



Clayton Heyward

May 29, 1935 - July 21, 2018

Clayton Joseph Heyward, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 29, 1935, and transitioned from this life on Saturday, July 21, 2018, at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, in Seaford, Delaware.

He was the 5th child of eight born to Beatrice Spencer and Julius Nathaniel Heyward. They all attended Emmanuel Christian Community Church. Clayton joined church at an early age under the pastoral leadership of Reverend Era Farrelle. Clayton later became a Sunday School teacher. He truly loved the Lord. A good Bible scholar, he often told the family that he wanted to be a preacher.

He attended Dunbar Elementary and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in 1953. After high school, he worked for a candy factory. In 1957, he joined the United States Air Force. During his tenure he was a cook and later became a chef. Clayton was also a member of the United States Air Force Boxing Team. He even got to spar with Sugar Ray Robinson. Of course, Sugar Ray won. His Air Force buddies called him "Squeaky Clean". In 1958, he was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force, but was actively a part of the Reserves until 1962.

Family was very important to Clayton. He taught his children to love Jesus first. Clayton had many quotes that members of the family and community

fondly remember. A few were: "Keep the peace", "Somebody help me, but don't stop me" and "Thank God for Jesus". Even on his death bed, when his daughter thanked him for telling his children about Jesus, Clayton said, "Tell others".

He had a beautiful high tenor voice that won the hand and heart of Thelma Willette Odesia Camper. They married on March 27, 1959. The family quickly grew.

He was a great weaver of stories, as many of you know, be it a story from his army days, a retelling of some adventure with his children, or nightly Bible readings with Oreo cookies, Clayton would have his audience spellbound. Just ask Clay about "The Fox Hole".

After many years of battling alcohol addiction, his faith and belief in God delivered him. He again lived up to the name "Squeaky Clean". The Home of the Brave, a home for Veterans, in Milford, Delaware, also assisted in his recovery. He attended Macedonia A.M.E. Church in Seaford, Delaware.

The last fifteen years of his life, Clayton was lovingly known as "Pops" or "Sugar Pop". If you ever greeted him by saying, "Hey there old man", Clayton would look around and say, "Where did he go?" He loved to share a laugh with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by five brothers, Adolph, Julius, Milton, Wardell, and Roland Heyward; grandson, Montez Heyward; and son-in-law, Travis West.

Leaving to mourn his loss is his wife, Thelma Heyward; his children, Clay Heyward, Roslyn Heyward, Dwayne Heyward, Thonia Waters (Oliver Waters) Pamela West, and Tamela Heyward; 15 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Celestine Stokes and Ritha Porter; and a host of nieces, nephews, and a special nephew, Gary Heyward.

He will be truly missed by all, but his teaching of loving Jesus first, will continue through those he touched and loved during his lifetime.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Clayton Heyward, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

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 - July 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ I am sorry for your loss, please accept my sincere condolences. I hope the family will find some comfort and strength in Jesus promise of the earthly resurrection(Acts 24:15)and the renewed Paradise earth, where death will be no more and no family will mourn the death of a loved one.-Revelation 21:3,4;John 5:28,29;Luke 23:43. may GOD(Psalms 83:18)grant you peace and comfort now, during this grievous time.-Matthew 5:4.

M Jones - July 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our condolences for the loss of your loved one. All of us have experienced the pain of death in some way sad to say. And, so, at difficult times like this we are confronted with the stark reality of how precious and fragile life can surely be (James 4:14). So, my wife and I send this condolence to you with the hope that we can in some small way comfort you as it has comforted us with what the Bible reveals to us about GOOD NEWS from Almighty God.

As recorded in the Bible, God's only-begotten son, Jesus promises that one day he is personally going to bring back to life all those who have died, just as he did when he was on earth as a man (John 5:28, 29; 11:43, 44). Just as death is an enemy to us, it is also an enemy to God (1 Corinthians 15:26). For that reason, as well as others, He promises to remove FOREVER all the pain, suffering, wickedness, and DEATH that mankind has had to endure for thousands of years (Revelation 21:3-5; Psalm 37:10, 11, 29). What a glorious and almost unbelievable day that will be! It's a reality and a sure hope we can rely on because it is absolutely impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Isaiah 55:10, 11).

It is our hope that you NOT take our word for what has been written in this condolence; but that you read and accept what God's Word, the Bible says. We encourage you to please take a moment to read and meditate on all these referenced scriptures in your own Bible (1 Timothy 4:15, 16). My wife and I are confident you will be encouraged and comforted by the marvelous hope God has in store for us (Psalm 1:1-3; John 17:3). Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - July 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ *Dear Family
Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. My prayers are with you and your family. JW. Org. Rev. 21:4.*

JoyceA - July 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ *Sorry for the passing of your love one. Read Isaiah 41:10 for words of comfort and peace.*

Irene - July 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Loves Me
I Am Special*

Thomas Widgeon - July 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

W.

“ *My sincere condolences to the Hayward family on the loss of your dear loved one. Death can bring so much tears and pain but may your memories bring you comfort in the days and weeks ahead and have faith in God's promise found at Isaiah 25:8. My deepest sympathy to you all during this difficult time and i invite you to visit Jw.org for more information on this comforting hope.*

W.W - July 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM