



## Rexford G. Steptoe

May 20, 1929 - January 18, 2005

Rexford Gilbert Steptoe, Jr. peacefully passed away at his home on Tuesday January 18, 2005. He was born on May 20, 1929 in Washington, DC., the first born son of the late Rexford G. Steptoe, Sr. and Mayme Abramson Steptoe. His parents emphasized the value of learning and education to their children and the value of comporting themselves with dignity and resolve. He received his early education in the District of Columbia public schools. Rex served in the U.S. Army from March, 1951 through March, 1953. He was a member of the 646th Transportation Company. His tour of duty allowed him to serve in Germany, France and Spain. After honorably completing his military service, he furthered his education and began a long career in administrative and executive positions in many industries and locations, to include Texas Christian University, Texas Southern University, the Dallas County Community Action Agency, Emory University (Atlanta), Constant Care Community Health Center (Baltimore), Senior Financial Consultant at Kirschner Associates (D.C.), Senior Management Analyst at PRC in McLean, Va. Rex retired from Westinghouse in 1991 as a Senior Contracts Administrator. As a retiree, he enjoyed yard work, caring for the family pets and engaging his wife, family and friends in enthusiastic discussions of world affairs, politics and the local governments of Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Rex had a biting wit, was a master of retort and had a style of conversing that drew people to him and made him a favorite in any discussion of substance. Rex's children loved and enjoyed their devoted father. As youngsters, they were never far from him.

They became staples at his places of business, at fine restaurants and even at his neighborhood social clubs where he sat and socialized with his friends while they played nearby or listened quietly, while the adults conversed. As a parent, he was very protective of his children. He taught his daughters basics of good grooming and actively tended to his children's religious education, morals and manners. He actively ensured that they developed a strong work ethic, a sense of responsibility and taught them how to conduct themselves in work and social environments. Rex shared with his children his love of football; especially the Washington Redskins, Jazz, Blues, and Classical music. He was an avid, skilled swimmer and passed the love of the sport to his children; especially to his only son, Phillip. Rex encouraged his children to set lofty goals and ensured that they were all well educated. He loved to engage them in lively discussions of politics, government and social affairs and he instilled in them the importance of independence self-sufficiency. He is survived by: his wife Jean Caldwell Steptoe; one son, Phillip Anthony Steptoe; three daughters, Carolyn Steptoe Israel (Troy), Julie Steptoe Lee, Esq. and Marsha Steptoe Culler (Leonard); grandchildren, Alphonso Augustus Lee, Amanda Gilbert Lee, August Julian Lee, John R. Plummer III, Loren M. Culler and Devin M. Culler; two sisters, Sonia S. Carroll and Shirley M. Steptoe; two late brothers, Francis Hogan Steptoe and Robert Deaton Steptoe; nephew, Thomas U. Carroll; and nieces, Angela Theresa Carroll and Tanya Carroll Brinson; many great-nephews; his mother-in-law, Dorothy E. Caldwell; and step-daughters, Karen D. Carter and Renee J. Carter; and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ continued - Daughter Carolyn's Father's Day Tribute (June 16, 2024)

*IT WAS YOU who showed me how to love - even during great personal sorrow, pain and hurt. And IT WAS YOU who exemplified how to retain our moral compass (“stay high”) when others annihilate you (“go low”).*

*So, Mr. Steptoe – my beloved Father – on this day, as is every day...I HONOR who God gave to me as a devoted, engaged and very honorable role model father – same throughout my entire life – cradle to grave.*

*I have never admired anyone more than I admire and emulate you. IT WAS YOU from whom I modeled so much of my priorities, my decisions and my affiliations.*

*Even when I was horrible towards you, said horrible things and emotionally disconnected from you at times, IT WAS YOU who never left me – even when I know I hurt you. IT WAS YOU who always understood, embraced and forgave. IT WAS YOU who retained humanity, grace and mercy towards me (and so many others). IT WAS YOU.... THAT WAS YOU!*

