



Donald Leonidas Choate

November 24, 1937 - January 22, 2016

Donald Leonidas Choate was born to the late James L. Choate and Willie Essie Howell Choate on November 24, 1937. He was the eighth of their nine children. At an early age, Donald joined Emanuel A.M.E. Church where he participated in various youth activities.

Donald was educated in the Portsmouth City Public Schools system. He graduated from I.C. Norcom High School in 1956 and was their salutatorian.

Donald attended Norfolk State College (University). He worked with his mother's catering business and later was inducted in the United States Army. While in the army, Donald served in Vietnam as Communications Electronics Operations Chief. Upon retirement, on November 30, 1981, Donald had been the recipient of several medals: Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Medal; and, received Overseas Service Bars and the Army Service Ribbon. After retirement, he resided in Germany working for ITT until the mid-1990s. At which time, he returned to Portsmouth to take care of his oldest sister, Ruth. And, to root for the Atlanta Braves, his favorite baseball team.

Donald said goodbye to his earthly family on Friday, January 22, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Ossman H. Choate, William L.

Choate, James C. Choate and Russell B. Choate, Sr.; and an infant sister, Gloria G. Choate and, his sister Ruth C. Williams (who he served as her caretaker from 1995 until her death).

He leaves to cherish his memory two sisters, Jacqueline C. Long and Sara C. Brown; his caregiver and niece, SaDonna B. Lee and husband, Donald O. Lee; a special great-niece, Shardonnay Lee (Doohickey, as he called her) and great-nephew, Desmond Lee; a special niece, Alicia King, a host of six nieces, seven nephews, as well as great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great nieces and great-great nephews.

Cemetery Details

Albert G Horton Jr. Veterans Memorial Cemetery

5310 Milner's Road
Suffolk, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Miracle of Faith Baptist Church
30 Claremont Street
Portsmouth, VA 23702

Tribute Wall

AK

“ Uncle Donald and I would have long bi-weekly telephone conversations (Wednesday and Sunday), we talked about everything especially Brianne's dog, Norville. He would constantly accuse me of hiding his cigarettes although I was in Texas and he was in Virginia. Sometimes I would say something that would have him laughing so hard he wouldn't be able to catch his breath and usually that would be our queue to end the phone call. The other night I felt a touch on my shoulder, that would have been the time we would have been on the telephone and I know it was him and our final telephone call.
I know you'll be watching the Walking Dead and Game of Thrones with me. Alicia.

Alicia M. King - February 01, 2016 at 02:38 PM

ES

“ On behalf of Edward Earl Fortson & Family we extend our deepest sympathy in your loss and one of Portsmouth's finest citizen's. He left with outstanding qualities and returned with even more. We always remember the memories especially the ones from Lincolnsville section of Portsmouth. May peace be with you.
Edward Earl Fortson, Sr
Fortson's Market

Edward Earl Fortson, Sr - January 31, 2016 at 09:07 AM

EH

“ My deepest sympathy to the Choate family on the loss of your love one. God bless each and every one of you.

Ethelyn Whitehead Holley - January 30, 2016 at 06:18 PM

EH

“ *Ethelyn Whitehead Holley lit a candle in memory of Donald Leonidas Choate* ”



Ethelyn Whitehead Holley - January 30, 2016 at 06:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes* ”



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - January 30, 2016 at 05:22 PM



“ 25 files added to the album *Life Tributes* ”



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - January 30, 2016 at 02:06 PM

VG

“ *VENETIA JENKINS GUNTHER lit a candle in memory of Donald Leonidas Choate*



VENETIA JENKINS GUNTHER - January 28, 2016 at 01:45 AM

KI

“ *Kippy lit a candle in memory of Donald Leonidas Choate*



Kippy - January 27, 2016 at 09:58 PM

KP

“ *Krystal Pannell lit a candle in memory of Donald Leonidas Choate*



Krystal Pannell - January 27, 2016 at 08:53 AM