



Rudolph Douglas Davidson

July 19, 1941 - February 4, 2022

Rudolph Douglas Davidson, 80, passed away on Friday, February 4, 2022.

He was a graduate of Shawnee High School and attended UofL and Ky. State College.

He was a veteran of the US Army and retired from Louisville Metro Government as Cabinet Secretary of Public Works and Services, and Director, Solid Waste Management and Services (Old City of Louisville). During his 37 year career in government Rudy left a legacy of many accomplishments. As Executive Director of the Louisville and Jefferson County Community Action Agency he lead the City's first heat relief and winter relief programs.

He later became Director of the Louisville Sanitation Department which he later renamed the department of Solid Waste and Management Services (SWMS). Many services were initiated during his tenure. The city's first curbside recycling program, recycling drop off centers, opening of the Waste Reduction Center, expanded the heavy trash collection program, closing the old incinerator, started the office paper recycling in the business district, planned the City's first Solid Waste Management Plan, started the containerized cart garbage collection system and revised the 40 year old twice a week garbage collection system to a once a week collection system.

He was the past president of the US Conference of Mayors, Municipal Waste Management Association and past president of the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America.

He received numerous awards as a solid waste professional. He was selected by the American Public Works Association as one of the top Ten Public Works Leaders in North America for 1997. Kentucky Recycling Award-1992, National Association for Plastic Container Recovery-President's Award for Community Program Excellence-1992, Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission Award-1991 and many more.

He retired in 2006 and devoted his time to community work. He was past president of the Fontaine Estates Homeowner's Association, past president of the Shawnee Neighborhood Association, founding member of the Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center, past chairman of the Urban Service District Board and a founding member of Stop Pet Over Population Today (SPOT).

He also received awards for his community work. Tai Chi Award-2006, The Molly Leonard Community Service Award-2008, Louisville Metro Council Black History Month Celebration Award-2010 and Veteran's I.M.A.G.E. Award-2011.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Catherine and Nathaniel; brother, Nathaniel III, and sister, Ruth Handy.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jean; stepson, Steve Bodner, granddaughters, Brittany Mellick (Jeremy), Amanda McDaris (David), Shannon Mackin (Cody); 2 great-granddaughters, 1 great-grandson; nephews, Durk Davidson (Pat), Mark Handy (Kim), Brian Davidson (Tammy); niece, Paula Westmoreland, and a host of great-nieces and great-nephews and cousins.

Visitation: 4pm-8pm Thursday, February 10, 2022 at A.D. Porter & Sons
Funeral Home, 1300 W. Chestnut St. Funeral: 11am Friday, February 11, 2022
at the funeral home. Burial: 1:30pm Monday, March 7, 2022 at KY Veterans
Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

KY Veterans Cemetery

2501 N Dixie Blvd
Radcliff, KY 402160

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

A. D. Porter and Sons Funeral Home - Downtown
1300 West Chestnut Street
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 587-9678
a.d.portersoutheast@gmail.com
<https://adporters.com/>

Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

A. D. Porter and Sons Funeral Home - Downtown
1300 West Chestnut Street
Louisville, KY 40203
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Tribute Wall

ML

“ *My Condolences and Prayers for
The Davidson Family*

Marva L.Valentine - February 11, 2022 at 12:22 AM

GZ

“ *Very sorry to read about Rudy's passing. He was one of the best that I worked with on many solid waste issues and other projects with the city. He was always positive, knowledgeable and a pleasure to work with. He cared about people and getting things done right and making life better. He will be missed.*

Greg Zahradnik - February 11, 2022 at 10:40 AM

NM

“ *So sorry for the loss of my lifelong friend. Rudy and I walked to kindergarten together many years ago and have remained friends since.
Prays for Jean and family.
Norman Morton*

Norman Morton - February 10, 2022 at 10:05 PM



“ *RIP my childhood friend. I think of our days as kids when we used to skate over to your street because your street had the best hill to skate on. I remember the decisions we made to integrate Shawnee High School in the first year of desegregation. We lived through some interesting times.*

James R Bell

James R Bell Jr. - February 10, 2022 at 06:11 PM

DC

“ MY NAME IS DON CLARK. I WOULD OFTEN SEE YOU AT LIBERTY BANK WHEN I WORKED DOWNTOWN. JEAN I AM VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. I MET RUDY IN 1980 WHEN I BECAME BUDGET & PLANNING DIRECT FOR THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE. HE WAS A GIFT TO THE CITY. HE HANDLE EVERYTHING. HE WAS A FRIEND TO EVERYONE. HIS EMPLOYEES LOVED HIM BECAUSE HE CARED FOR THEM. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE IN MY PRAYERS. THE LORD WELCOMED HOME A MAN WHO LOVED ALL AND WORKED TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR EVERYONE HE MET.

Don Clark - February 10, 2022 at 06:48 AM

JN

“ Rudy and Jeanie have been a part of my family for 45 years and the joy and privilege of being with them on vacation trips to Super Bowl parties has made my life so much richer. There's only one Rudy; he was a great man. I love him with all my heart!
Jeanie bless you for the wonderful care you gave him.
Jo

Jo Norman - February 09, 2022 at 01:21 PM



“ Easel - 6" "S front" was purchased for the family of Rudolph Douglas Davidson.



February 09, 2022 at 12:52 PM

TF

“ So very sorry to read of the passing of a good man. Jean, thanks for sharing Rudy with this community for so many years - it was a privilege to work with him on solid waste issues during his many years with the City, and we are all the better for his dedication to this community. A life well-lived in service to others.

*Fitz
Kentucky Resources Council*

Tom (Fitz) FitzGerald - February 09, 2022 at 10:35 AM

KW

“ Jean, I am so sorry for your loss. God gained a wonderful Angel. Rest Rudy, and Ruth.
Kitty Watkins and family

Kitty Watkins - February 09, 2022 at 08:46 AM

DP

“ My late husband, Otis Franklin, and I loved Rudy as a good friend, and respected him as one fine human. My thoughts and love to Jeanie , Davidsons, and all the old buds who had many happy days together.

Dorace Peters - February 08, 2022 at 08:39 PM