*Thank you, Father – my beloved, Mr. Steptoe!*

*I am grateful you were the god [little “g”] that God gave me [until I recognized Him as the Big “G”]. Not perfect – none are – but certainly worthy of the highest parental semblance of worship, honor, reverence and esteem.*

*IT IS YOU... who you are; what you have done, how you lived and how you reared & imparted your moral & intellectual compass onto your children.*

*IT IS YOU – And I THANK YOU! IT IS YOU! Amen and Hallelujah.  
BLESSED FATHER'S DAY!!*

*- Your eldest daughter, Carolyn  
Father's Day, June 16, 2024*

---

**Rev. Dr. Carolyn C. Steptoe** - June 15, 2024 at 08:02 PM

RS

“ Ode to Mr. Steptoe, my beloved Father - Honoring you on Father’s Day – and every day!  
“IT WAS YOU!”

*As I reflect on the significance of Father’s Day to me, I can only attest that who I am - so nearing age 65 - It is BECAUSE OF YOU! Yes Father, IT WAS YOU who, at age 8 or 9, combed, parted and plaited my wooly hair...IT WAS YOU.*

*IT WAS YOU who, when I felt insecure and lonely throughout our many childhood relocations, IT WAS YOU who would come into our room and check in on us.*

*IT WAS YOU who sat at the kitchen table, and ate daily meals with us...THAT WAS YOU! IT WAS YOU who made us come into the kitchen while you cooked because you knew the importance of consistent bonding with your children. IT WAS YOU!*

*My beloved 6’5, Brooks Brother HERO. THE HERO who walked boldly and protectively with us along the many streets of our many locales, making sure we felt and knew your loving commitment and devotion to us...THAT WAS YOU!*

*IT WAS YOU, as we became teenagers, and began to rebel as we experienced the growing pains of desired independence - IT WAS YOU who would do whatever was necessary to “not lose touch” with us. You joined us as we watched television, sat with us on the patio, sometimes let us wear the latest fads (sometimes). And, you even let me join you in smoking cigarettes (so weird) ... all to stay connected with your growing teens and “not lose them,” you said... THAT WAS YOU!*

*IT WAS YOU who sat with me and heard my unspoken pleas and quiet confusion. IT WAS YOU when I began making irresponsible mistakes and bringing them back to you ... IT WAS YOU ... only you... who remedied them - without ever, ever reminding me or*

*forcing me to relive them. IT WAS YOU!*

*IT WAS YOU who trekked all around the DMV getting letters of recommendation from my high school teachers and counselors for me to timely start college – THAT WAS YOU! And IT WAS EVEN YOU who selected all the schools to send the applications for admittance. THAT WAS YOU who not only thankfully acknowledged my acceptance to Dillard University ... but IT WAS YOU who bought two (2) airline tickets & sat next to me on the airplane. IT WAS YOU who also stayed with me in New Orleans for two (2) weeks throughout my freshman orientation --- THAT WAS YOU. IT WAS YOU who understood and sacrificed because you knew your “cool DC daughter” was TERRIFIED... IT WAS ONLY YOU!*

*And it was only you who (LOL!) located where my off-campus boyfriend lived, telephoned his house and directed me... in your inimitable verbiage...back to Dillard’s campus – or else! HA! THAT WAS YOU!*

*Your fatherly devotion did not end post-college - Oh no! Because when I suddenly married - without your knowledge or “fatherly permission,” IT WAS YOU who took the reins of protection on behalf of your hard-headed, defiant eldest daughter when struggles in the marriage occurred. Indeed, IT WAS ONLY YOU who wielded your strong arm of protection and enlisted your attorney buddy, Mr. Stampley, to handle the dilemma. (Thank you!) Yes, IT WAS YOU. And, IT WAS ALSO YOU who never reminded me or forced me to relive my decisions and the consequences of my decisions... THAT WAS YOU too.*

*Time continued to pass, and IT WAS YOU – now well into my 30s and 40s - who constantly advised me about my career & workplace actions (ha!), my spending (too many vacations), my solo property purchase (of which you were very proud- thank you!), and especially my role & commitment to my siblings, your children – THAT WAS ALL YOU.*

