



Rudolph Spencer Jr. (Downtown)

May 31, 1942 - January 31, 2024

Rudolph Spencer Jr. 81, passed away on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. He was born on May 31, 1942, in Macon, GA, to his late parents Margaret R. Campbell (Johnson) and Rudolph Spencer Sr. He was raised by his Grandmother Ida Lee Spencer and Grandfather John Burney. He passed away on January 31, 2024.

He was educated at George Washington Carver Grammar School for African Americans and Ballard-Hudson High School in Macon. As a child, he spent a lot of time at the Booker T. Washington Community Center, where he found his love for creative arts like painting, sketching, and drawing. He even won an art contest as a seven-year-old with his unique drawing of sailboats. His use of art helped him overcome his shyness and the limitations of his stutter. After high school, he volunteered to join the United States Air Force because he said his job sweeping floors at the grocery store “wasn’t going to cut it.” As an Airman, he trained to be a photographer. He deployed for two tours of duty in the Vietnam War, documenting combat operations on the frontlines. He achieved the rank of Sergeant before leaving active duty.

He returned to Georgia wanting to begin a photography career for a federal agency. After being passed over a few times for photographer opportunities, he got his “foot in the door” by working as a janitor. After a few months on the job (and knowing the rules), he leveraged his tenure, veteran’s preference, and portfolio to get hired as a photographer. Eventually, he relocated to work

at the Naval Ordnance Station in Louisville, KY, where he retired in 1995 as a supervisor in the Photo Lab department. He was also known as a very effective Union Steward for station employees (Local Lodge 830, IAM&AW). After retirement, he never picked up a camera again. He spent his retirement enjoying television, reading books, learning new technologies, playing billiards, hunting for rare collectibles, going to the casino, enjoying KFC, and having a “drink” while enjoying the breeze on his porch every night.

He is survived by a wonderful family that loves and will miss him very much. Visitation will be on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 11:00 am at A.D. Porter & Sons Funeral Home, 1300 W. Chestnut St., and funeral services will follow at noon. He will be interred in a private ceremony for his immediate family at the KY Veterans Cemetery - Central in Radcliff, KY.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial gifts may be made to the Fund for the Arts at <https://fundforthearts.org/give>. All gifts will be used in community centers around Louisville to fund youth art activities and programs...just like the ones that inspired him as a kid.

services livestream:<https://vimeo.com/event/4071267>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 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

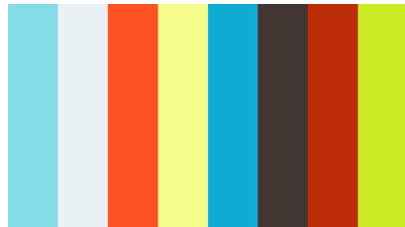
FEB 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *A D Porter & Sons Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rudolph Spencer Jr.(Downtown)*



A.D. Porter & Sons Funeral Home - February 06, 2024 at 12:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rudolph Spencer Jr.(Downtown).*



February 12, 2024 at 05:42 PM



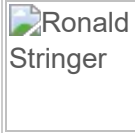
“ *I had the priviledge and honor working at NOSL with Rudy.He was always a gentleman and a professional. Patrick Coleman*

Patrick Coleman - February 10, 2024 at 02:56 PM



“ *Spencer was such a nice guy and was well known at Naval Ordnance. Big man, big smile and always with his camera. RIP my friend!.*

Cheryl McFarland - February 09, 2024 at 05:40 PM



“ Sorry to learn of Rudolph's recent passing. Rudy was a fun man to be around as he worked in all areas of Naval Ordnance Station in Louisville. He was always present to record various events and special occasions though out the Station . His ever present smile and his friendly manner was a trademark of this proud American Veteran . RIP Rudolph Spencer .

Ronald Stringer - February 09, 2024 at 05:40 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rudolph Spencer Jr.(Downtown).



February 06, 2024 at 03:35 PM



“ Sincerely, Iota Lambda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rudolph Spencer Jr.(Downtown).

Sincerely, Iota Lambda - February 06, 2024 at 03:35 PM