



Oliver W. Dillard

September 28, 1926 - June 16, 2015

Dillard, Oliver W. June 16, 2015, age 88 of Canton. Loving husband of Helen. Beloved father of Oliver Jr. (Jo), Stephen (Trina), Dennis (Jan), and Diane (Lonnie) Broadnax.

Born in Margaret, Alabama to the union of Stonewall Jackson Dillard and Josiephine Williams. He was the youngest of 4 children. He was predeceased by his three siblings, Pauline (Charles) Kidd, Stonewall Jackson Dillard Jr, and Vivian Edwards. Proud Grandfather of Nathan, Ellen, Stephana, Nicholas and Anthony Dillard, and Jasmine and Anika Broadnax.

Visitation Saturday 3 PM until the Saturday 6 PM funeral service at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth.

Mr. Dillard retired in 1980 from military service-US Army as a Major General, after 34 years of service. Interment Arlington National Cemetery.

Oliver Williams Dillard, Sr. was a retired United States Army major general, the fifth black officer in the U.S. Army to attain flag rank. He is a member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame, at Fort Huachuca, Arizona and Fort Benning, Georgia respectively. General Dillard became the first black graduate of the National War College in 1965. He also served as the first black general officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, the last J2 (Senior Intelligence Officer) for the U.S. Military Assistance Command – Vietnam, the first U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and the first black

Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence for the U.S. Army Europe. General Dillard retired from the U.S. Army in 1980, after a career spanning 34 years. On June 1, 2011, Dillard was awarded the Military Intelligence Corps Association's LTC Thomas W. Knowlton Award for Excellence in Intelligence, commemorating his significant role in Army Military Intelligence history, beginning in 1950. General Dillard was inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame on May 4, 2012. On September 14, 2012, he was inducted into the Army Military Intelligence Hall of Fame, becoming the 226th recipient of this honor. A recently instituted award, "The MG Oliver W. Dillard Award", honors the most outstanding company-size military intelligence unit assigned to a Battalion, each fiscal year. As a decorated Battalion S2 in Korea and FORSCOM'S first Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2) in 1973, Dillard promoted the use of intelligence at the tactical level and this award is bestowed to the honored unit that symbolizes his professionalism, dedication, and esprit de corps. The recipient of the inaugural MG Oliver W. Dillard Award for 2014 was designated to the 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3d Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas under the leadership of Captain Eleanor Baldenweck, and Sergeant First Class Centoria Young.

To leave a message for the family, please use the View and Send Condolences tab on this webpage.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 20. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Service

JUN 20. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Military Honor Guard Service

JUN **20**. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Oliver W. Dillard*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



Larry
Holmer

“ *I drove staff car for "Ollie" as he asked me to call him when alone. He was surely a great man. I have many good memories of him. One time we went to a place where it was so muddy my car was a mess. He said, "Don't worry about it Homer, you can clean it up when you get back to Patton Barracks."*

Larry Holmer - April 10, 2020 at 01:34 PM

TF

“ *OLIVER W.DILLARD
MAJ.GEN. (RET) U.S.ARMY*

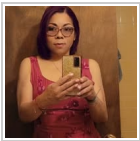
*A BRILLIANT MILITARY GENIUS.
A COMPASSIONATE,LEADER,ACTIVIST,DIPLOMAT FOR THE
BETTERMENT,RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF AMERICAS PEOPLE
AND PEOPLES ABROAD.*

*AN AWESOME FAMILY MAN! DAD ,FATHER TO HIS CHILDREN.
FATHER TO HIS NATION.
IF YOU HAD MET HIM YOU WOULD NOT FORGET HIM.TO
KNOW HIM WAS TO LOVE HIM.
GOD BLESS THE OLLIE DILLARD FAMILY
HELEN,OLIVER JR.,STEPHEN ,DENNIS ,AND DIANE.*

*MAY YOU RAISE AND FLY YOUR FLAG PROUDLY ON THIS DAY
AND ALWAYS HAPPY FLAG DAY. HAPPY FATHERS DAY!
THE HIGHEST REGARDS,FOND MEMORIES
WITH LOVE.*

*THE ERNIE MILLOY FAMILY
JUNE 14 2016*

THE ERNIE MILLOY FAMILY - June 14, 2016 at 03:38 PM



“ *I had absolutely NO idea that Uncle Dub passed! He was a truly
bright light. Sending my love to my family.*

Dana Bowman - August 08, 2015 at 10:39 PM

AJ

“ Thinking of you and celebrating a remarkable life. I will always remember Dillard (O. W.) from the 1940's at Tuskegee to the present. Dillard did not just live life, he illuminated it.

*Ann Jardine
Long Island, NY*



Ann Jardine - July 22, 2015 at 10:04 AM

 Bob Kraft

“ I am the tennis player stationed in Heidelberg. I then stayed overnight at your house at Fort Dix upon my service and return to the US. I have fond memories of General Dillard.

Bob Kraft - July 17, 2015 at 09:38 AM

EP

“ I met the General at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor and instantly drawn to him. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I wish I had known. I feel very privileged to have met him. In the short time that I had known him, I found him to be a wonderful person. It was an honor to have met him and spend what little time I did with him. He will be missed. God Speed General. Very Respectfully, Elizabeth Pattenaude



Elizabeth Pattenaude - July 14, 2015 at 01:05 PM

DM

“ *DR. Sam & Joyce Machotka lit a candle in memory of Oliver W. Dillard*



DR. Sam & Joyce Machotka - June 21, 2015 at 01:22 PM

CF

“MG Oliver Dillard, retired, better known as "Dad" was truly one of a kind. He was compassionate and very caring and was a true "gentleman". There was never a time when I was in his presence that he didn't help with a coat, pull my chair out at dinner and I could go on. But my most precious memory of him was the night I had gone out to dinner with his daughter, Diane, and her family and he became aware of a plumbing problem I had with my shower head. He insisted we go to Home Depot to pick up some supplies then all go to my home so he could fix my shower. It is not every day that you have a Retired General fixing your plumbing. That was the kind of man he was.

A couple of years later after Diane had her first child our church organization was having their General Conference in Greensboro, NC where he lived at the time. Lonnie and Diane were going to go visit her Dad and go to the conference while they were there. "Dad" suggested they bring me along and stay at his house with them. It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. Little did I realize that he was going to give up his bedroom and sleep on the couch so I could have his room. I would have gladly slept on the couch but he wouldn't hear of it.

I have heard many stories about "Dad" Dillard. His memory will go on for ever through his children, grandchildren and the awards and recognition he has received through the years. Our country can be proud of this man who served us with the best he had to offer. I am proud to say I knew him and have had the opportunity to spend time with him. I am also proud to say that his daughter is one of my dearest friends.

I am praying for you and will keep you in prayer tomorrow during the service. May God comfort you all tomorrow as you say your last goodbyes. I wish I could be there with you.

Carol Ford
Lewisburg, PA

Carol Ford - June 19, 2015 at 08:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Oliver W. Dillard.



June 19, 2015 at 04:36 PM



“ *I worked for General Dillard at ODCSI in Heidelberg, Germany in 1977. He was a great leader and a warm and caring person. It was not unusual for him to just come to individual's desks in the office just to ask how we were. I often talked to him about his service in World War II and was fascinated by his stories. I also kept M&M's at my desk for which he was always appreciative. The US Army and our Country has lost a great and revered leader and person. SGM (Ret) Billy G. Lanham*

Billy G. Lanham - June 19, 2015 at 01:51 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Oliver W. Dillard.



June 19, 2015 at 10:14 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Oliver W. Dillard.*



June 19, 2015 at 09:46 AM



“ *Your Lorillard friends in the Chicago Office purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Oliver W. Dillard.*



Your Lorillard friends in the Chicago Office - June 19, 2015 at 09:25 AM



“ *THANK YOU GENERAL FOR YOUR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE. I DO NOT REALLY KNOW YOU OR YOUR FAMILY BUT MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THEM AT THIS TIME*

DON BISSON - June 19, 2015 at 08:47 AM

MB

“ *My wife and I happened to see this obituary of Major General Oliver W. Dillard. His accomplishments speak volumes of his character and fortitude. We didn't know this gentleman, but are simply amazed, what a beautiful and strong, determined human being he must have been. We should be honored to have had a person like him living in our community, and to have given so much to his country. His rare brilliance and dedication should set an example for many, many people. Our hope is that young people in our locality and the Detroit region would use his life as an inspiration. We wish at some point in our lives we could have crossed paths with him. We are so very sorry for your loss. He gave so much and we thank him.*



Mr. and Mrs. R. Bowser - June 19, 2015 at 08:44 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Oliver W. Dillard.*



June 18, 2015 at 08:22 PM