



## Roger Chalmers

November 23, 1941 - July 31, 2022

Born November 23, 1941, in Harlem, New York City, to Earl Sefer Chalmers and Carrie Cole Chalmers. Roger and his younger sister Phyllis, attended New York City public schools. With discipline, love and support; Earl and Carrie leveraged their children's skills and talents to solidify a pathway for their futures. Roger was part of Minisink/New York City Mission Society, a local youth leadership agency. Roger was involved in Minisink's music, leadership, and camping programs; eventually becoming a camp counselor.

Roger's musical talent led to his acceptance at the prestigious Music and Arts High School in New York. His love and study of music led to him becoming a pianist and trombone player. His wife, Marilyn, says that Roger also has a "pitch-perfect" ear. (Who knew??) In fact, his son Tim asked his father to listen to a band he was considering for his wedding. Afterwards, Roger said don't hire that band. The singer is off-key, as is one of the horn players. His "pitch-perfect" ear is only one of the many of characteristics of Roger, that we all came to appreciate. If you didn't want his opinion, don't ask for it.

Roger attended West Virginia State College, where he joined the ROTC. In 1962, he became the one and only member to join the Omega Psi Phi fraternity that year. In WVA, as a young college student, he met and married Patricia Coles. They share two sons, Roger Jr., and Craig. Upon graduation, Roger enlisted in the United States Army where he was commissioned as a

second lieutenant. Roger served in Orleans, France serving as company commander before returning and settling in the states. Roger humbly credits Minisink, his military background, and the ROTC with the development of his strong leadership skills.

Following his military service, Roger made time to obtain a master's degree from Southern Connecticut State University in Urban Studies. He later became a corporate trailblazer. In fact, I don't think there was a trail, once Roger arrived; he truly blazed those trails, opening doors for so many of us to walk proudly through.

Returning to the states as Capt. Roger Chalmers, he landed his first management job at the technological giant IBM. He held human resources and operational leadership roles at Mobil Oil, American Cyanamid, Nestles, and Federal Express.

Roger and his best buddy, the late Jimmy Robinson, developed and worked on a program to provide financial support for minority students entering college. He provided support and guidance to family members and friends. "He often showed up at your office to take you to lunch and offer a listening ear and advice."

It was Roger's love of Golf that led him to a tournament in Virginia, where he met his wife, Marilyn Miles. Marilyn and Roger have been married thirty-eight years, calling each other "The Love of their Lives." A consummate family man, Roger, and Marilyn worked successfully to blend their families: Roger Jr., Craig, Nika, and Tim, settling in Madison, Connecticut. Roger sought out his family members and was the patriarch that checked in on everyone -- sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins -- he truly cared and loved his family.

Roger and Marilyn moved to Providence Forge, Virginia after retirement.

Roger became a member of New Zion Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Virginia. He enjoyed visiting and checking in on his elderly aunts and researching his family tree. He believed that it is important that his children know their family history and heritage. The check-ins on all his family continued, via his cell phone. Roger loved to talk (to no one's surprise), certainly in the Chalmers' DNA; or as the old folks used to say, "he got it honest." If Roger called you, take a seat, it was going to be a long ride, filled with laughter and love. We will all miss those calls. It was a long-distance hug. He also had a commitment and appreciation for volunteering and mentoring, in his community. He served on a domestic violence board, volunteering, with his wife, in the Palliative Care Unit at Virginia Commonwealth University Hospital. He served as president of the Ruritan Club in his local community.

Roger's legacy will live among his wife Marilyn, their children, Roger Jr., Craig (Felicia) Nika (Javier), and Tim (Melanie): Seven grandchildren- Hunter, Cara, Craig, Jr., Jacobi, Cydney, Kennedy and Elle. One great grandchild- Josiah. Sisters, Phyllis Gleaton and Frances Thomas. Three nephews- Kevin and Salim Gleaton and Arthur Thomas. One surviving aunt, Rev. Pauline Johnson, a host of faithful and caring cousins, friends, and the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

This is only a snippet and does not begin to describe the life and legacy of Roger Chalmers, and how much he will be missed. Nonetheless, we must take comfort in knowing he's with the Lord and the elders that went on before him. A Jewish prayer says, "may his memory be a blessing." Roger was a blessing. It's his family's hope that his memory will bless and keep us until we meet again.

Many thanks to cousins, Joyce Coleman, Gail Britton, and daughter-in-law Felicia Chalmers for helping in recalling Roger's written memories.

The Family gives many thanks to the healing hands of all of Roger's medical doctors and staff, during his long, hard-fought medical battles. Special thanks to his caregiver, Laretta and the staff of Kindred Hospice who helped to make his "journey" more comfortable.

A funeral service will be held 2 pm, Sunday, August 7th at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, Virginia 23140. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m., just prior to the service.

Repast held immediately after services at Antebellum, 4370 N Courthouse Road, Providence Forge, Virginia 23140.

Burial at later date, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to New Zion Baptist Church, Endowment Fund. Mail to P.O. Box 63, Lightfoot, VA 23090 or via the website: [www.newzionwilliamsburg.org/give](http://www.newzionwilliamsburg.org/give) and note "Endowment Fund".

# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202

# Previous Events

## Receive Friends

AUG 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel  
9923 Pocahontas Trail  
Providence Forge, VA 23140  
(804) 966-7075

## Funeral Service

AUG 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel  
9923 Pocahontas Trail  
Providence Forge, VA 23140  
(804) 966-7075

# Tribute Wall

YT

“ *The memory of you Cuz Roger, was one of many conversations about our ancestors and how to obtain more information about our beginnings. You were always animated and long-winded and I always sat down because I knew I was in for a history lesson which was always a treat. Thank you for that! Who can I talk to now? Family, your loss is our loss. Our condolences to his immediate family. I know his loss is great but now he is with the family he wanted to know more about. Hold fast to your memories. They will sustain you when nothing else does. We are Praying that you receive comfort and that God wipes away all your tears. Love always Aunt Daisy and Felicia*

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**Yvette Felicia Thomas** - August 08, 2022 at 12:55 PM

MC

*Thank you so much for these words Yvette!  
Marilyn Chalmers*

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**Marilyn Chalmers** - October 11, 2022 at 01:41 PM



AL

“ *To the family of my fraternity brother, Capt. Roger Chalmers, I give thanks to God for a life well lived. It was a privilege and an honor to have known him. I pray for peace and strength in this crucial moment in your lives, but GOD is still good. I BLESS you all in the Name of the LORD! Amen*

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**Albert , Joan and Delores Lake** - August 07, 2022 at 03:48 AM

FJ

“ To Marilyn, Nika, Tim and the Chalmers family:  
Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your family when we lived in Connecticut! My heart is heavy! We love you and want to express our sincere and utmost condolences to all of you in the loss of your loved one, Roger Chalmers. May God continue to wrap His Loving Arms around all of you, during this time of separation. Roger was part of my extended family and I am forever grateful to have had him in my life. Heaven has gained a new Angel! Much Love,   
 Francine & Chielle.

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**Francine M Jackson** - August 06, 2022 at 03:37 PM

RS

“ I, send prayers and condolences to you and your family. May you seek comfort in the Lord and hold on to the memories of your love one.

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**Ramona Simpson** - August 05, 2022 at 09:01 PM

VO

“ I went to school with Craig. I am very sorry for your loss. Mr Chalmers sounds like he was a wonderful role model for everyone who knew him. You all have my most sincere condolences.

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**Vickey Ollis** - August 05, 2022 at 07:15 PM

DM

“ To Aunt Marilyn and the Chalmers Family we send our condolences and prayers. Uncle Roger will be missed. Love you all.  
Dara Miles-Watkins and Family

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**Dara Miles-Watkins** - August 05, 2022 at 06:06 PM

LP

“ Dear Marilyn and Family, I first met Roger Chalmers when I joined IBM. Roger was in Personnel and I was a Computer Operator Trainee. Roger introduced me to the IBM Standards and Procedures. I was impressed with the professionalism demonstrated by Roger. He also introduced me to another IBM employee, Thomas Higgs. I later became one of the guys along with Jim Robinson. I will always cherish my relationship and comrades with Roger he was a wonderful and valued friend. I offer my deepest sympathies to Marilyn and the family.

Leslie Phipps  
West Orange, N. J. 07052

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**Leslie Phipps** - August 05, 2022 at 05:24 PM

MC

Thank you so much Les. He will be missed for sure. Stories to tell.... for sure.  
Love, Marilyn and family

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**Marilyn Chalmers** - October 11, 2022 at 01:48 PM

MT

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Brother Roger. He will be missed at New Zion Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Va. I had the the opportunity to work with him in the Choir at the church, and also United Fellowship Choir, under the direction of Rob Hall. He enjoyed singing and had a very nice voice. May the Peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep you during these difficult times.

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**MARIA O TABB-NORMAN** - August 05, 2022 at 12:05 AM

CA

“ Deepest sympathy to Marilyn and the family. Roger left a wonderful legacy. I remember our times together playing golf and our volunteer experiences we shared outside of golf. May God bless the family with peace and comfort. Rest In Peace my friend.

Carroll & Delores Antoine - August 04, 2022 at 09:54 AM

MC

Thank you for sharing your kind memories of my life partner. He will be missed, for sure  
Marilyn

Marilyn Chalmers - October 11, 2022 at 01:50 PM

MR

“ I will always remember your warm embrace and your encouraging words of wisdom. Your neighbor and friend. Marilyn Richardson

Marilyn Richardson - August 04, 2022 at 08:26 AM

ET

“ Most kind and understanding BROTHER IN LAW I new, so glad you was part of my life, and I will miss the laughter but always remember your kindness. REST IN PEACE-- EUNICE TOOMBS

EUNICE TOOMBS - August 04, 2022 at 06:42 AM

TP

“ You have been a blessing to many during your earthly journey. While you are resting with the Father, He is holding your family and friends.  
Peace, Tee

TJ Plummer - August 03, 2022 at 04:42 PM

SC

“ *My Prayers for the entire family*

Stanley Payne 4-15 ZETA MU MU CHAPTER - August 03, 2022 at 04:14 PM

ST

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Chalmers made a lasting and positive impression on everyone he met and it was my pleasure to know him. Wishing you peace during this difficult time.*



*Simone Thornton*

simone thornton - August 03, 2022 at 02:12 PM

AA

“ *Mr. Roger will truly be missed I can remember the first time I met him at my job it was like we knew each other for ever. Boy could he carry on a conversation. Sending my love and condolences to his family and his wife Mrs, Marilyn. I will miss from seeing his smiling face. Prayers for you all and Mrs. Marilyn I am just a phone call away! With love from the green eye Girl (that's what he would call me) ❤️*

Alicia Akrie-Williams - August 02, 2022 at 09:48 PM

GM

*Our sincere condolences to Marilyn and her family. Marilyn and I go back a long way and when we moved to Brickshire it was so nice to meet Roger. He was so nice and carried on a pleasant conversation every time we saw him. I'm so sorry we are out of town and will not be able to attend the funeral. We will be praying for you and the family and will see you when we get home.*

Gary and Lola McDowell - August 05, 2022 at 12:48 PM