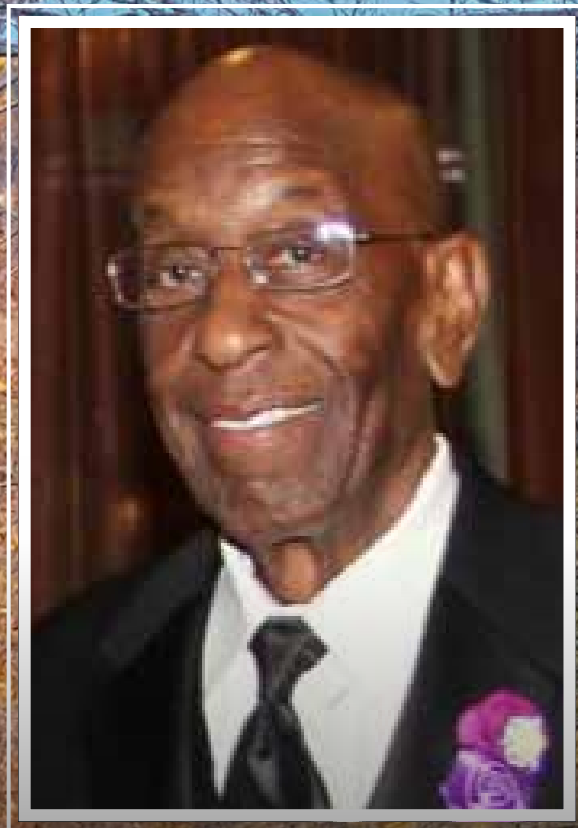


# *Passing into Glory*

## *In Loving Memory of*

# **ROLAND ALEXANDER DYSON**

*Sunrise: November 18, 1931 – Sunset: November 19, 2021*



PROOF PROOF



OMEGA DIGIT

PROOF PROOF

**Thursday, December 2, 2021**

Visitation: 5:00 PM

Prayers: 6:00 PM

Chapel of Thornton Funeral Home, P.A.  
3439 Livingston Road  
Indian Head, Maryland 20640

**Friday, December 3, 2021**

Tribute: 9:00 AM

Mass: 10:00 AM

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
201 St. Mary's Avenue  
La Plata, Maryland 20646



# MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Musical Prelude

Blessing of the Body ..... Placing of Funeral Pall

Processional

Opening Selection ..... *Amazing Grace*

Opening Prayer

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading ..... Cassie Wilson – *Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7*

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading ..... Tiffany Veney – *Romans 6:3-9*

Gospel ..... *Matthew 5:1-12a*

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful ..... Jade Dyson

### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Gifts ..... *Offertory Hymn*  
Brent Veney  
Bryan Wilson  
Claude Veney  
Declan Dyson  
Conor Dyson

Preparation of the Gifts

Preface ..... *Holy Holy*  
*The Eucharistic Prayer*  
*The Lord's Prayer*  
*Sign of Peace*  
*Lamb of God*

Communion ..... *Precious Lord*

Psalm 23 ..... Nolan Wills

Final Commendation & Farewell

Recessional with Closing Selection ..... *Precious Lord*

### INTERMENT

Final Prayers & Committal

# REMEMBRANCE

Roland Alexander Dyson, affectionately called “Pops”, age 90, peacefully departed to eternal life on Friday, November 19, 2021, while at home in Port Tobacco, Maryland, surrounded by the love of his devoted family. Roland was a very well-known man and loved by many.

Roland, one of 10 children, was born to the late Robert Alexander Dyson, Sr. (1887-1939) and the late Anna Christiana Mills-Dyson (1890-1971) in Charles County, Maryland. He grew up in Bel Alton, was educated in the Charles County Public School system, and was a lifelong resident of Charles County.

He was drafted in the United States Army on February 19, 1952, and was honorably discharged having attained the rank of Corporal on January 26, 1954. During this time he earned the Occupational Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal, all acquired while stationed in Germany.