*Of course, IT WAS YOU who repeatedly called to warn of freezing temperatures and frozen pipes.... which for 20 years never froze until you passed.*

*In effect, IT WAS YOU who taught me resiliency, tenacity, fortitude and self-pride. IT WAS YOU who taught us not to be followers; to think for ourselves and be careful and exercise discretion with all alliances... all alliances!!! IT WAS YOU from whom I learned serious thinking, serious reading, non-foolery and unpretentious class. [CONTINUE]*

---

**Rev. Dr. Carolyn C. Steptoe** - June 15, 2024 at 08:01 PM



“ *Rexford G. Steptoe*

---

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

TC

*Happy Fathers Day 2023 to Uncle Rex from Nephew Tuck.*

---

**thomas carroll** - June 16, 2023 at 09:24 AM

MC

“ *Happy birthday Dad! I always think about you saying, "you're going to miss me when i am gone". You were right. I miss you so much. Children have no idea the void that is created within the heart when they lose a parent. Your oldest daughter Carolyn is now Dr. Steptoe. We are so proud of her, and I am sure you are too. Love you so much. Continue to rest well. Your baby girl, Marsha*

---

**Marsha S Culler** - May 20, 2022 at 05:10 PM



“ I am so sorry to learn of your loss, I hope that you are finding comfort in family and friends. May the Bible help. At Revelation 21:3,4. It tell us that one day sickness and death will be things of the pass. I hope this will encourage you.##imported-begin##Julia Brown##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Im not sure if I should leave a message here being that Im your daughter and this site is for guests. But you always taught us to go where we want to go rather than where people allow us to go. It's been six months Pop and I think about you everyday. If anyone had told me before you passed that I would miss you as much as I do, I would not have believed them. Afterall, I am a Steptoe. But I miss you. Dearly, Everyday. In so many ways. For so many reasons. Thank you Pop. Love, Julie.##imported-begin##Julie Lee##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ hello Pop. I miss you. We all miss you. Julie.##imported-begin##julie##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I love you Pop. I dreamed about you last night.##imported-begin##Marsha##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but know that the God of comfort is with you all during this time of tribulation. (2Corinthian 1:3-4) Due to the many unforeseen occurrences that brings tragedy to our lives Jehovah God promises one day soon Death will be no more (Rev 21:3-4) and his son have been given the authority to bring all those in the memorial tombs back to life. John 5:28-29 Just think there will come a time not only will death be no more but Jehovah promises that no one will have to say I'm sick according to Isaiah 33:24. I feel the need to express these words of hope because so many of us today treasure the gift of life and we do all we can to maintain it to hold on to it. That is why it hurts so badly when our loved ones die. With so many of us desiring life today no matter how good or bad it is we still want life here on earth. No one looks forward to that time of death. That is why I am under obligation by the spirit and love of God to share that hope that is in our near future that the righteous shall inherit the earth and reside upon it forever according to Psalms 37: 29 along with the above stated promises on a paradise and peaceful earth. We all can hold true to this everlasting promise because Isaiah 55:11 states all the words Jehovah have spoken WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT RESULTS. What a wonderful prospect for our future especially enlight of the fact that Hebrews 6:18 States of God, it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to lie.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Amen Carter. Thank you for your prayers and guidance. God, Jehovah Almighty, is good. When we are weakest, he reminds us. Thank you, Julie.##imported-begin##Julie##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hi Pop, Hope you are having fun in your new life. We miss you so much and I am always reminded of you by the look of your grandson John. I am sorry that I prayed you to stop visiting me. I thought it would help you rest, but now again....I still miss you so much! I love you always. Your youngest baby girl as you always called me. I raise my children alot like you raised me, with patience, love, and a quiet presence but with a strong determined spirit. Why did you have to leave so early? Marsha##imported-begin##Marsha##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hi Pop, Your grandson John is doing very well. He is a senior at Howard, and very focused. He looks and acts just like you. Very staunch about things as you were, strong and in control. I know you would be proud of him. Love you always.##imported-begin##Marsha Culler##imported-end##

---

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM