



Major General (Ret.) Carroll Thackston

June 20, 1933 - February 17, 2013

Major General (Retired) Carroll Thackston of South Boston, VA went to be with the Lord on Sunday, February 17, 2013. He passed away peacefully at Lynchburg General Hospital where he was surrounded by family.

General Thackston faithfully served his country for more than forty years in many capacities with the United States Army, rising to the rank of Major General and serving as the Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard after being appointed to the post by former Governor George Allen. He served on active duty for six years, and spent 35 years in the National Guard, where his first military assignment was as detachment commander with the 1173rd Transportation Company. He also served as Inspector General, Commander of the 116th Support Battalion, State Military Personnel Officer and Chief of Staff before serving as Assistant Adjutant General and then The Adjutant General. He was awarded two Virginia Distinguished Service Medals during his tenure. He retired from the military in 1998.

In addition to his service to his country, General Thackston is also known for his service to his community, the ultimate citizen soldier. He served on the South Boston Town Council, was elected as Mayor in 2004, and was serving his third term. Long active in civic and governmental affairs, General Thackston served on the boards of the Southfax Sertoma Club, the Halifax County Chamber of Commerce, the Richmond and South Boston United Way, a member of the South Boston School Board, the Board of the South Boston-Halifax County Museum, YMCA, and the VMI Board of Visitors. He was

currently serving on the Halifax County Educational Foundation, the Virginia National Guard Foundation, The Foundation of the Higher Education Center, and the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region Board of Directors. As a VMI Alumnus, he served as an advisor on the VMI Alumni Board. He was a devoted Christian and member of First Presbyterian Church of South Boston, where he was an Elder.

He was born in Concord, Virginia in 1933. He attended Virginia Military Institute, from where he earned a Bachelor Degree in History in 1955. In his professional life, he was a former human resources manager at Daystrom Furniture and a former manager of the Virginia Employment Commission in South Boston.

General Thackston is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 53 years, Frances Anne LaNeave, son Michael and his fiancée Crystal, son Jonathan and his wife Ann Marie, and son Mark and his wife Erin. He is blessed with four grandchildren, Drury, Milam, Courtland, and Carrington. He is also survived by a sister-in-law Nancy Pool and her husband Del, niece Salli Pool, nephew David Good, and two great-nephews Matthew and Michael Good. He will be remembered for his service to God and Country, his leadership, sense of humor and integrity. He loved his family and was a true gentleman. Funeral services are scheduled for Thursday, February 21 at 2 o'clock at First Presbyterian Church in South Boston. Burial will follow at Oak Ridge Cemetery with Military Rites. Visitation will be Wednesday 7-8:30 P.M. at Powell Funeral Home and other times at his home.

Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the Fund for Halifax County, C/O Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, 541 Loyal Street, Danville, VA 24541, First Presbyterian Church, 800 North Main Street, South Boston, VA 24592, or the VMI Foundation, PO Box 932, Lexington, VA 24450, or the Virginia National Guard Foundation, Inc., Bldg. 316 ATTN: Mr. Cecil, Fort Pickett, Blackstone, VA 23824.

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Tribute Wall

VB

“ *Mark and Erin and to all your family, You are in my thoughts and prayers. May God give you the PEACE that only he can give, now and in the days ahead. Thinking of you and sending prayers of comfort.*

Vicki Brown - February 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Francis Ann, Michael, Jonathan, Mark and the extended family. Carol was a great community leader and a good man. He was loved and will be missed by many.*

David Vaughan - February 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *All of our sympathies to all of the family members. I had the pleasure of meeting Carroll at the Halifax Regional Cardiac Rehab center in June of 2008. When he found out I lived in Clarksville, every morning when I saw him at the Rehab center, he would ask me what the lake level was. And so every morning, before I left home, I would check the Corps of Engineers official website for the lake level so I would be prepared for Carroll's question. I did that for 12 weeks until i graduated. I later saw him at veterans services and meetings. I once told him, since I was a former enlisted man, how it amazed me, when young Army colonels would come up to meet him, to hear them say "Sir" to him. You don't often hear colonels say "Sir" to anyone. He was a fine officer and a gentleman to all, civilian and military. As the current Governor said "We have lost a true patriot." That really sums it up.*

Steve Roberts - February 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ We will always have fond memories of the Major General. He was so inspirational when we were doing business in South Boston. And we have great respect for his VMI leadership and his personal convictions. We know he will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all he touched.

