



Carl Merton Adair

January 23, 1934 - January 20, 2015

"Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?" Proverbs 20:6

All who knew and loved Carl Merton Adair would testify to one thing: he was truly a faithful man. His faithfulness extended to the Lord first, then to his family, his church family, his many, many friends, and his community. He was often heard saying, in his reverent "preacher" voice, "We must remember what is most important: God first, then family and friends."

On Tuesday, January 20, 2015, the Lord chose to take our faithful Carl home, at the age of 80, after a brief illness and hospitalization. Carl was a faithful man in life until the day of his death.

Faithful in Life On January 23, 1934, God saw fit to bring Carl into the world, the third-born child of Eddie Adair, Sr. and Seretta Savage Adair. He was born in the small town of Hare Valley, Northampton County, Virginia. As a child, he loved to play outdoors and especially enjoyed baseball and playing with the family's cats and dogs. t:

Carl grew up in his home church of New Allen Memorial AME Church in Franktown, Virginia, along with his four brothers and three sisters. He gave his life to the Lord and was baptized at a young age, and often described a pivotal spiritual experience with God on the "mourners' bench" at New Allen Memorial. Those formative years were just the beginning of a life dedicated to God's work.

Faithful to Education Dedicated to education, Carl's initial schooling began in

his Virginia hometown, and he attended Northampton County High School. He earned several degrees: an Associates degree from the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College, a Bachelor's from Virginia State University and a Master's of Education from Coppin State College. He also received two honorary doctorates from Morris College and from Monrovia College in Liberia, West Africa, where his family accompanied him to receive this prestigious honor.

An avid athlete, Carl played football through high school and much of his college career. In 1953, he made the All-Conference football team at the Norfolk Division of Virginia State College. He carried his lifelong love of sports until the end, and was perhaps the most faithful fan of the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles.

Faithful to Family Carl met the love of his life, the former Merlene Elmira Day, at a school dance at Virginia State University. Some might call it love at first sight. Following Merlene's graduation, the college sweethearts married on July 6, 1957 in her hometown of Heathsville, Virginia. Soon after their wedding day, they relocated to Baltimore, Maryland, where they began creating a family. From this union of love they welcomed three daughters, Lori, Sherri and Carla. Carl was an attentive and nurturing father, and treasured his three "Daddy's Girls".

He enjoyed family road trips to his and Merlene's hometowns, to his beloved Virginia State for annual homecoming games and celebrations, and to various church trips and conferences. He also loved family meals, discussing current events and politics around the table with Merlene and the girls, followed by his favorite sitcoms with the family.

Faithful to Service.

Carl served in the United States Army for three years, served several more years in active and inactive Reserves duty and received an honorable discharge at the ranking of sergeant.

He also served others through various vocations throughout his lifetime. He

began his career as an educator in the Baltimore City Public School System, and later became a dean, department chairperson and professor at Coppin State College. In 1963 he began his life as a well-known business owner, and over the next three decades enjoyed ownership of five different locations of Adair's Amoco Gas Station and Adair's Auto Garage. After retiring from business ownership, he reentered the Baltimore City School System as a seasoned educator.

Faithful to God Carl continued in his service to the Lord throughout his lifetime. He and Merlene joined Douglas Memorial Community Church in 1959 and have attended faithfully for 56 years. He is the only member of Douglas to have served as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and Chairperson of the Board of Stewards. He loved his "Douglas Church" and enjoyed sitting on the very first pew with Merlene every 1 Sunday. He most enjoyed those Negro spirituals and stirring sermons that have always set Douglas apart.

Faithful to Community Carl served his community through various organizations and associations. He was a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and loved his Kappa brothers, or "Nupes", as he affectionately called them. He was also a member of the Virginia State Alumni Association, the Coppin State College Alumni Association, the Prince Hall Masons, Lodge #25 and was a Life Member of the NAACP.

He was also a proud member of the Republican Political Party and a former member of the Republican State Central Committee for Baltimore City and the Baltimore City Board of Elections. Even though he lived in a largely Democratic city, he ran for public office three times - for Mayor of Baltimore, the Baltimore City Council's 5th District and the House of Delegates' 41st District.

Over his lifetime, he received multiple awards and recognitions, a few of which included Delegate for the Republican National Convention, a Distinguished Church Leadership Award from the Fullwood Foundation, Inc. and Alumnus of the Year from Virginia State University.

Faithful until the End Carl was faithful to his family members and his many friends, one of his favorite pastimes being the dozens of phone calls he would place each day. For many of his relatives and friends, the day wasn't complete without a call from Carl. On the other hand, he was the one to call whenever a need arose. Carl was a loving, giving soul, always available to give a hand. He was also steadfast in his love for Merlene, and during her recent illness, he remained by her side as long as his health would allow. At night, he would sleep beside her hospital bed, faithful until the end.

