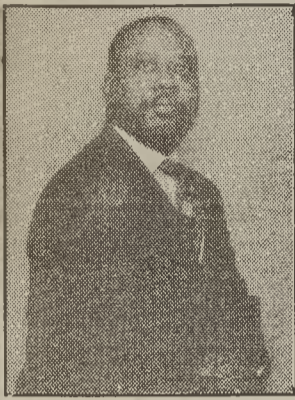


FATHER OF THE YEAR

The Charlotte Post Father of the Year



Vil Johnkin, Sr. is the epitome of an excellent father. He works long hours on a stressful job, travels around the country and the world on business trips frequently, yet he has always been there for his family. Between all of his hard work on the job and at church, he continues to instill morals, values, and a will for success in his children. Daddy has a kind heart and a stern voice that commands respect. This has resulted in disciplined kids. No one would dare talk back to daddy, and when he talks you listen! However, daddy is one of the first people that we would go to for advice or help, and he never hesitates to lend a hand.

Vil Johnkin Sr. will go above and beyond to do anything for his children, even as they venture into young adulthood. From driving two hours after a long day at work to my university to see what's wrong with my computer, to cooking my brother and me our special request menu when we come home from college. He has always provided us with everything we need and most of what we want, often putting his wants on the back burner.

My father is a strong, responsible, black man, and truly a blessing from God.

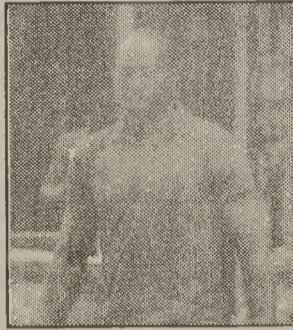
Dad's hobbies are cooking, gardening and yard work.

Lashanda Johnkin

June 16th
1996

The Charlotte Post Father of the Year 1st Runner-Up

My husband, James Ellis Veal, Sr., is easily the Father of the Year 1996 and every other year as well. When we married in 1987, I was a single parent with a three year old daughter. He was in the Army, and we lived in two different states. Even though he was seldom with our family, (we now also have two sons), he was always an excellent provider, financially and spiritually.



He constantly encourages our sons to respect everyone (especially women!), our daughter to be independent, believe that education is invaluable, and that church is the cornerstone of our lives. His philosophy is patterned after the football great, Gayle Sayers, that "the Lord is first, my family and friends are second, and I am third."

He is also an excellent role model for all young people. He is my right hand in my day care center and I would be lost without him. He is a wonderful son, husband, and father and our lives are so enriched by his presence. We believe that he is truly the "Top Pop" of any and every year!

His hobbies are basketball, cooking, travel and photography.

Sheree Hill-Veal

The Charlotte Post Father of the Year 2nd Runner-Up

My Dad,
by Corwin

My dad makes me laugh and gets grumpy when we procrastinate. He's my coach in baseball and football. He plays "Wheel of Fortune" with me. He gets me on the bus and picks me up. He makes sure I go to bed and take my shower. He won't get mad if I try my best. He's glad I am a smart kid, and I am too. He's real strict on me getting my homework done. He let's me play when I've done my homework. My dad is real special to me because he's the only dad I have. I'm special to him because I'm the oldest child.



Corwin is 8 yrs. old and a 3rd grader at Mallard Creek Elementary

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