



Rowland Chester Heflin

May 24, 1959 - July 27, 2024

At the age of 65, Rowland Chester Heflin passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on the afternoon of July 27th, 2024.

He was born in Washington, DC, to the late Shirley G. Heflin and the late Ella Marie Heflin on May 24, 1959.

Rowland grew up in Nokesville, Virginia, in a small country home without running water where he cared for the home and finished schooling at Brentsville District High School, graduating in 1977. Rowland described himself as a "skinny" boy and said his sense of humor made him friends throughout his school years and later on in life. Wherever Rowland was, he had a smile and laugh to share with those around him. He was baptized in the name of Christ in 1979 at Westover Baptist Church in Manassas, Virginia.

Rowland joined the Army National Guard in December of 1976 and then transitioned to the United States Army from full-time service in the Army National Guard until he retired from active duty in 2003 as a Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4). He continued to serve his country as a DOD Civilian, creating policy as part of the Army G-1 in the Pentagon. He was admired by his peers for his knowledge and expertise on multiple topics inside and outside his position. He received numerous awards for his outstanding service including the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd OLC), the National Defense

Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Louisiana Cross of Merit, the Virginia Bronze Star, the Virginia Service Medal, among many others.

As a world traveler, Rowland saw much of the world in a professional as well as private capacity. He enjoyed sports (especially his beloved Washington Redskins), spending time with his family and reading on a wide range of topics. In recent years he devoted much of his time to his church and their missionary causes, specifically in Liberia.

He is survived by his son Justin Heflin and his wife Alexis Heflin, son Eric Heflin, daughter Brianna Heflin and her husband Stephen Fenlason, his grandchildren Alister Heflin, Liberty Heflin, Harrow Heflin, Cotton Kylian Heflin, his sister Diane Smith, brother Jerry Heflin, sisters Jeanne Marshall and Pamela Marshall, and scores of nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his sons Kyle Andrew Heflin and Ian Tyler Heflin, and his brother Stanley Heflin and his sister Gladys Lee Heflin.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation, 1001 E 101st Terrace #220, Kansas City, MO 64131.

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 12. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall

JW

“ *Just a great friend to be around with! Always admire Rowland's sense of humor in addition to his Happy positive outlook. He will be greatly missed.*

JOSEPH WILBURN - August 15, 2024 at 10:59 PM

CS

“ *For almost 5 years, Rowland and I shared a cubicle wall, over which we would have many conversations and many more laughs. After I left G-1 in 2014 and until my retirement in 2020 (losing unescorted Pentagon access), I would often return to the office to visit former co-workers, and I would make a point to visit Rowland. No matter how busy he was, he would always make time to chat.*

He never failed to bring up the memory when my then two-year old daughter wandered down the aisle of cubicles while I was standing at Rowland's desk, and both of us watching as she came running back excitedly carrying something she found in one of the cubicles. She was about halfway back when we both realized she was carrying -- blade up -- a very sharp knife! A co-worker had apparently been cutting fruit as part of their lunch, and they never would have thought a child would be wandering through the office. Rowland was the first to jump up and retrieve the knife from her before any damage was done, and Rowland and I would laugh about that incident every time we visited.

Sadly, I was Rowland's cubicle neighbor in 2010 when I heard him take the call about the death of Kyle. With him always smiling and laughing, I will never forget the sound of his unfathomable anguish. I am comforted that he is now reunited with Kyle and Ian, and heaven has become more entertaining with the joyful sound of his laugh.

COL (Ret) Allison Stewart - August 11, 2024 at 12:56 PM

HA

“ *Helga Arndt purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rowland Chester Heflin.*



Helga Arndt - August 10, 2024 at 05:58 PM



“ *Sweet & Savory Snacks Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Rowland Chester Heflin.*



August 09, 2024 at 05:03 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rowland Chester Heflin.*



August 07, 2024 at 07:00 PM

DW

“ For the greater portion of a decade, Rowland served as a finite staple to myself and many others within the Army’s Personnel Management Policy world (and beyond). He always made time for a desk side conversation, a phone call, or to respond to an email. I not only had the privilege to meet him as a known resource, but also work alongside him within the DMPM at the Pentagon. He wasn’t just a wealth of knowledge, but a boundless colleague with a smile, laughter, and pure joy that measured each day and met [and greeted] all those around him. Rowland holds a special place in our hearts, always.

Dawn M. Williams - August 07, 2024 at 04:42 PM

CT

“ I had the honor of being one of Rowland's "supervisors" while he served in the Army G-1 as a senior civilian. I learned much, much more from Rowland than I ever "supervised". Rowland was well known for his expertise in personnel policy and many would be excited to meet him in person when they made a trek to the Pentagon after talking with him on phone for years. Rowland will be missed by many, including me.

COL Andy Thum - August 07, 2024 at 01:55 PM

KJ

“ The best way I can describe Rowland is a gentle giant. We all already know he was a master of his field. But he was so much more. Regardless what he was battling in his life, he remained stout in his faith. Despite how busy he was, he always made time for others. He would ask you to pull up a chair and inquire about family. He was as sincere and genuine as they get. The legacy he left is unmatched! May the family find peace in the living memories we all hold so close to our heart!

Kim & Rick St John - August 06, 2024 at 10:03 AM

CR

“ I will truly miss the man whom we all would ask to verify the truth about Army policy...He knew it all. And he was a great friend to so many. May his family be surrounded in the comfort of knowing how great of an impact he's had on so many and how much better we are because we've met Mr. Heflin.

Sincerely, COL Toni Rainey

COL Toni Rainey - August 05, 2024 at 03:43 PM

PM

“ Rowland was one of my younger brothers. At a young age I knew he was going to accomplish a lot in his life. He never caused our parents any problems. When we were growing up we had a garden every year and when I was in six grade we decided to try and sell pumpkins at the end of our driveway. There were few cars going by on a country road. So when we heard one coming, I told my three youngest siblings we are going to line up across the road and stop them. When they stop we will ask do you want to buy a pumpkin ? The car that stopped was my teacher. Our sister lea looked at me and said Pamela that is your teacher. Mrs McMichael put her head out of the car and told us ,ya'll get out of the road. Rowland we had on the left end, Stanley by him and I was on the right side. Her husband was a business man, she must have told him. Because the next day he came by and bought one. We sold three altogether. I am proud of everything my brother accomplished in his life. I just want his children to know I will be there for them if they ever need me.

PAMELA E MARSHALL - August 04, 2024 at 03:20 PM

DB

“ Although he was not in any of my classes, I remember Rowland when I was teaching at Brentsville District. He was a great guy to be around. His sense of humor was great. Everyone liked being around him. After he graduated I lost touch, but from what I have read he was a great patriot and a great husband/father to his family. That he retired as a Chief Warrant Officer speaks highly of his character.

Dave Button - August 03, 2024 at 09:05 AM

JS

“ Rowland was in my class for 7th, 9th and 12th grade. A good guy and fun to have in class. He was a good student who enjoyed learning.

James Kelly Shirley - August 02, 2024 at 08:41 PM

PB

“ My condolences to the family. I was a classmate with his brother Jerry. God bless.



Page Holmes Boone - August 02, 2024 at 08:09 PM

CA

Rowland was a child of God and a man of compassion. He had a heart for the mission work in Liberia. He expressed to us, many times, that he was not afraid of death. My tears are for the family he left behind, not for him. He looked forward to being with THE LORD. He is a sweet soul. He will be dearly missed.
(Caleb and Monika)

Caleb - August 04, 2024 at 09:05 AM

BM

“ BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL AS YOU MOURN THE LOSS OF ROWLAND WHO WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY HIS UNCLE DAN MYERS...THEIR SOULS LIVE ON FOREVER IN JESUS LOVING ARMS....ALOHA, BETH MYERS

Beth Myers - August 02, 2024 at 05:55 PM

TM

“ I have always been proud to tell people about my Uncle Rowland. He served his country in more ways than 1. He was always kind to us kids when we were young. I think of him as a quiet fellow who enjoyed a good laugh. Whenever he poked fun at us, he was as interested in our reactions and comebacks lol. Love you man. Appreciate you being the reason I tried Lobster as a young man at Red Lobster when you visited Florida with the family. RIP Uncle Rowland ❤️ Love your Nephew, Tony Marshall

Tony Marshall - August 02, 2024 at 10:50 AM