He leaves to cherish his life and legacy: his wife Merlene Day Adair, three daughters Lori Chambers, Sherri Adair and Carla Adair Hendricks, two sons-in-law Ralph Chambers and Anthony Hendricks, eight grandchildren, one grandson-in-law, three brothers Verdell Adair, Quincy Adair, Alvis Adair, one sister Joyce Adair, one brother-in-law Robert (Gene) Day, three sisters-in-law Catherine Flythe, Mary Day and Dorothy Adair, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cemetery Details

Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD

Previous Events

Public Viewing

FEB 1. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Family Hour

FEB 1. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

FEB 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Douglas Memorial
1325 Madison Avenue
Baltimore, MD

Service

FEB 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

Douglas Memorial
1325 Madison Avenue
Baltimore, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Carl Merton Adair*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Dr. Pamela Rice lit a candle in memory of Carl Merton Adair*



Dr. Pamela Rice - February 14, 2015 at 09:36 PM



“ *SHERRIE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of Carl Merton Adair*



SHERRIE SCOTT - February 14, 2015 at 02:12 PM

DH

“ DEAR MERLENE, LORI, SHERRI, CARLA AND ADAIR FAMILY,

I AM SO SORRY THAT DUE TO THE BAD WEATHER HERE IN NEW YORK, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. ALTHOUGH NOT PHYSICALLY PRESENT, WE WERE WITH YOU IN SPIRIT, SHARING YOUR SORROW. WE KNOW THAT WAITING FOR CARL IN HEAVEN WERE A HOST OF LOVED ONES, REJOICING IN HIS ARRIVAL. MAY GOD GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES AHEAD AND PROVIDE YOU WITH COMFORT, KNOWING THAT CARL IS NOW IN A BETTER PLACE, THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

WINIFRED & DARRLYN HAMMOND
THEODORE & TRACY LATIMORE

DARRLYN HAMMOND - February 02, 2015 at 09:24 PM

TB

“ Sorry for your loss. Mr Adair was a great person. The Brown family.

Tonya Brown - February 02, 2015 at 08:23 PM

MS

“ TO THE ADAIR FAMILY

WE CONVEY OUR SINCERE
CONDOLENCES TO THE ADAIR FAMILY. IT
IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT WHEN YOU
EXPERIENCE SUCH A GREAT LOSS. WE WILL KEEP THE
FAMILY IN PRAYER.



LEONA AND MELVIN R. COLLINS, SR. - VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

MELVIN R. COLLINS, SR. - February 01, 2015 at 06:01 PM

HW

“ *Sincerest condolences to the Adair family. May the peace and grace of God continue to comfort you during this time. Our love and prayers to you all.*

Sincerely,

*Helen Wells
Norfolk Avenue*

HELEN WELLS - February 01, 2015 at 04:32 PM

GM

“ *To Merlene and Family
May you find comfort in knowing that Carl is resting in peace. God will continue to hold you in the hallow of His hands.*

Gary L. Myers - February 01, 2015 at 02:14 PM



“ *Bernard Lewis lit a candle in memory of Carl
Merton Adair*



Bernard Lewis - February 01, 2015 at 05:36 AM

HR

“ *LOOK UP TO THE LORD ! Remember Philippians 4:13 ... " I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." BLESSINGS!*

*FROM: Helen Harmon Rowley
honeybea39@msn.com*

Helen Harmon Rowley - January 31, 2015 at 12:44 PM

DG

“ To the Merlene, Sherri, Lorie, Carla, and all my cousins. Minnie and Donald regret we cannot be with you on this sad occasion. We loved Carl very much, but we also know God loved him more. When Carl and Merlene were here two years ago they visited with Minnie who was suffering from dementia. Minnie smiled when she saw them. There was never a week went by that Carl did not call to check on us, and always asked how Minnie was. He always advised me to do my best in taking care of Minnie. He always talked about how our family was blessed and thank God for every day that God allows us wake up everyday. He often said "Brother we are in overtime" and be thankful for it. Carl would always call me every two hours when we were driving from Virginia. He would demand I call him when we got in the house, no matter what time it was. We will miss him dearly, and know that one day by and by we will see him in God glory where there is no more pain, worry. Carl rest in peace and know we love you. You all just keep on trusting in God, and he will get you through your time of bereavement. As Carl would say at the end of our conversation "GOD BLESS"

Donald George - January 29, 2015 at 08:27 AM

RJ

“ We are praying for you as you grieve and celebrate the wonderful life of a man who loved the Lord and served him with joy and a rare sense of commitment and dedication to his will. It was a joy knowing him and we trust that you are finding comfort in knowing that he knew the God who promised eternal life to all who believe. Much peace and many blessings to the family. Reverend and Mrs. Jefferson

Reverend Jefferson - January 28, 2015 at 11:00 AM

SM

“ Aunt merlene, Lori, Sherri and Carla, I was so sorry to hear about Uncle Carl. Uncle Carl was a great man. He was definately a family man. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. R.I.P. uncle carl. we love you. Syranda, Timmy, Amiya and Khloe Mitchell



syranda mitchell - January 27, 2015 at 12:08 PM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - January 27, 2015 at 07:59 AM

HP

To Merlene, Sheri and Lori Adair

I was sadden when I read the email, Please know that you all are in my prayers as you journey through this difficult time, knowing that God has already covered you with his love and you will be ok.

Love you Hilda Truesdel-Phillips

Hilda Phillips - January 30, 2015 at 07:27 PM

DW

Merlene, Lori, Sheri ,Carla and family, needless to say Carl will be missed! He was a friend and mentor . He is in a better place now and doing the work that he so loved-GOD's WORK.Praise the Lord that he will never be forgotten and that you and the family will be blessed.

Dale&Cynthia

Dale & Cynthia Webb - February 01, 2015 at 01:08 PM