It was 1953, on Easter Sunday morning at St. Ignatius Church in Chapel Point that Roland met Celestine for the first time. When he saw her it was love at first sight and she too had found her soulmate. Memories of their two-year courtship included going to the beach, movies and baseball games. The couple loved to dance and would often double date with Mary C. and Austin. Songs like “I Want to Walk you Home”, “Walking to New Orleans”, “You are My Shining Star”, and “Always and Forever” were songs that they enjoyed sharing a dance to.

As a master mechanic Roland worked extremely long hours to financially support his family. Additionally in 1968, he later joined the Charles County Sheriff’s Office and was sworn in as one of the first African American Charles County Sheriff’s deputies. He retired as a Sergeant after 21 years of distinguished service.

As an entrepreneur Roland started the Dyson Bus Service business during the 1970-1971 school year. He and his family worked to expand the business to be three different companies.

During the early years of operating the bus business, the family pulled together to help Pops do maintenance on the bus fleet, clean, wash and wax all of them – top to bottom! Also in those early years, the young grandchildren have fond memories of Pops teaching them and showing them how to change bus tires, check brake and rotor pads, oil, and even drive the bus. He would pay them with small dollar amount checks, and it was told they would all pile into the Nissan Pathfinder to go cash their little checks at the local bank. He took pride in teaching them life lessons and knowing how to do things as an adult.

Pops was a devout Catholic and parishioner of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in LaPlata, Maryland, where he was a dedicated Lead Usher. Every Sunday morning you could always count on seeing him and Celestine seated in their usual pew and they always enjoyed seeing family members join them by surprise. After Mass he enjoyed going out to brunch with the family.

Pops enjoyed teaching all of his children the game of poker. Whenever there were family gatherings and cookouts, you could always expect it to culminate with an intense lively game of poker. Not only did his children play with him but it also included some routine players – nephews and niece joining in – Leroy, Chilly, Chris, Nace, Snorter, Crow, Flipper, and Mary Lou – and any other guests who dared to sit at the table to meet their inevitable defeat!

In addition to teaching his children the game of poker, he also taught the children how to eat Maryland blue crabs. You had to be a quick learner of the skill because he was not about to show you how to do it a second time. He had a strong enthusiasm for enjoying eating crabs with the family.

Pops thoroughly enjoyed his morning coffee sitting at the kitchen table and having conversations with



any of the family members who happened to be there. Some of us knew he secretly gave sips of coffee to several of his young grandchildren along with giving them sips of wine, champagne, beer and Jack Daniels -- guess these acts were some of his guiltless joys of life!!

It should be mentioned that Pops would have cravings for a variety of foods from seafood to of course Mom's home-cooked meals to many of us receiving a phone call to go to Bob Evans and pick up six biscuits and a quart of sausage gravy, just to name a few. However, we all know he mostly enjoyed his sweets -- namely Kit-Kat bars. His sweet tooth would have him often call upon his special niece, Pamela Lynn and actually sing the jingle to her....“break me off a piece of that Kit-Kat bar”!!

Roland was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Alexander Dyson, Sr and Anna Christiana Mills-Dyson, who were parishioners of St. Ignatius Catholic Church-Chapel Point, which was the original family parish; three brothers: Robert, Edward, and Matthew Dyson; six sisters: Gladys Dyson, Dorothy Thompson, Helen Dyson, Margaret Gant, Catherine Jones, and Mary Bernice Chisley; and grandson: Justin Dyson.

Cherished memories are treasured with his wife of 66 loving years, Celestine -- “C” as he affectionately called her; six wonderful children -- son, Stephen; twin daughters, Deborah and Danita; daughter, Phyllis; son, Jeffery; and son, Derek; two sons-in-law, Barry Wilson and Gregory Jackson; two daughters-in-law, Renee Dyson and Megan Dyson; 12 beautiful grandchildren and 17 vivacious great-grandchildren.

Roland shared the love of a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, as well as other relatives and friends.

