

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF
Mr. Green Lee Burge, Jr.

Monday, June 13, 2022 at 11:00 AM
St. Stephens AME Zion Church
Gastonia, North Carolina
Reverend Gregory Floyd, Officiating

ORDER OF SERVICE



- Call to Worship
- Prayer of Invocation
- Opening Song “For Every Mountain”
Composer: Kurt Carr & The Kurt Carr Singers
- Scripture Readings:
Old Testament- Psalm 100 Vs. 1-5 “Be Thankful”
New Testament- John 14 Vs. 1-4 “Be Assured”
- Prayer of Comfort
- Remarks (2-3 Minutes Please)
- Eulogy
- Benediction
- Recessional Song “Great Is Your Mercy”
Composer: Donnie McClurkin
- Recessional
- Committal
Gaston Memorial Park Mausoleum



Entombment
Gaston Memorial Park
Gastonia, North Carolina

Life Reflections

Green Lee Burge, Jr. was born on June 10th, 1939, in Greensboro N.C. to the late Edna Baldwin Burge and Green Lee Burge, Sr.

He attended public school in Guilford County and graduated from Dudley High School in Greensboro N.C. Green Lee would later attend the illustrious North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where he graduated in 1963 with a degree in Physical Education. With his degree in Physical Education, Mr. Burge would make his mark and further be known as Coach Burge for many years to come.

Early in his career, Coach Burge would begin teaching at Highland Junior High, which is where he began coaching Men’s basketball. Mr. Burge spent a great deal of time at Highland school paving a way for himself to later take on a career changing position at Hunter Huss High School. At Hunter Huss, Coach Burge taught World History, while coaching Men’s and Women’s Basketball. It was in 1977, that Coach Burge would lead his Men’s Basketball team to the State Championships and won. Thus making Mr. Green Lee Burge, Jr. the first coach, as well as the first African American coach, to ever win a state championship for Hunter Huss High School. While Coach Burge held a great impact on the basketball community, his greatest impact was on the lives of his players and students. Many often speak about the role of “father figure” Mr. Burge had in their lives. Mr. Burge cared about each student and player that he encountered during his career. As much as Mr. Burge meant to the young men and women he influenced, they also meant a great deal to him as well. You would always hear Mr. Burge talk about his teaching or coaching days and what he remembered from each particular person.

Though Green Lee Burge Jr. held a special place in the hearts of his students and athletes, none more so than the hearts of his family. “Pawpaw” as he was often referred to, wore many hats in the family household. Pawpaw was a friend, confidante, advisor, mentor, and handyman, along with his roles of provider and protector. Pawpaw was always available to his family, even for late night talks that he often struggled to stay awake for. You could always go to pawpaw’s for a good laugh and your favorite candy, stocked in abundance. Pawpaw filled a huge place in the hearts of his family members and though he is physically not with us today, his immense spirit lives on through his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, his legacy.

