



Wayman Alfred Copeland

May 6, 1944 - September 2, 2023

Wayman Alfred Copeland was the youngest son of Rev. Joseph McKinley Copeland and Lillian Copeland; born in Portsmouth, Virginia on May 6, 1944. Wayman graduated from I.C. Norcom High School where he was a star runner on their track team. He always talked about the time he competed at the Penn Relays. He grew up as a member of Zion Bethel United Church of Christ and he attended Norfolk State University as an engineering major.

Wayman grew up in Portsmouth as a “Preacher’s Kid”. His father pastored several Norfolk churches; thus, he also became an integral part of the Norfolk community as well as the Brighton community in which he lived.

He enlisted in the Air Force and served in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968. After his service, he moved his family to New York City, where he worked with the New York City Transit Authority; then moved to Washington D. C. where he worked with the Washington D. C. Transit Authority. He was stationed in Bermuda as a U. S. Government employee for several years and returned to the States in 1992. Upon returning to the States, he worked at the Norfolk Naval Base as an Electrical Power Specialist in the Public Works Department. He retired from the Naval Base in 2006.

In semi-retirement, Wayman worked with AVIS car rental company in various positions for over 13 years.

Upon returning to Virginia, he reconnected with Joan Rhodes at an I. C. Norcom class reunion and they married in 1993. Wayman and Joan joined First Baptist Church where he became an active member of the church. He served on the transportation ministry and was the driver for the students in READY Academy, where he took the kids for their swimming lessons and their trips. He also was the driver for the church's Seniors In Action Ministry, bringing them back and forth to their meetings and taking them on their special outings. He was the driver for the Tutorial Ministry and for various church outings. He generously donated lots of supplies and items to READY Academy and was voted their "Grandfather of the Year" in 2018.

Wayman was also active in the Men's Ministry and worked on several projects in the church including the Quinnerly House. Wayman and Joan also owned an art gallery in Portsmouth, VA. "The Art Atrium II" for several years. This business was a major cultural force in the downtown Portsmouth community.

Wayman loved to cook. One of his specialties was gumbo. The origins of gumbo can be traced back to West Africa. It is a dish that takes time, preparation and it has a purpose. Wayman's gumbo was not ready until all required ingredients were included, carefully prepared and blended together to produce a meal of substance and love. Wayman's gumbo was always for his community of family and friends. To sit at his table, to be fed by his gumbo, love, and laughter resulted in a meal that filled our bodies and our souls.

Wayman loved his family. He travelled often to their sports activities, their birthdays and graduations and other special events. Wayman was also known for his passion for researching family histories. He researched and wrote a book on the history of the Copeland family entitled "Copeland Family Reunion" which contained his collection of family research. He could always tell you about a family member and their relationship and connection to the

Copelands. He also performed family research services for other friends and families.

Wayman was pre-deceased by his first wife, Shirley Ricks Copeland and his father, Rev. Joseph M. Copeland. Wayman leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife, Joan; his sons Vincent (Karen) Boone; Damon (Beatrice) Copeland; and Victor Boone; and daughter Michelle (Milbert) Rhodes-Brown; seven grandchildren, Vincent Boone Jr., Tyler Boone, Cassidy Boone, Victoria Brown, Raymond Brown, Davis Copeland and Dylan Copeland. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. Lillian Copeland; his brother Joseph (Francine) Copeland, and many other nieces, cousins, family members and devoted friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the READY Academy Christian School of The Historic First Baptist Church.

Cemetery Details

Albert G Horton Jr. Veterans Memorial Cemetery

5310 Milner's Road
Suffolk, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 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

SEP 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church
418 E Bute Street
Norfolk, VA

Tribute Wall

PW

“Joan, Mrs. Copeland, Joe and extended family members, It is with heartfelt sympathy that we express our deepest condolences on the transition of Wayman. The Union United Church of Christ family where Pastor Emeritus Joseph M. Copeland pastored for over thirty years was an integral part of the Copeland family. Words cannot echo our love for the family. May God continue to keep the family in peace and may the Holy Spirit continue to comfort you all.

Patricia Wiggins, Marian, Alvin, Edna and Jeneshia Ferebee

Patricia Wiggins - September 12, 2023 at 07:26 PM

FR

“To Joan, may the love of God give you peace, may the caring of friends give you comfort and strength through the days ahead.



Febbie Ragin - September 12, 2023 at 09:56 AM

SD

“My thoughts and prayers are with the Copeland family during this bereaved time. My most fondest memories of Wayman are of the Copeland family visiting Zion UCC now Zion Christian where his dad the late Rev. J. M. Copeland was my pastor. I'll continue to pray that God our Father will comfort and sustain each of you in the days to come.

Sylvonnia Dickens - September 11, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ 32 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - September 11, 2023 at 11:01 AM



“ Michael, Anita, Jeremy, Steven, and their families extend heartfelt condolences to both Vincent and Damon as well as the rest of these precious loved ones. May Father YAH watch over each of you in the coming days ...

Michael/Anita Reid - September 10, 2023 at 10:52 PM



“ Joan I did not know Wayman as well I know You but I would like to offer My condolences to You and Your Family. May You all continue to look to Jesus for the added strength that You will need during this time. Joan every time I saw Wayman with You when You visited Our Church He was friendly.. Hold on to the memories Deacon Leigh M. Burton, Sr.



Leigh M. Burton, Sr. - September 10, 2023 at 09:44 PM

SB

“ *Joan, our prayers are with you and the entire family. We loved Wayman and he will be missed. May God surround you with His loving arms.*

Cousin Sheila and William Butts

Sheila Butts - September 08, 2023 at 09:07 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayman Alfred Copeland.*

September 08, 2023 at 12:29 PM



JB

“ *To Joan and family
My sincere condolences to you in the passing of your beloved Wayman. His smile and loving kindness will be sorely missed. May you find comfort in God's love and the love of family and friends.*

jacqueline bradley - September 08, 2023 at 09:43 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wayman Alfred Copeland.*

September 08, 2023 at 09:30 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Wayman Alfred Copeland.*



September 08, 2023 at 09:30 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wayman Alfred Copeland.*



September 07, 2023 at 01:08 PM



“ *Wayman was " Our neighborhood's " Big Brother" always available and lovely @ it. Took great care of his aging parents and has now gone on " to his reward. Rest well 'Wayman'. Yours in Christ, The James E. Wynn, Sr. Family*

Valerie Adrian Wynn - September 07, 2023 at 05:56 AM

RH

“ TO: Joan Copeland and Family,

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:1-6).

The Bradley-Christian Family and its descendants extend our heartfelt and deepest sympathy to Joan and the Copeland family in the loss of your beloved Wayman - a man with impeccable taste who had a love of history, and well known as the familys' genealogist. May Almighty God continue to give you strength and comfort you during this difficult time. Wayman has earned his crown of righteousness.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

FROM: Lieutenant Colonel Ronald L. Horne, (USA) (Ret.), on behalf of the Bradley-Christian Family and its Descendants

Ronald L. Horne - September 06, 2023 at 05:57 PM

Jl

“ *Jill Rich & Michael D. Rich II purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Wayman Alfred Copeland.*



Jill Rich & Michael D. Rich II - September 05, 2023 at 05:24 PM