He had a special bond for his nephew, Leroy Wills and close friend of the family, Francis Savoy -- both who are dedicated, loyal employees of the family business. In addition to maintaining a dedicated staff of bus drivers throughout the successful tenure of the company.

Roland's greatest contribution is the ones he leaves behind to carry on his legacy!





# To My HUSBAND

Honey, 66 years ago on October 23, 1955, we were joined together in marriage and on November 19, 2021, we were separated by death.

The years in between we shared a full life – from building a house, to working together around the house, planting flowers, educating our children, operating a business for 50 years, to having family gatherings, and yes, attending Church together for years.

Our life was so very blessed with being parents of six children, each one different in their own truth and in their chosen career path – one became a Firefighter, one following you in your footprint to becoming a Police Lieutenant for 20 years, one being an Executive Professional, one becoming a Travel Professional, one becoming a Master Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps for 30 years, and one becoming a Principal Systems Engineer along with being a Soccer Player and Coach.

We became proud grandparents of 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren – they will all carry a piece of you to guide them in their lives; you will always live in each one of them.

Now we are left to carry on without you being present but only in spirit. So farewell My Love, rest in faith, love and peace! We will carry you in our hearts with love forever!

*My Love Always,  
"C"*





# AS I AM WRITING THIS LETTER,

I am grateful to God for allowing me the opportunity to see dad before he passed. To be able to look in his eyes and he in mine, to hold his hand, have him touch my face and know for himself that I am okay.

Although he has gone home to be with Our Lord, his spirit lives on within all of us who knew and loved him. My dad was a great man if I could be half the man, he was that would be an honor. In closing I would like to share the devotional I read that

morning after my sisters called me with the news of his passing. The Book of Lamentations 3:22-23, Because of The Lord's great love we are not consumed...great is His faithfulness.

God's great love enables us to go on, to get up and face the new day. Our trials may feel overwhelming, but we won't be destroyed by them because God's Love is far Greater!

*Stephen*

# POPS,

As a young girl, I watched you put on your police uniform and go to work at the Charles County Sheriff's Office. You wore your uniform with such PRIDE.

I remember getting into your cruiser and sitting in the driver's seat when it was parked outside at our house. I also remember neighbors, as well as motorists who passed by the house would ask for your assistance at various hours of the day and night, and you never hesitated to help them...even if it was your day off work.

When I joined the Peoria Police Department - Arizona in August 1995, I was so excited to receive my serial number - 3034, which included your serial number "34". How lucky was I to share those same two serial numbers? I'll tell you Pops...I was very lucky. That very first day, I knew I would have a successful law enforcement career. I remembered you telling me "Out of all my children, I knew you would be the one knucklehead to follow in my footsteps." My most cherished memory of you will always be when you pinned me with my Police Officer badge at my police academy graduation.

Pops, I owe you a debt of gratitude for demonstrating professionalism, integrity, honesty, bravery, patience, and so much more. I emulated your ethical principles throughout my law enforcement career.

You are forever my HERO!

Rest easy Pops, your police officer service here on earth is completed with Honors....

*Deborah*

# POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER

Strengthen me today, dear Lord,  
And help me keep in mind  
The laws that You created  
For the world that You designed.  
May I stand for justice  
So, one day crime may cease,  
And let me serve all people  
So, they may live in peace.

*Written by - R. Fogle*

## FATHERS & DAUGHTERS

Song by Michael Bolton  
If I could catch a star for you  
I swear I'd steal them all tonight  
To make your every wish come true  
And every dream for all your life  
But that's not how the story goes  
The world is full of perfect plans  
If there's a promise that I broke  
I know one day you will understand  
When times are hard I know you'll be strong  
I'll be there in your heart when you'll carry on  
Like moonlight on the water, and sunlight in the sky  
Fathers and daughters never say goodbye  
An Angel I will read to sleep  
Gave me one dream of my own  
So learn to love and spread your wings  
And find the one to call your home  
When times are hard I know you'll be strong  
I'll be there in your heart when you'll carry on  
Like moonlight on the water, and sunlight in the sky  
Fathers and daughter never say goodbye  
Fathers and daughters never say goodbye



# MY DEAREST POPS,

I know you must have been worried about how we all were handling your illness and must have prayed that we try to get through it and do the best we can; because really there is no right or wrong way to handle this type of situation.

I am sorry if I pushed too hard sometimes for you to eat or drink or take your meds or do your exercises every day. I only wanted you to feel better and get stronger. I want you to know that as much as I wanted to keep you with us, I know that you were weak and tired and God needed another angel in Heaven; and for that I am at peace with it.

You are the best father anyone could ask for. I hope you know that you are the nucleus and backbone of this family. I appreciate everything you have done for me and our family. You have done so much for all of us.

I want to thank you for showing your love through kind, quiet deeds and always fulfilling your family's needs; for your guidance, laughter and words of wisdom; for your patience and help through the years. Thank you for years of devotion and wonderful ways. Most of all, thanks for being my Dad!

Even though my heart is broken, I will continue to stay in prayer and remain positive.  
I will forever cherish and miss you Pops.

God has a place in Heaven for a small town southern man.

*I Love You Very Much,*

*Danita*

*Nov 2021*

# THIS IS TO MY ROCK MY BOULDER MY DADDY,

For the last 3 years I have seen my Daddy go from walking on his own to using a walker to then not being able to do anything; and you still gave me your protection from the looks in your eyes to holding my hands. Every Sunday when I was heading back home you would always say to me thank you, and every time I responded; you don't have to thank me this is what I/ we are supposed to do !

From the time that I can remember, you always held me in your arms. And as I was hanging on your leg, you were always there protecting and lifting me up. When I would tell you that Steve, Deborah, Danita and Jeff, (not my baby brother Derek), was fighting me or not letting me play, you would holler at them and beat their butts. Of course, I would smile and laugh at them.!!

You are the first man that I loved, as a daughter should, and now you are gone . I don't know as of now what to do!!! But I will figure it out with the help of my awesome husband, my other 3 ROCKS (my children) & my Mom and Sisters and Brothers!

Now I have to learn to live without you!!!

Pops I just want to thank you for everything and most of all for being the Best Father ever!!!

*Love always, always!!!*

*Your Baby Girl*



# FROM DECLAN

“I wish you could play with us, I wish you could stay with us, but you need your rest. I love you Pops.”

- Declan A. Dyson

# FROM CONOR

“I like and will miss you playing with us and letting us drive the bus. I love you.”

- Conor J. Dyson

## POPS,

Words can not describe what you have meant to this family. A true patriarch, you taught us to deal with whatever comes at us with courage and poise and you lived that every day. I often marvel at some of the things you saw and lived through to pave the way for us all and only hope that I will have the strength and resilience of a man as great as you to get me through. The intangibles and life lessons you instilled in me will continue to guide me and I will do my best to pass on those things so that my sons will grow to be great men too.

I remember you saying that you wanted your legacy to be that you left the world in a better place having contributed to it and taken nothing away from it. Pop, you did that and then some and left a lasting impression on us to do the same. That is a measure of a man. I could not have asked for a better father and role model. There are far too many things I am grateful to you for, so I will simply say THANK YOU for it all. I will always hold dearly the time we shared working on busses, doing yard work, or just breaking bread with family. It was during those times that I grew to know what kind of man I wanted to be. I hope to keep making you proud as I try to fill these big shoes. I am now and will always be proud and blessed to call myself your son.

You will always be with me and I love you so much.

Rest in Power..

*Your son,  
Derek*



# **To Pops, A LETTER OF THANKS, LOVE, AND HOPE.**

Thank you Pop for all the lessons you've instilled in me. Thank you for teaching me simple, but important lessons like coffee is always better with cream, always keep a bowl of candy (particularly Werther's Original) for the sweet tooth, how to change a tire, check brake and rotor pads, and if you are going to do something, do it right the first time.

