

Celebrating the Life of
ELMER LEON RODDY

April 19, 1939 ~ March 4, 2025



MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025
10:30 A.M. FAMILY HOUR | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES®
5055 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II - PASTOR

OBITUARY

On Tuesday, March 4, 2025, Retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Elmer Leon Roddy transitioned from his earthly life into eternal rest with our Lord and Savior. He was surrounded by his loving family in the comfort of his home in Accokeek, Maryland.

Leon was born on April 19, 1939, in Knoxville, Tennessee, as an only child to his parents, Clarence Wallace Roddy and Hattie L. Wilburn. He was raised by his mother and grandmother (affectionately known as “Big Momma”), along with cousins, Maxine and Dufferine, who were like sisters to him. Leon attended Austin High School in Knoxville and graduated in 1957, but not before meeting his high school sweetheart, Jan Maurice Roddy. The two married following her high school graduation in 1959 and nurtured their union for over 58 years, until her death. Although Leon and Jan had no biological children, their hearts were captured by a bright-eyed newborn baby girl, Natasha, whom they lovingly embraced as “their daughter.” Natasha and her husband, Aaron, shared their two children Aaron II and Naomi with Leon and Jan (their grandchildren). With more love to give, Leon and Jan again opened their hearts and adopted Karrie and Audrey Butler as their children and Karrie Jr. and Kyla as grandchildren.

After high school, Leon left Knoxville with his mother and moved to Cleveland, Ohio. He and his mother shared a love for fashion. Cleveland is where he was drafted into the U. S. Army in 1963. Leon completed basic training at Fort. Knox, Kentucky. He was a combat war veteran, serving two tours in Vietnam, from December 1965 to December 1966, and from January 1968 to January 1969 as part of the 14th Inventory Control and the 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Field Artillery Regiment. Throughout his military career, Leon earned many decorations and awards, such as the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He was an engineering equipment mechanic, responsible for power generation during the war. After 20 years of service and being stationed in Germany, Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Carson, Colorado, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Leon retired from active duty in March 1983. One of his most cherished assignments was working as an instructor at the USA Engineering School at Fort Belvoir. His service to his country was not over. After military retirement, Leon became a management analyst, working at the headquarters of the Department of Defense, the Pentagon, for another 20 years.

Leon and Jan not only shared a deep love for one another but also radiated that love toward their friends and family through their golden hearts. Known as “DeDe” or “Uncle DeDe,” Leon was treasured by those closest to him. Together, they opened their home with warmth and generosity, welcoming countless friends, family members, and loved ones throughout the years. They became a steady anchor in the lives of so many, a source of comfort and connection, and the glue that brought people together for moments of joy, laughter, and fellowship. Their legacy of love and kindness is truly inspiring. This fellowship included their love for the Lord. Leon and Jan joined the Bolling Air Force Base Chapel and later From the Heart Church Ministries in 1987. Leon served in the Helps Ministry and volunteered in the Media and Communication Department for many years helping with media replication and distribution to members and others in need.

Leon was an avid golfer who enjoyed playing and teaching golf, in his free time. He shared his expertise with friends and church golf ministries, offering tips on hand positioning, hip rotation and the best clubs. Although a modest man, he humorously claimed to be the best golfer in his crew. Leon also loved traveling, gardening, watching sports, and classic westerns like *Cheyenne*, *Lawman*, and *Laramie*. He and Jan traveled the world, favoring Germany, Holland, and Italy, along with various U.S. destinations. Known for his wisdom and honesty, Leon spoke openly about golf, investing, politics, Christianity, education, fatherhood, sports, and more, always encouraging others to keep going. He was a protector, provider, teacher and spiritual leader, who modeled God’s character through his life each and every day by the unconditional love he gave.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31

Elmer Leon Roddy leaves to cherish his memory, cousin/sister, Maxine Cade, Knoxville, TN; half-brother, Carl Wallace Roddy; daughter, Natasha (Aaron) Lundy, Huntingtown, MD; son, Karrie (Audrey) Butler, Waldorf, MD; sister-in-law, Joyace Harper-McCoy, Riverdale, GA; nephew, Pastor Gerald (Joyce) Folsom, Upper Marlboro, MD; nieces, Kathleen Folsom, Quitman, GA and April (Ronald) Legette, Atlanta, GA; Godsons, Anthony Bogan, Honolulu, HI and David Mosby, Jr., Fort Washington, MD; grandchildren: Karrie (Sierra) Butler, Jr., Dallas, TX, Kyla (Christopher) Walker, Alexandria, VA, Aaron II, and Naomi Lundy, Huntingtown, MD; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, golfing buddies, other relatives and friends.

Leon was preceded in death by his loving wife, Jan Roddy; mother, Hattie Wilburn; father, Clarence Roddy; cousin/sister, Dufferine Holland; in-laws, Nellie and Willie Hardin, John and Eloise Harper; and sister-in-law, MaryNell Folsom.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation

Congregational Hymn“Oh How I Love Jesus”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

SelectionFTH Psalmist

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Mrs. Maxine Cade, Cousin
Mrs. Tanya Smith, Cousin
Mr. Henry Smith, Friend
Reverend Dr. Gerald Folsom, Nephew

Obituary *(Read Silently)*

Song of PreparationFTH Psalmist

Message of HopeReverend Walter McLaughlin, III

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

Interment
Arlington National Cemetery
Date to be determined

FAMILY SENTIMENTS

Saying Goodbye

by Linda Iversen Childress

Saying goodbye to a loved one is surely one of life's most difficult tasks. There are no words powerful enough, no music soothing enough, to ease your pain at a time like this. But I know you will find consolation in knowing how much you loved and cared for each other.

You gave so much of yourself, and the precious memories of times you spent together will heal you and make you whole again. And you will understand what a blessing it was to have shared in the life of someone you loved so much.

Though you say goodbye for now, it is only until you meet again someday – when your emptiness will turn to fulfillment, your despair to joy, and you will love again for eternity in that place where no one grows old.

-Love Natasha, Aaron, AJ and Omi

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

FAMILY SENTIMENTS

Psalm 91 (NIV)

¹ *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

² *I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."*

³ *Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*

⁴ *He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

⁵ *You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,*

⁶ *nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

⁷ *A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.*

⁸ *You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.*

⁹ *If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,*

¹⁰ *no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.*

¹¹ *For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;*

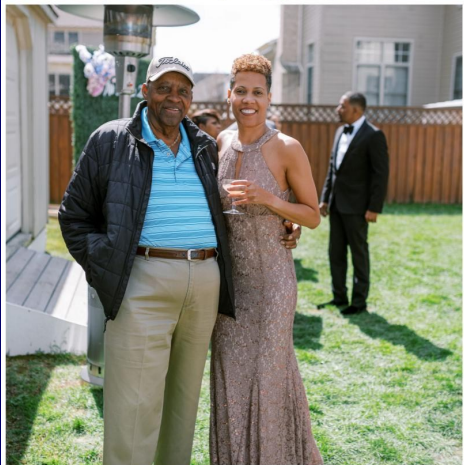
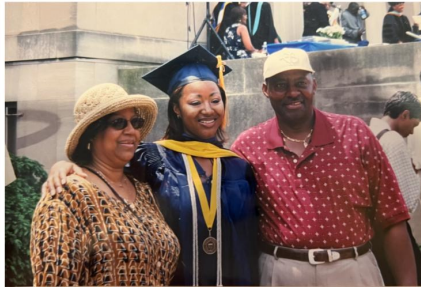
¹² *they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

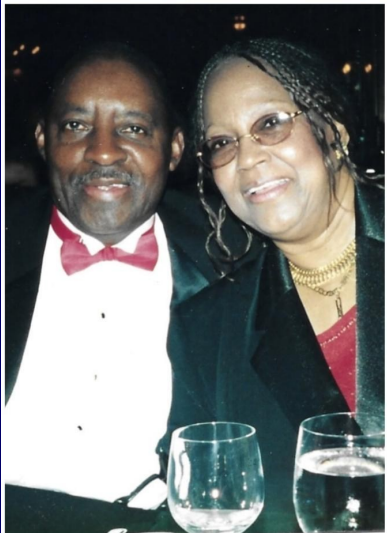
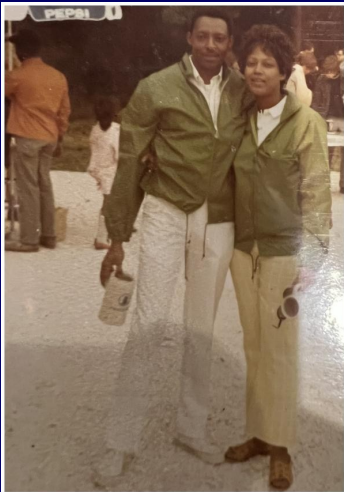
¹³ *You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

¹⁴ *"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

¹⁵ *He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.*

¹⁶ *With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."*





CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

O How I Love Jesus

There is a Name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear, The sweetest Name on earth.

It tells me what my Father hath In store for every day,
And though I tread a darksome path, Yields sunshine all the way.

Chorus

*O, how I love Jesus, O, how I love Jesus,
O, how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me!*

Chorus

It tells of One who loving heart Can feel my deepest woe,

It tells me of a Savior's love, Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood, The sinner's perfect plea.

Who in each sorrow bears a part, That none can bear below.

Chorus

Chorus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Leon Roddy would like to extend our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to all who have showered us with kindness and expressions of love during this challenging time. Words cannot fully capture the immense love and support we feel today. We hold a special place in our hearts for the Heartland Hospice Care Team—Karen, Esther, Calvin, and Chaplain Cadet—for their extraordinary and compassionate care over the past few months. Our profound thanks also go to the outstanding health care providers at the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center at Ft. Belvoir, including his dedicated "personal nurse" Bobbi, Dr. Roberts (Family Medicine), Dr. Verma, Mr. Davis, and Mysty (Hematology and Oncology). Your unwavering support and exceptional care have been a beacon of comfort and strength for us.

PALLBEARERS

Anthony Bogan, Aaron Lundy, Aaron Lundy II, Philip Marshall, Jr.,
David Mosby, Jr., Rodney Mosby

FLOWER BEARERS

Family and Friends

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Dr. James Brown, Karrie Butler, Sr., Rev. Gerald Folsom, Standford
Hannum, Calvin Jones, David Mosby, Sr., Henry Smith

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