



## Lt. Col William L. Rayfield

June 7, 1931 - March 24, 2017

William Lee Rayfield, the eldest son of Charles and Elizabeth Rayfield, was born on June 7, 1931 in Pocomoke City, Maryland. "Rayfield" or "Sugar Ray", as he was affectionately called, was educated in the Baltimore City public school system and graduated from Carver High School. He was an All-City Athlete in football and basketball, Golden Gloves champ in boxing (1947-49), and an honor student. Rayfield became a member of Sharp Street United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland at an early age. Rayfield graduated from Hampton Institute in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. While at Hampton, he continued to excel in football, track and boxing. His prowess on the football field attracted the attention of the Cleveland Browns who drafted him as an offensive lineman. Though tempted by a career in the NFL, Rayfield chose to enter the United States Army as an officer. Reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Rayfield served the United States with distinction for

thirty-three years, which included a combat tour in Vietnam in 1967. He was highly decorated with the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Medal. Upon retirement, he began a twenty year career with Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission as a Maintenance Supervisor.

In 1957, William was united in marriage to Dolores Pate Bryant, Hampton Institute class of 1955. To this union, two wonderful sons, William L. Rayfield II, MD, of Ellicott City, Maryland and John Charles Rayfield, MD of San Antonio, Texas, were born. Rayfield was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores Rayfield; siblings Lorraine Burnham, Alvin Rayfield, and Samuel Rayfield. He leaves to celebrate his life, his sons, "Butch" and John; daughter Janet Blair; daughter-in-law Karen Rayfield; grandchildren, William Zachary Rayfield and wife Sarah, Lael Aaryn Rayfield, Jakub Zane Rayfield, Ethan Bryant Rayfield, Sienna Violet Rayfield, Tyus Alexander Vartee, Tyeisha Francine Blair; and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAR 31. 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110  
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

## Wake

APR 1. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110  
<https://www.marchlifetributecenter.com>

## Service

APR 1. 11:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Lt. Col William L. Rayfield*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I remember Bill as a gentle giant. His smile and cheerful demeanor was inspiring. Rest in peace Ray! You will live on in our memories.*

**Tom Pearce** - April 29, 2017 at 09:49 AM



“ *mr . bill i am sorry to hear you left us this is your buddy saunders you would always saunders did i tell you ---- have not talk to ya in 15 years but you will always be in my mind so good bye from saunders*

**Donald Saunders** - April 28, 2017 at 07:43 PM



“ *Mr. Mayfield was my Division Chief at MNCPPC. He was an outstanding man, very honest and dedicated. I was out of the country when he passed and very surprised and sad to read about his passing in a newsletter. Ed Arnold*

**Ed Arnold** - April 27, 2017 at 09:52 PM



“ *To the family and friends ! I would like to express my condolence to you all.May your days ahead be filled with many all the cherish times share to gather.Our creator is there to help heal and comford us all.Sincerely Crosby*

**Lillian crosby** - March 31, 2017 at 08:49 PM

CM

“ *The Gibson family has a long history with the Rayfields and we share in your loss. Stories of football and Ft Leavenworth abound. My dad has gone ahead of him and we look forward to the services at ANC.*

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**Colleen Gibson Morehead** - March 30, 2017 at 12:23 PM



“ *Please accept our sincere condolences during your time of bereavement. May you be comforted reading Ps. 34:18*

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**Harris Family** - March 27, 2017 at 12:35 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 27, 2017 at 08:53 AM