



Rollon McKeith Thompson

October 18, 1921 - January 23, 2020

Celebrating Rollon Thompson's Journey

Rollon was born October 18, 1921 in Cheraw, South Carolina to Manning Thompson and Roxanne (Bittle) Thompson. Rollon's life journey ended on January 23, 2020...his sunset arriving 98years, two months and five days after he entered this world. God graced him with longevity, allowing him to serve his country throughout most of his life, witness the growth of African -Americans and become a guiding light of accomplishment to his children and grandchildren.

As a child, Rollon watched as the horse-drawn carriage arrived early each morning to pick up his parents and take them to the fields to pick cotton from sunup to sundown. In 1926 his father migrated alone to Cincinnati in search of a better life for his family. He secured employment at The American Oak Leather Company. Once employed, Manning moved his wife and children to Cincinnati.

Rollon attended Cincinnati Public Schools and completed his high school education at Tailoring High School, where he also played varsity basketball. In 1940, a year after his graduation, he joined The Ohio Army National Guard and began a 34-year distinguished military career, which included active duty service in The National Guard, World War II, The Korean War and The Army Reserves. When he was first called to active duty in The National Guard, he was stationed with his unit at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. There, he qualified for Infantry Officers Candidate School. On September 1, 1942 he completed officer training, earning his commission as Second Lieutenant Rollon Thompson.

During World War II, LT Thompson served in the Philippines. He returned to Cincinnati in 1943 and was assigned again to the Ohio Army National Guard. That same year he met and married Elva Foye. The couple were soon blessed with two sons, Rollon Michael. and Kenneth.

In 1949 Rollon started his career with the United States Postal Service, while he continued training in the National Guard and was promoted to Captain. During the buildup to the onset of the Korean War, he was re-activated and served in Japan. He began a two-

year tour of Korea in 1953. Rollon had an amazing ability to balance his military service with obtaining his education. In spite of raising a family and military duties, Rollon attended New York University, Washington Lee University and Chase Law School to further his education.

Throughout his life, Rollon was involved with several hobbies and extra-curricular activities, including traveling the globe with Army companions, golfing, playing bridge, canasta and pinochle. He also loved watching old cowboy movies and old television series. Rollon was a judge and referee for amateur boxing in Ohio and Arizona for more than 20 years.

Following Elva's death in 1968, Rollon re-married Joyce Showes-Green in 1972. His marriage to Joyce, blessed his life with her daughter, Cyd Charrise (Green) Williams. Rollon continued working for the Postal Service, retiring from this career and the Army Reserves simultaneously in 1981 on his 60th birthday. By then he had become a postal supervisor and a Major in The Army Reserves.. In 1999 Rollon moved to Phoenix, AZ spending 11 years near his oldest son Rollon Michael and daughter-in-law Olga. In 2010 he returned to Cincinnati where he continued a very peaceful retirement under the watchful eyes of his youngest son Kenneth and daughter-in-law Carolyn.

Rollon was preceded in death by his father Manning Thompson; his mother, Roxanne Bittle; step-mother, Daisy Thompson, his brother, Australia Thompson and his wife and mother of his children, Elva Thompson. His amazing legacy will forever be cherished by his sons, Rollon (Olga) Thompson (Phoenix, AZ) and Kenneth (Carolyn) Thompson of Cincinnati; his daughter, Dr. Cyd Williams of Marietta, GA; Grandsons Marq Thompson (Euless, TX), Kai Thompson (Columbus, OH), Ryan Thompson (Cincinnati, OH); Granddaughter RaGann Gipson (Cincinnati, OH); Great -Grandsons CeVaughn Gipson and Christian Gipson (Cincinnati, OH), Great-Granddaughter Aidyn Applegate (Ft. Walton Beach, FL). He will also be dearly missed by a multitude of friends and relatives along the East Coast, from New York to South Carolina and West to Arizona that he touched on his journey.

