

Mr. Bell's second induction came at our LAASHOF Gale in September for his accomplishments as an individual athlete. Due to his illness, Mr. Bell was unable to attend the gala. His black LAASHOF blazer and trophy were graciously accepted by his son, Henry Bell

After College he returned home to Lexington and married his high school sweetheart Flora Bell Byrd whom he was married to for 28 years, and to that Union he was blessed with Three Son's; Gerald (Nancy)of Hampton, VA, Henry B. Bell Jr of Lexington, Ky and George Bell of Louisville, KY. Two Daughters; Michelle Bell Downing and Emma Bell Edwards, Lexington, KY. Henry later had Sonia Lawson (Keith). Smith. Henry later united in marriage to his late wife Earline Wearren Bell and to this union he was again blessed with and additional Son; Henry B. Bell III of Lexington, Ky.. he gained a stepson: Jahmel Wearren-Overstreet, Stepdaughters; Love Wearren and Seanrae White. He leaves also a brother; George L. Bell of Friendswood, Tx a half-brother; Charles Bell a half sister; Teresa Bell both of Lexington. a host Grandchildren and Great grandchildren, one Aunt; Edna Seynour of Indianapolis, IN a special Nephew; Chuck Hamilton, and a host of Nieces, In laws, cousins, and Friends He was preceded in death by one Sister and three Brothers.

He will always be remembered as one of the Greatest basketball legends in the city of Lexington during his era. The Great 'RED' Bell.

# Cemetery Details

## Highland Memorial Cemetery

229 Lisle Industrial Road  
Lexington, KY 40511

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Smith and Smith Funeral Home  
340 East Third Street  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6273  
<https://www.smithandsmithfuneralhome.com>

*Visitation: 11:00 until time of service*

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ My sincere condolences to the entire Bell family. I met Henry one time. He gave me one of the most memorable moments of my life. I played against him one basketball game back in 1979. We both played in the Lex. Police League. I heard he was a great former state basketball player. I considered myself a pretty good defensive player.. Fast and could jump.. So..I said " I'll guard him". Well... Henry ate me for breakfast..lunch..and dinner. I could not stop him at all the entire game. Yes..one of the most memorable days of my life. I'll never forget it. He was Amazing. Thank you Henry for my Life lesson. RIP.. Karl H.

Karl T. Hiten - October 22, 2024 at 05:29 PM

PR

“ May the family find peace and strength in the words of God. Let the thoughts of those who care comfort the family.

Phillip Rowe - October 19, 2024 at 11:09 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Henry Burnette Bell.



October 19, 2024 at 08:28 AM

KF

“ K. Crumbie & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Burnette Bell.

K. Crumbie & Family - October 19, 2024 at 08:28 AM

KG

“ My condolences to the family. Keeping you lifted in prayer.

KaRon Grimes - October 18, 2024 at 10:21 PM

CM

“ To the family you are in my prayers. Emma and Flora may God be with each of you at this time.



Cecil Madison - October 17, 2024 at 06:20 PM

AN

“ Matthew 5:4  
Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted

Anonymous - October 17, 2024 at 02:38 PM

BG

“ Sonia, Jahmel, Henry III and family  
Henry Sr. was a good person.  
God be with you in your time of grief. May God give you  
comfort and peace.  
You are in my prayers.  
Blessings and peace to you.



Billie Jackson-Goldsmith

Billie Goldsmith - October 17, 2024 at 02:33 PM

YF

“ Your patient Access Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage  
for the family of Henry Burnette Bell.



Your patient Access Family - October 17, 2024 at 01:35 PM

KD

“ Kaitlin and David purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the  
family of Henry Burnette Bell.



Kaitlin and David - October 17, 2024 at 11:52 AM

BM

“ *Burkie and Chrissy Morris purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Henry Burnette Bell.*



Burkie and Chrissy Morris - October 16, 2024 at 04:16 PM

BM

“ *Burkie and Chrissy Morris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Burnette Bell.*

Burkie and Chrissy Morris - October 16, 2024 at 04:16 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Henry Burnette Bell.*



October 16, 2024 at 01:07 PM

TT

“ *Tim and Michele Thomas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Burnette Bell.*

Tim and Michele Thomas - October 16, 2024 at 01:07 PM

LO

“ *LTC Eric Olson purchased the Mini Classic Charcuterie & Board Gift Set for the family of Henry Burnette Bell.*



LTC Eric Olson - October 15, 2024 at 05:37 PM

LO

“ *LTC Eric Olson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Burnette Bell.*

LTC Eric Olson - October 15, 2024 at 05:37 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Henry Burnette Bell.* ”



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October 15, 2024 at 05:20 PM