



## Claude Stevens

May 20, 1948 - January 8, 2012

Claude Stevens, educator, author, philanthropist, husband, father, brother and passed, Sunday, January 8, 2012 at MCV in Richmond, Virginia. He was 63 years old. Born May 20, 1948 in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Warrenton, Virginia, Claude was the oldest of seven children of Daisy and the late Lester B. Stevens, Sr. Though his siblings exasperated him and tried his patience in every way, shape and form, and in spite of the fact that they all knew he was their mother's favorite. They all admired and loved him dearly and came to depend on his unflappability during crises, organizational savvy and corny jokes.

Claude was an educator. With a Bachelor of Science of Physics from Virginia State University, he completed his Masters in Nuclear Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York and worked for Exxon in Houston, Texas. Upon his return to Richmond, he earned his MBA at Virginia Commonwealth University and began cultivating, through his employment, a personal commitment to give back to the community. He taught math at J. Sargeant Reynolds, was an analyst for Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the City of Richmond, served as the Chief Operating Officer at Boaz and Ruth and Executive Director at Support One.

As a long-time member of the Rotary Club and regular contributor to various charities, Claude was a humanitarian who possessed a deep appreciation for non-profit organizations and charities whose programs focused on both local and international communities.

A witty and eloquent speaker, Claude's self-deprecating and dry sense of humor entertained and educated audiences for over 20 years as a distinguished Toastmaster in Houston, Texas and Richmond, Virginia.

Claude authored "Imagine That!", a chronicle of "4 years, 3 Months and 7 Days of Meaningful Work" as Chief Operating Officer at Boaz & Ruth. The book opens with one of Claude's favorite quotes by Arthur Ashe: "Start where you are; use what you have; do

what you can.” He epitomized this both in and out of the workplace, always lending a helping hand of support to anyone in whatever way he could, whether this was assisting with resumes, buying groceries for others, building up the self-esteem of others through mentoring or simply inspiring others by his own actions. A driven list maker with an unending quest for knowledge, Claude was unfamiliar with the concept of a 40-hour work week, often working late into the evening or rising at ungodly hours to either (a) complete several tasks, (b) begin the next two or three or (c) do all of the above. Prior to his illness he was planning a second printing of “Imagine That!” and working on his next book.

Among those mourning his loss are his wife, Martha Denise Stevens and their daughter, Leslie; his son, John Stevens IV (Kaila) and daughter, Jessi Stevens and their mother, Laura W. Stevens; his mother, Daisy Stevens; his siblings, Lynn Stevens, Lester Stevens Jr., Eric Stevens, Rene Marie, Sam Stevens, and John Stevens III. Other survivors include his stepson, Marcus Ransome (Veronica); god-daughter, Regais Wilson; 3 brothers-in-law; 7 sisters-in-laws; 2 step-grandsons; aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

JAN 12. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel  
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23222  
(804) 321-4200  
info@marchfh.com  
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

### Memorial Service

JAN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Chapel  
Richmond, VA 23222

# Tribute Wall



“ Claude Stevens

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ I wish to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of my old VSU friend Claude. My prayers are with you and your family. I pray that your memories of Claude have brought you numerous periods of peace.  
I cannot believe that he is gone. I will never ever forget our friendship forged through the Richmond Chapter of the VSU Alumni. Claude Stevens was one of a kind. He had a quirky talent of being extremely smart, uniquely funny, a diligent worker and tremendously insightful. I deeply miss him. His grandfather (Rev. Stone) was also my Pastor growing up at Truevine Baptist Church in Franklin County, Va. Trojans we have lost a great champion. Continue to rest in peace.  
Bertha McEnhimer Washington, Midlothian, Va  
VSU 77 & 81

Bertha Washington - June 14, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ My Dearest Old Friend, I was searching for you tonight on Facebook, and was so sad when I found you have gone on....I am so sorry I did not get a chance to say good bye!!! I can't believe you are gone. I will never ever forget our friendship. I pray your going was peaceful. Love u 4 ever! Rest in peace Luv u from Washington DC 05/25/2014

T - May 25, 2014 at 09:47 PM



“ Claude was a man of character. He had a unique personality and a keen sense of humor. I have a "Claude story" about the art of communication that I share in training sessions. I will truly miss him and his wit. Phyllis M. Henderson, Visions 2000, Inc.

Phyllis M. Henderson - January 14, 2012 at 09:56 AM

GC

“ One of the most caring, understanding, sometimes funny, straight to the point man that we met on our journey, you will certainly be missed. Claude you will always be as close as a memory. Our deepest sympathy goes to the family. Peace, prayers, and blessings.

*The Coley's  
Kelvin, Milton, & Geraldine*

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**Geraldine Coley** - January 12, 2012 at 11:46 AM

CT

“ Claude was truly a remarkable and unforgettable person. He made you feel proud to tell someone you knew him. God has added him to his special ensemble of greatness.

*Connie Turner  
Community College Workforce Alliance*

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**Connie Turner** - January 12, 2012 at 10:24 AM

MJ

“ Hoping that, through reading His Word, the Bible, and prayer, Jehovah will give the family peace and comfort during these difficult times.(Romans 15:4)

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**M. Johnson** - January 12, 2012 at 08:05 AM

LW

“ Claude Stevens was one of a kind. He was that unique talent of being extremely smart, extremely funny and extremely insightful... all at the same time. As one of the many he mentored, he will be truly missed.

*Linda A. Williams  
Williams & Associates*

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**Linda A. Williams** - January 11, 2012 at 02:39 PM

MS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 3yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.”—ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!

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**Ms Springer** - January 11, 2012 at 04:33 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - January 10, 2012 at 04:42 PM

CC

*For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to Claude's family.  
From the family of Anja and Clifton Cheatham Jr.*

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**Clifton Cheatham** - January 13, 2012 at 10:15 AM