Thank you for your unconditional love and support whether it was making sure I always had gas in my car, that I always looked and felt my best, and that it is ok to move to New York to pursue my dreams.

While these lessons may not have always been said verbally, oh strong man of few words, I have always listened through your actions and times of silence.

Your love was shown in your way but taught me to always remain strong, steadfast, and hold my head up high.

I hope to continue to make you proud, to remain the strong independent person you always encouraged me to be. You once told me you've never had to worry that I would succeed, but I hope you know how much your lessons, love, and hope contributed to that success.

I will always hear your voice on the phone saying "Hello?".

*Love you Pops,  
Cassie*

## **FROM BRENT**

There aren't enough words to fully capture the way I feel about my grandfather or how much you mean to me. Even if there was I'm not sure I would have the right ones. From my life to my children's, you have been vital in shaping healing our past and shaping our futures. If I can be only half the man you were I would still be among the greatest as you rest at the very top. A sight to behold and a mark for which to strive.

Strength unmatched balanced with enduring love.  
You are my guardian, my North Star, my Papa Bear!

*I love you always and with everything.*

## **LETTER FROM CLAUDE**

To my Pop, I just want to say that you showed me the true definition of what it is to be a man and i thank you for that , and all that you've done for me. I love you with all of me. You are my guardian angel.

*Love you always and forever- "Top Dog"!*



# LESSONS OF A (GRAND)FATHER.

Your father teaches you those lessons that stick with you for life.  
Those that shape you. Some are hard learned. Others are simple yet powerful.  
I didn't have a father quite like that. I had something better. I had a grandfather. I had you pops.  
I am stronger. I understand the value of hard work. I know my word means something.  
I know that at the end of the day my faith and family matter most.  
I will honor you by teaching the same lessons and values to my kids.  
I'll make sure they know that you were the best kind of man.  
That they come from strength, resilience, and determination.  
I'll love you forever my (grand)father, my pops.

*-Tiffany*

## POPS,

It's always hard to say goodbye, no matter how long you've had to prepare yourself. But you have made it a little easier for us because of the man you were. The strength you taught us, the family you built for us, and 90 years of memories you gave us will be our everlasting support and comfort. You gave everything you had in your time here, and you have well-earned your rest and peace in Heaven. We miss you and we will love you always.

*Love,  
Deni, Ryan, and Jade*

## POPS,

For me to write a letter when I haven't written a letter for over 40 years since my Army days is hard to do – especially to another man.  
I hope one way or another that these words will find you.

I came from calling you Officer Dyson, to Mr. Dyson, to Pops. I went from being afraid of you to respecting you and everything that you had said and stood for. I went from hanging the telephone up on you because you used to holler when you answered the telephone – HELLO! – to talking to you.

When my Dad passed, you never tried to replace my Dad but in my heart I looked up to you as a father. Maybe certain things should have been said when you were here on earth but don't we all wish we have said things that went untold.

You're in my heart; and something I have never told you – I love you.

*Rest peacefully,  
Barry*





## PALLBEARERS

Charles County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Gus Tolson  
Johnny Brown

Junior Dorsey  
Jimmy Stone

Nolan Woodland  
Catherine Dodson

Carolyn Woodard  
Gus Proctor

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family would like to express our deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation for the outpouring of love, prayers and the many kind words received during our time of loss. The support of family, friends and neighbors have helped ease some of the pain felt during this time. However big or small a part you played, it did not go unnoticed. A very special thank you to all of the caregivers who found Roland to be so special. We love you for loving him. May God richly reward you for all that you have done.

## INTERMENT

St. Ignatius Catholic Church-Chapel Point Cemetery  
8855 Chapel Point Rd  
Port Tobacco, MD 20677

## SPECIAL NOTE

The family respectfully declines hosting a Repast due to the seriousness of the COVID health crisis. Therefore in lieu of a Repast, the family will make a monetary donation to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church food pantry and to St. Ignatius Catholic Church-Chapel Point.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested remembrances to be made in the form of contributions to the Catholic Charities: Angel's Watch Shelter. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



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