



Milton Earl Brooks

October 4, 1949 - January 24, 2026

Milton Earl Brooks, a devoted father and United States Air Force veteran, departed this earth quietly on January 24, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of service, intellect, and unconditional love.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Milton Earl Brooks was the son of John Mitchell Brooks, a respected civil rights leader and NAACP organizer, and Helen Mae Sampson Brooks. Raised in a household deeply rooted in civic responsibility and social justice, Milton's life was shaped early by the values of service, discipline, and integrity. As his dear friend Frank Cale shared, "He lived a life of quiet dignity, accepting people as they are and serving as a role model to all."

As a young man, Milton stood at the crossroads of history. In April 1968, he served as one of the pallbearers/escort detail during the funeral procession of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., walking beside the casket as the nation mourned the loss of a leader whose work forever changed America. His presence in that solemn moment reflected both the gravity of the time and the legacy of civil rights leadership passed down through his family.

Milton attended Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond, Virginia, and later Virginia Union University. He served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1971 to 1974, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant (SSGT).

Stationed at Aviano Air Base in Italy, he represented the United States overseas during a critical era of global tension and transformation. His service was recognized with multiple commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Beyond uniform and history, Milton was a man of curiosity and refinement. He loved to read, debate politics, and explore the world around him. An avid traveler, skier, and swimmer—and a connoisseur of gourmet food—he approached life with both intellect and enthusiasm. He was also a passionate collector of swords, firearms, and watches, reflecting his appreciation for craftsmanship, history, and precision.

Above all else, Milton was a father. He was the proud father of Krystal J. Brooks (deceased) and Natasha Brooks, his only surviving daughter and the center of his world. He loved her unconditionally and made it his mission to show her the world—instilling curiosity, confidence, and a deep sense of belonging. That bond defined his life more than any title or honor.

Milton was previously married to Charmaine Copeland Brooks of Richmond, Virginia. Though an only child himself, he was blessed with many “brothers and sisters in love,” including Reuben “Doc” Copeland, Oliver “Peal” Copeland, O’Neal Copeland, Dale Copeland Maples, Frank Cale, Jim Caproni, Robyn Harton, and Clarisse Harton, along with a host of loving nieces, great-nieces, and nephews. He is also survived by cousins “Buddy” Brooks (Cheryl Brooks), Donna Brooks Lucas (Wilfred), Autumn Brooks, Jacqueline Hoyer, Jennifer Hoyer, Jeannette Giannetta, Joscelyn Wilson, Angela Cook (Joe), Brooke Spearmon (Shaun), Ryan Lucas, James Brown, and Kristin (Durand) Riggs.

In his later years, Milton made his home in Sarasota, Florida, where he was

supported by close friends, including his longtime dear friend Ms. Lupe Ryan, whose presence brought unconditional love, comfort, and companionship.

We will miss Milton deeply, but find peace in knowing that he is at rest.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service with live streaming

APR **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Milton Brooks in memory of Milton Earl Brooks*



March Funeral Homes - April 13 at 11:17 AM

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“ *Condolences to the family of Milton Brooks. He was very nice man. He worked at Walmart with me. He could work that layaway like a champ. Rest in Peace my brother we certainly miss you Praying for the during this time of bereavement*

Seevon Y Hunter - April 21 at 06:20 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 - April 13 at 11:17 AM