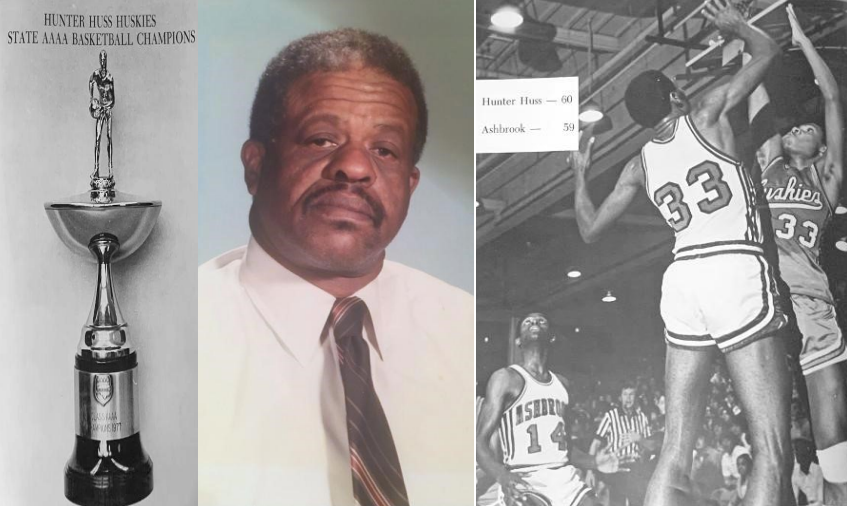
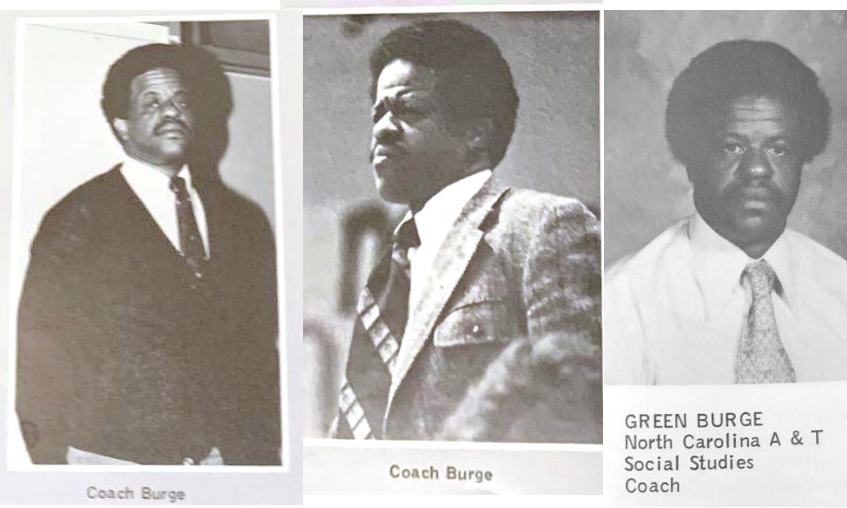
The life that Green Lee lived would be incomplete without his “Mae”, Mrs. Charlene Burge. It has been evident through words and actions, that “Mae” completed Green Lee’s world and made him the man we have all come to admire today. Through all the ups and downs, Green and Charlene persevered together. “Mae” was the YIN to

Greens’ Yang, while very compatible, she helped him grow and look at his life in ways that he never would have before he met her. Greens’ “Mae” continues to be well taken care of and surrounded by love every day and he can rest easy knowing she is ok, until they can be reunited once more.

This is a difficult time for all of us, Mr. Burge shaped our lives in many different ways. Through our sadness, we must each carry on his legacy and find joy in the happy memories shared with Coach Burge. We were all loved and cherished so much by this great man we have come to honor today, Mr. Green Lee Burge, Jr.

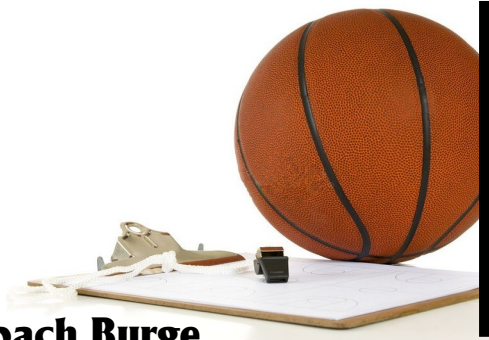


YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED



“TO THOSE I LOVE AND THOSE WHO LOVE ME”

When I am gone, release me.
Let me go, I have so many things to do and see.
I thank you for the love you each have shown.
But it’s time for me to travel alone.
Grieve if you must.
Let your grief be comforted by trust.
It’s only for a while we must part.
Keep these memories in your heart.
If you need me, call and I will come—
You cannot see or touch me but I will be near.
If you believe with all your heart,
You will hear my love around you,
Soft and dear.
When you come this way alone—
I will greet you with a smile and say welcome home.



Acknowledgements

The family wishes to express our sincerest gratitude for all the acts of kindness shown toward us during this difficult time of bereavement.

The family would also like to thank the staff at CaroMont Regional Medical Center for their special care given to Green Lee Burge, Jr. during his final moments. We are equally grateful for the services of Costner Funeral home and St. Stephens AME Zion Church.



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