



## Ryland O. Whitaker Sr.

July 6, 1949 - March 6, 2018

"And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three: but the greatest of these is love."

God sits high and looks low. He surveys the earth and sends down what it needs at the appointed time it is needed. Sometimes He takes from His Heavenly Garden seeds to multiply upon the earth. Those seeds may be similar, but each is filled with a unique character trait that will add to life on earth. Some seeds have hard shells filled with faith to endure the long winter seasons. Others have lighter shells filled with hope to brighten each new day. Still others have soft shells that break open and fill the world with love and compassion.

On July 6, 1949, God chose to send a seed to Baltimore, Maryland. He had already sent Abel and Inez Whitaker two seeds named Marcus (predeceased) and Bernard. This new seed would be a soft shelled seed that Abel and Inez would name Ryland. They were charged to shower this seed with love and nurture it in a strong Christian environment. They planted him in Sharon Baptist Church where he would grow strong roots and sing to the Glory of God in the Elliott Choir.

Abel and Inez made sure their seed, Ryland, developed the character of Christ and gained knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Ryland became a

faithful member of the Cadets of America, Belmont Unit #1812. He attended the public schools in Baltimore City, graduating from Edmondson High School in 1967. While there, he was on the cross country team and excelled in Mechanics. He went on to attend Morgan State College (now University) where he was a member of the ROTC and the Pershing Rifles Drill Team (a special drill team produced from ROTC to perform during the Homecoming Halftime as well as other events).

While attending Morgan, this soft shelled seed filled with love met the love of his life. During the torrential rainfall (God's Blessing), on March 30, 1974, Ryland married Deborah Stevenson and the two became one pod. From their union, they produced three seeds of their own, Monica, Ryland, Jr., and Aaron. During the month leading to their 44th wedding anniversary, Ryland parted this earthly garden on March 6, 2018.

The seed called Ryland had a personality that endeared himself to anyone he met. Once you met him, you had to love him. He had a heart that embraced all. As a young boy, he touched the heart of an elderly neighbor who would let him work at his gas station. He taught Ryland all he knew about cars. Ryland had a passion for cars. He loved high performance cars and trucks. He owned a red custom built 1965 fastback Ford Mustang which he raced at 75/80 Racetrack and Capital Raceway.

He passed his love of high performance vehicles on to his sons. Ryland had childhood friends who remained lifelong friends. Everywhere he worked he would develop lasting friendships. Ryland worked as a draftsman at Bendix Corporation and Westinghouse Electric Systems Group. His 25 years of service at Westinghouse saw him advance to Supervisor of the Engineering Vault. After 12 years at Giant Food Warehouse as a Selector, Ryland decided to finally retire for good.

After retiring, Ryland spent much of his time doing things he really loved. Though born and raised in the city, he loved the country feel of life in Suffolk, Virginia. On one visit, he saw his uncle Herbert struggling to cut wood for his stove. Another of his loves was cutting wood. Ryland could spend hours cutting wood then come home and arrange them neatly in piles that bordered his yard like a fence. After that visit to his uncle's farm, he vowed he would cut and take a truckload of chopped wood to his uncle, which he did. Another uncle honored him with his 1990 Oldsmobile that Ryland proudly kept in pristine working condition sporting his historic tags as he made his daily trek to the store.

Ryland had many other loves. You could always find him sitting in his big chair watching football, old TV westerns and movies. He knew them by heart. Another great love was working in his garden and yard. Ryland could spend countless hours with his dad and father-in-law planting fruits and vegetables; digging and planting trees; landscaping the yard; and anything else that allowed him to be outside near the soil. There were few things that brought him that much joy. The exception, however, was the love of his family. Ryland loved family gatherings and visits to Homecoming in Suffolk, but his ultimate love was for his wife and their children. Eyes could glaze over as he shared stories about his children that he would tell on more than one occasion. Yet you didn't mind listening because you knew his stories came not from puffed up pride, but pure and simple love and admiration. After time spent with this soft shelled seed named Ryland, filled with love and compassion, you were and still are compelled to spread love as he did.

Ryland now rests in peace in God's Heavenly Garden. There he continues to have a watchful eye, a listening ear and a heart filled with love for those he has left here on earth: his other half of the pod, his loving wife Deborah; his three seeds, his devoted children, Monica Whitaker Britton (Patrick), Ryland

O. Whitaker, Jr., and Aaron K. Whitaker (Angel); his four seeds of his seed, his precious grandchildren, Ka'lia, Naima, and Olivia Britton, Kyra Whitaker and her brother Kevin Parker; brother, Bernard A. Whitaker (Carolyn); sister-in-law, Betty J. Whitaker; brothers-in-law, Arnold L. Stevenson (Yvette) and Dudley H. Stevenson; nephews, nieces, grandnieces and grandnephews, cousins and friends.

# Previous Events

## viewing

MAR 16. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Family Hour

MAR 16. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Wake

MAR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Sharon Baptist Church  
1373 N. Stricker Street  
Baltimore, MD

## Service

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MAR 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sharon Baptist Church  
1373 N. Stricker Street  
Baltimore, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ryland O. Whitaker Sr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Debbie know that we are praying for your strength and that GOD will comfort you. Love Morris and Family.*



**Morris** - March 16, 2018 at 09:32 PM



“ *Debbie, we were saddened to of the passing of your husband. Because you know Jesus you know He is with you during joyous times and times of sadness. Allow His love for you bring you peace and comfort during this season. Yvonne and Montell*

**Yvonne Cunion** - March 15, 2018 at 04:14 PM



“ *Cousins Barbara Luke and Linda Young purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ryland O. Whitaker Sr..*



**Cousins Barbara Luke and Linda Young** - March 15, 2018 at 02:09 AM

LC

“ *Linda Chappell lit a candle in memory of Ryland O. Whitaker Sr.*



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**Linda Chappell** - March 13, 2018 at 04:11 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ryland O. Whitaker Sr..*



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March 12, 2018 at 04:10 PM

BL

“ *Please remember that you are not alone... We are thinking about you and sending love.*

*(Michigan) Barbara Little and Family/David Whitaker, Jr. and Family*

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**Barbara Little** - March 11, 2018 at 05:41 PM

BL

“ *Barbara Little lit a candle in memory of Ryland O. Whitaker Sr.*



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**Barbara Little** - March 11, 2018 at 05:33 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - March 09, 2018 at 08:25 AM