



## John E. Van Clief Jr.

January 19, 1938 - February 14, 2024

John E. Van Clief Jr., 86, of Leonia, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2024. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, and was a graduate of Purdue University (class of 1958). He had a notable 40-year career as an aeronautical engineer in the defense industry at Curtiss-Wright, where he was the company's first African American engineer. Upon retirement in 2003, he continued to work as a consultant until 2005.

John married Dorothy Woodward, on April 27, 1961. The couple had their only child, John III, on July 27, 1967. The family moved from Brooklyn to Leonia, NJ, in 1969.

Throughout his life, John was passionate about airplanes and aeronautics, and widely known as an avid conversationalist who would hold court on politics, sports and many other topics. He, along with his strong and thoughtful points of view, will be greatly missed.

He is predeceased by his wife Dorothy, to whom he was married for 56 years, and his son John Van Clief III. He is survived by his daughter-in-law Elizabeth Jarrett Van Clief and two deeply beloved grandchildren, John "Jack" E. Van Clief IV and Connor J. Van Clief.

Neighbors, relatives and friends are welcome to join a committal service at

George Washington Memorial Park at 234 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ, at 10:30 AM on Saturday, February 17, 2024. They are also invited to join the procession from Volk Leber Funeral Home, 789 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, NJ, to the cemetery at 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE, [www.nsbe.org](http://www.nsbe.org)).

# Cemetery Details

## George Washington Memorial Park

234 Paramus Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652

# Previous Events

## Funeral Procession

FEB 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home  
789 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
info@volkleber.com  
<http://www.volkleber.com>

*Family and friends will gather at the funeral home at 10 AM in the parking lot to process to George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ.*

## Committal Service

FEB 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

George Washington Memorial Park  
234 Paramus Road  
Paramus, NJ 07652

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ *Rebecca Wilson lit a candle in memory of John Van Clief*



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**Rebecca Wilson** - February 14, 2024 at 08:26 PM

TA

*Uncle Johnny,*

*Will be missed he was infamous for his praise for his wife and son Johnny. I was always amazed how by his lengthy array of subject matter, a conversation would only end with the words , I got to go or snooze after his last cocktail. Life journey is unpredictable but the loss of this family in such a short time is unfortunate..... The hope of a resurrection we await.*

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**Tommy Allen** - February 19, 2024 at 08:03 PM