Cemetery

Events

Spring Grove Cemetery
4521 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, OH, 45232

JAN
30

Visitation

09:00AM - 10:00AM

Cedars of Lebanon (Spring Grove Cemetery)
4521 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH, US, 45232

JAN
30

Service

10:00AM - 11:00AM

Cedars of Lebanon (Spring Grove Cemetery)
4521 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH, US, 45232

Comments



“ I have some very happy memories of Mr. Thompson. We attended the same Lutheran church in Silverton when I was growing up. While he was working for the Cincinnati Reds as a security guard my brother and I would go down and talk with him while he stood outside the dugout between innings. He always made us feel special. I will always have very fond memories of him. May you all have peaceful hearts and happy memories.
~Valerie (Biedinger) Whitemore

Valerie Whitemore - January 30, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ Kenny and Carolyn

May the God of peace keep you during this time and His love is forever comforting.

Jerome Martin and Janette Frederick, Charlotte, NC

Jerome M & Janette Frederick - January 30, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ To The Thompson Family:

Kenny,

May the Lord's hands of compassion and love and His guiding light shine upon you and give you strength during this time of sorrow in the loss of your father. May you find comfort in knowing that we share in your loss.

Bill and Helen Simmons and Family

Willie D. Simmons - January 29, 2020 at 05:01 PM



“ To The Thompson family

Kenny,

Our hearts go out to you on the lost of your father. We are so glad we got to meet him and to know him. May it comfort you to know we care. May God continue to bless you and your family during this difficult time and always.

David and LaVerne Moses

LaVerne Moses - January 29, 2020 at 01:34 PM



“ KT, Carolyn and family please know that you're in my prayers during this time of loss...asking God to strengthen your hearts with comfort, love and peace until you're ready to stand on steady ground... We all belong to a club that we never wished to joined but our Faith will sustain us and our friendship will help us as I'm here for you... prayerfully. Jacque Wright Sims

Jacque Wright Mays 3 - January 29, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rollon McKeith Thompson.



January 29, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ To the Thompson Family

Kenny,

Words can't express the sorrow that you must be feeling at this time.

Neither can simple words of comfort you. But God has promised help from above, unfailing sympathy and undying love so lean on him.

Delores and Ricardo Harrison



Delores Pierce Harrison - January 28, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ To the Thompson Family

Kenny,

So sorry to hear about the lost of your father. Our deepest sympathy to with you and your family.

Marie and Jack Hall



Marie Williams Hall - January 28, 2020 at 09:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rollon McKeith Thompson.



January 28, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ To the Thompson Family
Kenny,

I'm so sorry and sadden to hear that your father died. Wishing you strength and peace during this difficult time. Mom sends her sympathy and prayers also.

Toni Richmond

Mozelle Toni Richmond - January 27, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ The Bittle Family (Frederick, Carolyn, and Ruth) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rollon McKeith Thompson.



The Bittle Family (Frederick, Carolyn, and Ruth) - January 27, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ Ruth Bittle lit a candle in memory of Rollon McKeith Thompson



Ruth Bittle - January 27, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ Frederick And Carolyn Bittle lit a candle in memory of Rollon McKeith Thompson



Frederick and Carolyn Bittle - January 27, 2020 at 08:36 PM



“ Kenny, Carolyn, and Rollon -

We are sorry to hear of your Father's passing. May God's Grace and Mercy keep and comfort you now and always.

With Sincere and Heartfelt Sympathy,

Jerry & Raye Ann Cosby



Raye Ann Cosby - January 27, 2020 at 07:55 PM



“ Raye Ann Cosby lit a candle in memory of Rollon McKeith Thompson



Raye Ann Cosby - January 27, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ "Now the labourer's task is over;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Father, in thy gracious keeping
Leave we now thy servant sleeping."

With deepest sympathy and Love;
Herb And Delores Baker

Delores Baker - January 28, 2020 at 09:02 PM



“ Mike, Kenny, Cyd, Carolyn and Olga,

Our most sincere condolences are extended to you. It is with a heavy heart that we send love and God's blessings. May we all find comfort in prayer. As cousins we will love each other and keep the love flowing.

Annie/Louis Madison College Park, Georgia

Annie/Louis Madison - January 28, 2020 at 11:57 PM