



Calvin Bernard Richardson Jr.

April 7, 1963 - April 18, 2020

Calvin B. Richardson, Jr., a dedicated, strong warrior and child of God, departed this world on April 18, 2020. He was welcomed into the world on April 7, 1963, first born of two children to Calvin and Doris Richardson of Brooklyn New York.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife Kim Allison Richardson, of White Plaines, Maryland; two sons, Daheem Richardson (Sophia), Amari Richardson, of Worcester, Massachusetts; two brothers, Derrick Richardson (Leslie), Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Terrence Sykes (Janice), Warsaw, North Carolina; four stepdaughters, Karin Shannon and Stephanie Henderson, Worcester, Massachusetts; Savasha Whitfield (Marcel) and Shatierre Cox, Waldorf, Maryland; twelve grandchildren; one aunt Ann Richardson, Aberdeen, Maryland; four uncles, William Richardson, and Harold Patrick, New Bern, North Carolina, Vincent Becton (Katina), Manassas, Virginia; countless cousins, nieces, nephews and devoted friends, Derek Silkert (Jannelle), Fairborn, Ohio and Larry Stokes, (Suzanne) San Antonio, Texas.

Calvin was a dedicated Military Man. He initially enlisted and served in the US Army Reserves and after a short time, enlisted in the US Army (1985) with great pride and resolve. He served (1991) in three Military Campaigns of the Gulf War; Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Operation Desert Fairwell. In addition, he served in Europe during the Cold War on an Advanced Party, during which time, he achieved the rank of Sergeant. He was very proud of his service in the military and one of his greatest joys was helping his fellow Veterans. Calvin achieved twenty four years in Federal Service. He was employed at the Washington, DC Veterans Hospital as an Addiction Rehabilitation Therapist.

Calvin's lifelong goal was to study law and he passed the LSAT exam with flying colors but delayed his goal for a while. However, his achievements were exceptional. He attended Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts, where he achieved his Bachelor's Degree in Human Services, graduating with honors (Magna Cum Laude). Shortly thereafter, he entered Worcester State University, Massachusetts, where he achieved his Masters of Arts Degree in Non-Profit Management, once again with honors, achieving the status of

Magna Cum Laude.

Calvin was a member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden and he loved the Lord and the many acquaintances he made while studying several years in the Men's Ministries (Men Following Christ). This was one of his fondest accomplishments. He was tenacious, dedicated, strong and devoted to God, family and any mission undertaken. He was gregarious, and loved life. Calvin traveled to many places in the world and met many people along life's journey, but he knew no strangers. He will be sorely missed by all.

Due to unforeseen circumstances and world-wide conditions at this time, the family regrets that interment must be private and will take place at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham, Maryland (with Military Honors). However, a Memorial Service/Celebration of Life will be scheduled for family and friends at a later date (to be announced).

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions can be made in Calvin's name to the:

Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, Inc.

7008 Little River Turnpike

Annandale, VA 22003

PO Box 49

Cemetery

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

11301 Crain Hwy

Cheltenham, MD, 20623

Comments



“ My deepest condolence goes out to Kim and Calvin’s family and friends for their tremendous loss. Calvin was very kind, endeared by those blessed to know him, and he was truly my beloved Brother-in-Law. I had the utmost respect and appreciation for Calvin as a fellow veteran and “Brother in Arms,” and for his commitment to service. Calvin was such an all-around “Good Dude,” a true “Gentle Giant” with an enormously, gracious heart. My fondest memories of Calvin were found in seeing him treat folks with positive energy, his canny sense of humor and his inspirational, spiritual being. Calvin is truly missed... God Bless.

Rest in Peace, Brother Calvin

CMSgt. Marc Jackson, USAF Retired
(Brother-in –Law)

Marc Jackson - August 08 at 05:09 PM



“ Mr. Richardson was one of my substance abuse counselor's. He was so sensitive and caring towards his clients. I just recently found out about his home going. I am very saddened. But God knows what's best. My heart goes out to his wife, family and friends. He always talked of his wife and showed me his wedding pictures, his pictures of when they went on a cruise. I am clean and sober today as a result of him and others at DC VA Medical Center SARP program. He was a jewel. I would go and see him when I went to the VA. He would give me a big hug and a smile and tell me to keep up the good work. He will truly be missed.

Donna Howard - July 19 at 07:54 PM



“ Calvin and I were co-workers in the beginning when we met in 2013, but it didn't take long for us to become friends. This is what happens with two Brooklyn born and NYC raised guys. Calvin was one of the most genuine people I have ever known, my "Homie." I miss him dearly.

Burt Pearman - May 26 at 05:48 PM



“ Calvin was truly a kind and caring soul and a really good guy. He had a giant heart and cared deeply for his family, his patients, and his fellow Veterans. It was always a delight to talk with him. I am so sad for all us whose lives he touched. We were fortunate to have known him. His passing is a loss and he will be truly missed.

To the Richardson family, I am so genuinely sorry for your loss. It was obvious from his warm stories, that he loved you all so much. I am sad for both him and you that you did not have more years together. His love and what he brought to your lives will always be a part of you. Take comfort in memories of the times you shared and know that he will always be with you.

Wishing you peace and healing,
Jennifer Cho

Jennifer Cho - May 10 at 08:40 AM



“ Mr. Calvin Richardson Jr. was very relatable, respectful, respected, smart, caring, direct, and impactful. His influence on others is a testament that what he did at the Department of Veterans Affairs was not just a job but a calling and an assignment. I pray for God's comfort and peace for his wife, children, family, coworkers, and friends.

Rest Easy Good and Faithful Servant.

Patricia A. Rogers, USCG Veteran, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Patricia A. Rogers - May 07 at 01:19 PM



“ Calvin was not just a coworker; he was also my friend and he will be missed tremendously. I do not understand the suddenness of his passing it just seems like he had so much more to accomplish. Nichole and I grieve for our friend but our grief must pale in comparison to what the Richardson family must be experiencing at this time. Trying to make sense of it all we read proverbs 3:5-6 "lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your path." I have to believe that in the time Calvin was here the lives he touch were changed, the job he was sent to do was accomplished and " his Lord said well done my good and faithful servant you have been faithful over a few things , I will put you in charged of many things." We offer our deepest condolences Kim to you and your family and are here for you; whatever if ever you need. Hold on to God's unchanging hand.

Love,
Greg and Nichole Graves

Gregory Graves - May 07 at 09:36 AM



“ Rest In Peace, your job is done on earth. Memories will last.. Pamela Brimmer-Kellam and Family.



Pamela - May 06 at 08:24 PM



“ Freddie, Bonnie and Family, The Lord cares and will comfort your hearts during this time and forever. Please remember that our memories are forever and a place where we can always visit when our loved ones are no longer here with us.

Sister Vanessa Fowler (ENOCH BAPTIST) - May 06 at 07:48 PM



“ The sign of a good man is noticed by how he cares for his family. I loved to hear tales of the kids and grandkids. He always spoke of the things he wanted to do with his wife. Calvin was such a gentle giant. I will hold on to the memory of his infectious smile. My deepest condolences to the family. Calvin touched many and he will be missed.

Tina Dyson - May 06 at 06:44 PM



“ I don't know where to begin. I am still in such disbelief. It was truly a blessing and an honor to have known and worked with Calvin. He was truly a gentle soul, the nicest and most caring person you'd ever meet. To the Richardson family, his VA family LOVED him and he is truly missed. May God's love and peace be upon you



Anita Gordon - May 06 at 06:37 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Richardson family during this time. Mr. Richardson was such a kind and warm person and it was always such a treat to pass him in the SARP hallway. He was always that person who would have a full conversation with you when he saw you. He was an outstanding addiction counselor and he really invested in his patients. A true inspiration in the field!

Walking through the SARP hallway will never be the same. He will be greatly missed!

Jasmine Carpenter
Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Jasmine - May 06 at 11:48 AM



“ Sincerest condolences and prayer for the Richardson family and friends. Calvin is an irreplaceable inviting person. His smile and humor was welcoming and caring. The world has lost an awesome person, but in his legacy we should operate as he did socializing with compassion, kindness, and grace with everyone we encounter.



Rhonda Baxter - May 06 at 08:53 AM



“ Calvin always had a smile on his face. I will miss him saying "What's up Doc?" He said this every time he saw me. He was a nice person and he will be truly missed. RIP my friend.

Patricia Crawford

Patricia Crawford - May 06 at 07:23 AM



“ What to Look for in a Substance Abuse Rehab Counselor
Many people find it difficult to understand why some individuals develop an addiction to drugs or alcohol. People commonly view substance users as people who lack willpower. The truth remains that repeated drug use changes brain function, causing drug users to seek out substances compulsively. Quitting can be difficult due to withdrawal symptoms, and so, the cycle continues.
There are certain qualifications to look for when deciding on a substance abuse counselor, they are;

Most addiction counselors, whether they have their master's degree in the field, or years of personal recovery experience, must be committed to helping others. Counselors must have 3 years minimum experience in addiction counseling and be familiar with 12-step models.

While it may seem surprising, many addiction counselors are in recovery from substance abuse or have close experience with substance abuse. This experience provides substance abuse counselors with profound knowledge of the addiction cycle and increases their inclination to empathize with patients. Practicing counselors should have at least five years of active recovery under their belt.

In addition to demonstrating professional judgment, addiction counselors should be able to develop a constructive rapport with clients to promote positive growth ("Brooklyn English"). Counselors should be accepting, careful listeners, and respect clients' time by being organized and punctual.

Calvin possessed all the above traits and skills and was a strong, intelligent and passionate Man, with a heart of gold. Humor was one of his greatest assets. I will always consider him a colleague, a co-worker, an asset, and a friend. He will profoundly be missed.

My deepest condolences to his family. You are in my prayers.

WILLIAM H. HAIRSTON
Substance Abuse Recovery Program
DC Veteran Affairs Medical Center.
Lead Addiction Therapist

William H. Hairston - May 06 at 07:03 AM



“ To everyone who loved and knew Calvin. Gone way too soon. May the peace that only God can grant be with you all in this time of sorrow and grief. Many of our warriors across the nation have been taken and many continue to battle this disease. Blessings to the family and Peace to the world .

Valerie Ajuonuma Mental Health Specialty Nurse Manager DCVAMC

Valerie Ajuonuma - May 06 at 06:07 AM



“ My sincerest condolences to Mr. Richardson's family and friends. I just found out today (05/05/2020) through a Covid-19 VA Hospital, TV news story that he had passed. A few years ago I was fortunate to work with the SARP team as a temporary employee. Mr. Richardson and the entire staff were always kind and helpful. He went the extra mile to help veterans overcome challenges. He will be missed.

May all the good memories you shared with Mr. Richardson comfort as you cope with his passing.

Peace and Blessings,

Mary Jackson

Mary Jackson - May 06 at 01:10 AM



“ Calvin transformed into a humble spiritual person right in front of our eyes. May you have a peaceful transition into your next lifetime Calvin.

Otis Johnson, a coworker and a personal friend

Otis Johnson - May 05 at 05:32 PM



“ Calvin was always showing me around the clinic, talking with me about parenting and faith, working with me to support and advocate for our mutual patients... I feel sadness that he is gone--that this virus took him so quickly after all the challenges and suffering he had lived to tell about in his life. I also feel peace because I do believe he is in a place where there is no more crying or pain. <3 Rest in power, brother.

MK Howell - May 05 at 05:15 PM



“ Calvin Richardson Jr.
All Inclusive Mental Health First Friday Call Meeting
5/1/2020

Calvin Richardson was a Desert Storm veteran and a good dude. On Monday April 20th when the news broke out of Calvin's passing I overheard two veterans in our hallway commiserating with each other and saying "he was a good dude; he was a good dude". This is the highest compliment you will ever get from folks in recovery. The relationship between folks in recovery and their providers is usually challenging, fraught with pitfalls, mistrust, scheming to avoid the hard lifting required to gain and sustain sobriety. Calvin was always direct with veterans on his caseload and will push them to stay in the fight. Occasionally he woke his veterans from their recovery slumber by using colorful language which I refer to as "Brooklyn English". By the way Calvin grew up in Brooklyn NYC.

Calvin has worked as an Addiction Therapist in Substance Abuse Recovery Program (SARP) over the past 6 years. Calvin worked both sides of the house as I like to say. He worked in our Intensive Out-patient Program then when there was a need for an Addictions Therapist in the OTP side of the house he volunteered his service to work with the most challenging population in a Substance Use Disorder program.

Calvin was a presence literally and figuratively. He a burly guy who exuded warmth

and kindness and he was conscious of how his sized may be intimidating to others. He was very good at erasing the fear factor with a sweet soft voice that always drew people to him. I will forever remember his voice. A voice that when he seems to say harsh words only fall with a soft thud.

Calvin was more than an Addictions Therapist in treatment community. He was also a spiritual force in SARP. He was our "Deacon". I counted him to him during retirement parties, team building get togethers to lead us in pray. He prayers we calibrated to suit the occasion. He was also our unit Fire Marshall and will lead us through our quarterly fire drills.

Calvin was also a DC VAMC facility trainer for Prevention and Management of Disruptive Behavior (PMDB) for the past 4 years. He was my training partner. He enjoyed teaching this course. Whenever I teach this course I will forever hear his voice saying "to be aware is to be alive" His way of encouraging staff to scan and be to be aware of their environment.

Calvin was a good dude
Calvin was a recovery champion.
May the good Lord grant him eternal rest.

Dela Gbekor
Substance Abuse Recovery Program
DC Veteran Affairs Medical Center.
Program Coordinator

Dela Gbekor - May 05 at 04:28 PM



“ To the family sorry to hear about the loss of my fellow (BID) Brother In Discipleship brother "Calvin" whom I grew to love and it was a joy spending time with him or just talking on the phone. Rest in peace my brother.

Everette Carr

Everette Carr - May 04 at 02:41 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Calvin Bernard Richardson Jr..



May 02 at 02:12 AM