Tom Shepherd & Ginny Bogart - February 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Our sincere condolences to Frances and family. His service to his country was honorable and he was a man of wisdom and helpful to all who came in contact with him. He will be missed.

Bob and Judy Weikle - February 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ My heart goes out to each of you: Frances Anne, your devotion to Carroll and your sons is truly commendable. And to Michael, Jonathan and Mark my heartfelt sorrow. Carroll was a laudable man. He will be missed. Truly, Betty

Betty Thackston Irving Whitt - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

C(

“ My most sincere condolences for the loss of a great leader and friend.
He was always someone who I admired and tried to emulate throughout my career.
To Michael and Jonathan; I hope that your grief and sorrow are short and outweighed by your love and remembrance of a great man.
May the good Lord be with you and your family through this period of morning.

CSM Tom Yeager (Retired) - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ *BG Thackston was a true Soldier's advocate, as well as being very approachable and supportive to all ranks and all walks of life. His door was always open and his style of leadership as well as his personal integrity will be missed. Rest easy comrade!* ”

Woody Ramsey - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *Mark and family, just wanted you to know you have been in my thoughts and prayers since your dad had been ill. And now you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers for God to strengthen, comfort and provide a peace that only He can provide during this difficult time. "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted." May you be blessed with many fond memories and remember this is not good-bye, just see you later...* ”

Brenda Pritchard - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *Mark, Allen and I are so sorry for the loss of your Dad. Losing a parent is a hard thing. We both have experienced the loss of a parent. Your are in our thoughts and prayers. Just always cherish the memories and that will help you through the rough times. We are also pray for your Mom and the rest of your family.*
With sadness,
Allen & Debbie McGhee ”

Allen & Debbie McGhee - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Thackston Family,*

We are so sorry for the loss of a loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle, Brother and Friend. It's never easy to lose a loved one, but to know they are no longer suffering and you will always have an angel on your side which is a blessing. We are always here if you need us. We love you both.

Tony & Meagan Martin - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with the family. MG Thackston was one of the finest of officers that I served with and for and a true professional. He always had the good of the Guard Members and their families at heart and was truly a great patriot and citizen.*

His friendship was cherished and I will always remember the humor, great stories, his piano playing, and willingness to serve and help others.

Buddy Faulconer - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ *May you take comfort in all of the beautiful memories that you hold dear to your heart. May these memories bring you comfort in the days ahead.*

Joyce Yeatts - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

George & Kim Slayton - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May Gods grace be with you at this time. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Carol Black-Harrell - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with MG Thackston's family for the strength and the faith that we all must have during these times. He was a leader who cared about his soldiers and he loved his family and one can leave no greater legacy. Charlie and Jane Compton

Charlie Compton - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ We are both saddened by the General's passing. He was a true friend great boss, Adjutant General and family man. I am proud and honored to have served as his Command Sergeant Major. We will surely miss him. Our Prayers are with Mrs Thackston and amily.

Jim & Carolyn Flanary

Jim & Carolyn Flanary - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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“ The Commonwealth of Virginia has loss a great soldier and his family has loss a great man. It was an honor to serve under him and to serve with him. May the Lord shine his light upon his family and bring them peace, during this darkness of time.

1SG Frank L. Flannagan (Ret.) - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Our thoughts are with you and your family Mark. We are so sorry for your loss.

Beth McCubbin - February 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *What a Leader, What a Man of Compassion for others. He made the right decision for many soldier's at every level of command!He knew what was right in most every situation. A Man you could always count on to resolve any situation and do the right thing! He in deed served his fellow man and country, as well as the community. The GENERAL was always thinking of others instead of himself!!*

TROY A. LA RUE, SR. - February 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *Mr. Thackston was my scoutmaster and baseball coach. He was a great man. He taught us all real life lessons. He will be missed.*

Phil Gill - February 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *I propose and HIGHLY recommend that the current ARMORY located in South Boston shall be named THE CARROLL THACKSTON ARMORY!! I think he would like this tribute and is the only one deserving of it! I hope I am not getting too far too fast, but this should be handled quickly by our Delegate, even though the current session in the General Assembly. This was his Building of structure and roots! Mr. GOVERNOR SIR, you need to do this!*

TROY A. LA RUE, SR. - February 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM