



## Alfred Russell

April 18, 1925 - December 18, 2018

Alfred Russell transitioned from this life to eternal life on Tuesday, December 18, 2018. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Carrie Purnell Russell. He was the first son of Cleveland and Ada Russell, born in LaCrosse, Mecklenburg County, Virginia, on April 18, 1925.

He was educated in county schools and joined the Navy in the summer of 1943. Alfred trained at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, becoming one of the first African Americans trained as a Seaman and not as a cook or ship steward. After WWII, Alfred left the Navy for the Merchant Marines, but was barred from joining the union. In 1949, Alfred joined the United States Air Force, finishing in the top of his Aviation Maintenance class at Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB), TX. He was then assigned to Clark AFB, Philippines. He was the only African American in the 400 man squadron. In less than a year, Alfred was selected Chief Flight Mechanic for the Commanding General, 13th Air Force. In 1953, he married the love of his life, Carrie Dale Purnell and they moved to Bryan, Texas. Together they traveled to multiple duty stations including Yokota AFB, Japan and Andrews AFB, Washington D.C. Alfred was selected to head the Aircraft Mechanic Division, Air University, Montgomery, AL. He retired in 1968 with the rank of Master Sergeant. He attended Delaware State College (University) and graduated in 1972, with a degree in Art Education. He continued his career as a teacher in the Caesar Rodney School District for 15 years.

A self-taught golfer, Alfred taught Carrie how to play, and they enjoyed many years golfing with friends at Eagle Creek Golf Course, Dover AFB, Delaware and he was a three time club champion. In addition, he was a talented artist and builder.

Beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather, Alfred leaves behind a daughter, Robin Diane Russell Gibbs (Edward); three grandchildren, Kimberlea, Jayson and Cameron Gibbs; three great grandchildren, Amari, Karriem and Cameron Gibbs; and a host of family and friends.

Lovingly Submitted,  
The Family

# Tribute Wall

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief, by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible, you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

H. Fields - December 31, 2018 at 07:23 PM

JC

“ Dear Family, During this time of sorrow may you find comfort in God's promise that he is near to those broken at heart and crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18. May happy memories of Alfred Russell be with you always.

JC - December 31, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ Please accept my condolence. My heart goes out to you in your time of sorrow. May you find comforting Job 14:14, 15, which says, \u201cif an able-bodied man dies can he live again? You will call, and I myself shall answer you. For the work of your hands you will have a yearning. Sherry

December 26, 2018 at 12:51 PM

IR

“ Sorry for your loss of a loved one. Read Psalms 34:18 for words of comfort and peace.

Irene - December 26, 2018 at 11:05 AM

AL

“ I would like to offer my personal condolences to the family of Alfred Russell . I hope that you will be able to find strength in God’s promise at ( Revelation 21: 4) that soon He will wipe out every tear from the eyes and death will be no more, neither will mourning, nor outcry, nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away. You are in my prayers.

---

**allenjoyce444@gmail.com** - December 25, 2018 at 02:45 PM