



Roland J Caldwell Sr

October 28, 1932 - September 5, 2018

Roland J. Caldwell, Sr. was born on October 28, 1932, to the Late William and Carrie Caldwell in his beloved hometown of New Haven, Connecticut. He was born the fifth of six children, by whom he was predeceased: George Boyd (Knocky), Rev. Wilhelmina Caldwell Redmon (Mena), William Caldwell (Winks), Herbert Caldwell (Herbie), and Earl Caldwell. Their humble beginnings were in a railroad flat they lovingly called, "The Oatmeal Flat."

Roland was educated at Notre Dame High School in New Haven, where he was one of four African Americans in his graduating class. His first job was at the Winchester Repeating Arms Factory, where he worked until joining the United States Air Force, serving from 1952-1956.

In 1956, he met his soulmate, Audrey Simms. They married in 1958 at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Washington, DC. Despite his humble beginnings and being a part of the first generation of his family to be high school and college educated, his great aspiration was to be able to provide all of his children bicycles. Through faith and love, he and his wife raised five children who all obtained college degrees, traveled the world, and serve their communities.

Roland continued trailblazing throughout his professional career, serving the United States Department of Defense, supporting our national security.

Beginning in 1956, he held a variety of analytical and reporting positions, including Branch Chief, in several organizations. Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland, he continued his education in 1977 at the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Directly following the completion of his Naval War College training, Roland returned to Washington to take a position as Division Chief, responsible for the management and control of a vast array of resources. In 1982, he was named Chief of Staff responsible for national strategic planning. Roland became a Senior Staff officer in 1985, assisting in the development of career paths for qualified colleagues in a variety of fields, assisting office chiefs in the selection and placement of senior personnel.

In 1987, he was assigned to the United States European Command Center in Stuttgart Germany, at Patch Barracks, where he served as Chief of Staff in his agency's office. In 1991, he became the first African American Chief of Station at a communications base in Germany. As an inspiration to both the civilian and military personnel of color on the station, he faithfully attended all social events sponsored by base organizations, while never failing to engage in pick-up basketball games with competitors half his age.

While excelling in his professional career, Roland was also a man of devout faith who showed it through his works. He embraced Catholicism as a teen in New Haven, at St. Martin de Porres, growing into an active Catholic whose service included communities in Connecticut, Alaska, and Colorado. In Washington, DC, he was part of a nucleus of men who were pillars of the area, serving Incarnation, Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Thomas More, Holy Family, and St. Teresa of Avila, his final church home. A lover of worship, he helped establish the folk group and first gospel choir of St. Thomas More. At various churches, he served as CCD Teacher, coach, and Coordinator of Lectors (and lector extraordinaire). He was also a dedicated Coordinator of Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), through which he trained and

sponsored numerous new Catholics. He was a member of Men of St. Teresa (MOST), and a founding member of the Washington, DC Chapter of the Knights of Peter Claver.

As a lover of young people, he coached CYO basketball and track, was one of the founders the STM Teen Club and Athletic Booster Club. He even helped to start the St. Thomas More Drum and Bugle Corps. Roland's service to young people also went outside the walls of the church. He started girls' softball and basketball teams in Newport, Rhode Island. In the D.C. Metropolitan Area, he served as a substitute teacher, mentor, tutor, and facilitator of a Rites of Passage Program at Johnson Junior High School.

Roland was a friend and father figure to many. He served with "oak tree" stability, understanding the importance of his role—a man you could depend on. He exemplified consistency, manhood, family, spirituality, and social consciousness.

Roland J. Caldwell, Sr. leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 60 years, Audrey Caldwell, and his children: Theresa Caldwell (Craig Klein), Roland Caldwell, Jr. (Melaney), Patricia Caldwell, Sia Caldwell Milner (Robert), and Jiiko Caldwell; his grandchildren: Rahman Swain, Dalantae Caldwell, Talitha Milner, Robert Milner, Jr. (Yolanda), Nicholas Milner, Kristen Klein Crenshaw (Joseph), Christopher Klein (Emma), great-grandchildren, Noah and Laila Milner, Sister-in-law Eleanor Caldwell, Brother-in-law Thomas Simms (Eleanor), adopted son Deacon Ralph Cyrus, and a host of loving and supportive nieces, nephews, lifelong friends, Godchildren, mentees, colleagues and athletes who brought him joy over the years.

As a professional, a man of faith, a father, a coach, and mentor, Mr. Roland J. Caldwell, Sr. taught all of us something. Let us treasure his memory by

continuing his God-given work.

Cemetery Details

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

11301 Crain Hwy
Cheltenham, MD 20623

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 14. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas Moore Church
4275 4th Street SE
Washington, DC 20032

Funeral service

SEP 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas Moore Church
4275 4th Street SE
Washington, DC 20032

Tribute Wall

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“ My favorite memory of Coach Caldwell was at our very first CYO Track Meet. He told me to go down there & “do the shot put.” “The WHAT?” “The SHOT PUT!” Never had we discussed, let alone practiced any field events. I had no idea what he was talking about. But I obediently ran “down there” and thankfully was the last to be called. I did what everyone else did - pushed this funny ball onto the grass, then a few minutes later they handed me a blue ribbon. Still clueless, I took the ribbon to Coach. “What’s this?” He asked. “I dunno. Some guy down there gave me this after I threw that heavy ball!” He laughed that funny laugh, shook his head and said, “OK, then go do the high jump!” 😂

Debra Hamilton Schoening - September 12, 2018 at 05:35 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Roland J Caldwell Sr.



September 12, 2018 at 05:17 PM