



Carlton Andrew Ayles

February 2, 1944 - September 18, 2021

Treasured Legacy

Carlton Andrew Ayles began his life on February 2, 1944 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at Woman's Medical Hospital. He was welcomed to our world by his proud parents Littell J. Ayles and Helen T. Ayles.

He attended Webster Davis Elementary school, and that is where he met his first love at 9 years old "The Saxophone." Samuel Grant his first band teacher recognized a diamond in the rough and motivated him to play the instrument. He also started playing Sandlot Football when he was 12 years old as a right linebacker. In addition to perfecting his saxophone skills, he continued playing football at Armstrong high school in 1959-1960 He graduated with the class of 1961.

After graduating from High school, he attended Virginia Union and Sargeant Reynolds, majoring in Business. Carlton started becoming influenced by the jazz greats, Stanley Turrentine and Gene Ammons. The first band that he joined was G.C Coleman & the Soul Twisters. In 1965 he joined Mike Harrison & The Imperials. He had success with this band until he was drafted by the U.S Army in 1967, and in November of that year he also married Veda Sykes.

Carlton was deployed to Ascom, Korea, and stationed in Pyongtaek, Korea at

the Surface to Air Missal base. Sargent E5 Ayles returned to the U.S. and was stationed at Homestead Air force base in Florida for 9 months prior to returning to Richmond.

In 1973, upon his return from the Army, Carlton remained determined in developing his craft. He joined a very popular band called "Brother Love." After creating a fan base of jazz enthusiasts, he later formed his first group the "Carlton Ayles Sextet." This group included some of the top jazz musicians in Richmond, Peyton "P.J" Johnson (trumpet), Debo Dabney (piano), Jan Simpkins (base), Al Waters (Sax/flute) and Reggie Smith (drums). The chemistry was undeniable among them, and they built a huge following of fans. The band became very well known for their exceptional, hard driving jazz performances.

In addition to Carlton's years as a musician, he worked for United Virginia Bank (now Suntrust Bank) for 20 years as a Receiving Clerk.

Later in life, Carlton enjoyed playing golf and became very competitive. Hitting "a hole in one" during one of the tournaments he played in was one of his proudest moments. He really loved and was a loyal long time member of Club 533, where he really missed spending time with his club member family.

He had a zest for life and was all about family, and that was evident when he became a caregiver of his Mother during her senior years. He loved attending Sunday Mass, being around laughter and the camaraderie of friends. Carl was also a die-hard Dolphins fan and enjoyed cheering on his team with family and friends.

He was predeceased by sister Gwendolyn and brother Littell, Jr. Carlton leaves cherished memories to his niece Monica; nephews, Eric and Donald Jr.; a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery

1401 S. Randolph St.
Richmond, VA 23220

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP **25**. 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home -Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Homegoing Celebration

SEP **27**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Edward Catholic Church
2700 Dolfield Dr.
Richmond, VA 23235

Tribute Wall



“ *Carlton Andrew Ayles*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *May Peace Be Unto The Ayles Families.
Willie and Sue Layton.*



Willie Layton Jr. - September 27, 2021 at 02:22 PM



“ *Richmond Jazz Society sounds The Last Note for one of this city's
Jazz icons - Carlton Ayles. To the Family: May the memory of
Carlton's sweet saxophone give you comfort and may God give him
Peace. To Brighter Moments, B. J. Brown, Richmond Jazz Society
Inc.* 🎵 🎷 ☀️ 🙏

B. J. Brown - September 27, 2021 at 01:13 PM



*To my friend and mentor, Carlton Ayles. RIP my friend, you will be
missed by all of RVA music community. Neal Bowens* ❤️ 🙏

Neal Bowens, saxophonist. - September 28, 2021 at 02:49 PM



Peace my friend

Carmen Bell - October 01, 2021 at 05:19 PM

IK

“ *The Ayles Family*

Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as you mourn the loss of your loved one. May the legacy of his love for family, friends, and humanity continue to comfort you in the coming days, months, and years ahead.

Ivory C. Scott Sr (Dino) and Family

Ivory Curtis Scott Sr (Dino) - September 24, 2021 at 06:48 PM



KB

“ *Carlton and my father Frederick B Thompson were good friends every time he saw me he would call me little Freddy. I am going to miss being little Freddy! Rest in Peace and say Hello to my daddy! Love you! 💕*

Kimberly Thompson Briggs - September 24, 2021 at 06:30 PM



DM

“ *A great musician whom I finally got to meet years ago. A humble and "down to earth" guy with an awesome personality when I met him. R.I.P. my brother and thanks for gift of music you shared with us throughout the years.*

*Dennis "Dap" Mallory
The Dap Mallory Band*

Dennis "Dap" Mallory - September 24, 2021 at 10:51 AM

MC

“ To the family & friends of Carlton Ayles,

We at Mount Calvary Cemetery wish to express our deepest sympathies for the loss of your loved one and we pray that God will help to ease your pain in the days to come. We are proud and honored to be chosen as the final resting place for Carlton. This is a responsibility that we do not take lightly and I pledge the highest level of perpetual care to honor his memory. Please do not hesitate to call us with any concerns or if there is anything we can do to make these difficult experiences any easier.

*Jim Glass
General Mgr.
Mount Calvary Cemetery
804-355-5271*

Mt. Calvary Cemetery - September 24, 2021 at 10:06 AM

LK

“ *My condolences to the family of Carlton axles who was a great friend . We played music together we served in the u.s. army together in south Korea, a great musician will be missed my brother Rip. Lou kelsaw and family*

Lou kelsaw - September 24, 2021 at 06:51 AM

RS

You will be miss Carlton Axles we played music together I was the drummer in the sextet rest in peace my brother

Reggie Smith - September 24, 2021 at 01:02 PM

WP

“ *Condolences to the family! I had the opportunity to witness Carlton energy to perform as a wildcat, musician, and golfer. He really enjoyed achievements in each endeavor. Listening to his comments of those endeavors was a pleasure .The spirit of Carlton will livve on.*

Wm, Maurice Pitts - September 23, 2021 at 11:03 PM

SS

“ *To The Ayles Family,
Once again God has added one of the
best musicians to the heavenly
band. I had the pleasure of singing with
Carlton's band way back in the day.
He will be missed. Thomas & I offer
our deepest sympathy. May God surround his family & all who knew
him
with peace & comfort during this most difficult time. R I P Carlton!
Respectfully,
Thomas Shaw & Shelia Spurlock-Shaw*

Shelia Spurlock - Shaw - September 23, 2021 at 06:37 PM

CS

Our condolences to the Ayles Family. Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. It was a pleasure knowing you and listening to you play. RIHP Carlton .

Caroline Scarborough - September 26, 2021 at 01:35 AM

CS

May God give you the strength to get through the grief. Our condolences to the Ayers family 🌹 Carlton was a great musician and I enjoyed listening to him play. Now he can play among the Angels. RIHP my friend.

Caroline Scarborough - September 26, 2021 at 01:42 AM

CH

“ PEACE AND BLESSINGS TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CARLTON. MAY YOU REST IN GODS ALMIGHTY ARMS. CHRIS HOLT HARRIS

CHRIS HOLT HARRIS - September 23, 2021 at 02:14 PM

JC

“ Joyce M. Cooke purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Carlton Andrew Ayles.



Joyce M. Cooke - September 22, 2021 at 06:26 PM

SM

“ Rest In Peace Carlton you will surely be missed. Shirley Peters McCray



Shirley Peters McCray - September 21, 2021 at 09:44 PM

CE

“ RIH my friend where you can now breathe. You will be missed.

Claudette Ellett - September 21, 2021 at 09:51 AM



“ 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 - September 20, 2021 at 03:55 PM