



## Herbert "Check" Cleaves

July 25, 1928 - October 3, 2014

Herbert W. "Check" Cleaves, age 86, of Wilmington, DE, passed away Friday, October 3, 2014. Herb retired in 1994 as a plant superintendent from Delaware Racing Assoc. after 50 years of dedicated service. He proudly served in the US Army during the Korean War. Herb loved to go on his yearly Army reunion trips to various States with his Army friends from the 707th Gun Battalion Unit. He was a lifetime member of the Christiana Fire Company and the American Legion Post #29. Most important to Herb was his love of home, family and friends. When he stepped into the room he lit it up with his witty personality. He always stayed positive even through his illness. Herb taught us all to be courageous – never giving up – and to forgive while loving unconditionally.

Herb is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Joanne Cleaves, who stood by his side and cared for him through his many challenges with his health; son, Gary Cleaves; daughter, Debra Gravell; 3 grandchildren: Deliah Brantley (Steven), Jayme Gravell, and Justin Cleaves (Viviana); great grandchildren: Makayla Brantley, Avery and Lily Bradley, and Ethan Cleaves; and sister, Betty Redding. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert Sr. and Ada Cleaves; and 2 sisters, Helen Golden and Virginia Sallee.

A visitation will be held Wednesday, October 8, 2014 from 9:30-11:00 AM in the Gracelawn Memorial Park Chapel, 2220 N DuPont Hwy, New Castle, DE 19720 followed by a service in celebration of Herb's life at 11 AM. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery.

The family wishes to thank Heartland Hospice for the excellent loving care that was given during Herb's last weeks and also thanks to the Fresenius Dialysis Center for the great care given during Herb's many years of treatment. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent in Herb's memory to Heartland Hospice, 256 Chapman Rd., Ste. 102, Newark, DE 19702 or Fresenius Medical Care, 605 Newport Pike, Wilmington, DE 19804. For directions or to send an online condolence visit [www.strano-feeley.com](http://www.strano-feeley.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Gracelawn Memorial Park

2220 N. DuPont Highway  
New Castle, DE

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 8. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gracelawn Memorial Park Chapel  
2220 N. DuPont Highway  
New Castle, DE

## Service

OCT 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gracelawn Memorial Park Chapel  
2220 N. DuPont Highway  
New Castle, DE

# Tribute Wall

BG

“ *Brenda, Colleen and Melissa Golden purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Herbert "Check" Cleaves.*



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**Brenda, Colleen and Melissa Golden** - October 07, 2014 at 02:05 PM



“ *To the Cleaves Family and "Check's" friends,*

*I didn't know Check very well: after all these years I thought his nickname was "Chick"! however, I did respect the man. I worked for him at Delaware Park on the summer evenings when racing was underway. He impressed me as a man that set high expectations and would come back to the track each evening to ensure that his expectations were met without exception. Many nights we would have to go back into the stands and up to the floors to correct any deficiencies he found during his final inspections. He was a tough but fair man, the kind of man that there are too few of these days. I hope that his housekeeping expectations are met in heaven! If not, the cleaning crew will have to put in some additional time until he is totally satisfied!*

*Bob Cooling, Flat Rock, NC*

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**Bob Cooling** - October 07, 2014 at 10:32 AM

JS

“ Well Uncle Herb I am so glad that you are in the hands of God and resting peacefully. You were a wonderful Uncle to me, gave me a horse, took me for rides in your red Ford convertible, and made me laugh until the tears ran down my pants. Sam always enjoyed your kisses and your time together. You will be missed but we will meet again. Love to Aunt Joanne and the rest of your immediate family.  
Love, Joanne and Sam

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**Joanne Stokes** - October 06, 2014 at 09:39 AM

MM

“ My condolences to the Cleaves family. Mrs. Joanne please find some comfort that God know when you been with someone you love for over 30 years, it's painful when you lose them to sickness so soon he will get rid of sickness forever, never to return as Isaiah 33:24 says: No resident will say: "I am sick". Please find some comfort and strength from these few facts in your difficult days ahead.

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**Mary Miller** - October 05, 2014 at 06:38 PM

JJ

“ You are missed dearly Uncle Herb. Thank you for all of the laughter and love through the years. Rest easy my man.  
Much love,  
Jamie, Tara, and Kai Jones

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**James Jones** - October 05, 2014 at 12:26 PM

DE

“ *Herb was like a father to me. The Cleaves are my second family. Will miss him so much. He put up a long fight but now he is at peace and out of pain. Love to all my family. Debbie and Bob Taylor*



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**debbie** - October 04, 2014 at 02:55 PM