



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

RONALD

FRANCIS

Chops

OCTOBER 8, 1946 - MARCH 30, 2023

Homegoing Celebration
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023
1:00 P.M.

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
6723 Whitefriars Drive, Houston, Texas 77087

His JOURNEY

Ronald Francis Echols, 76, of Houston Texas, passed away on March 30, 2023 after a long battle with congenital heart disease.

Ronald was born on October 08, 1946 to Geraldine Margarite (Desbordes) and Lilo Munger Echols in Washington D.C.

After Ronald graduating from Calvin Coolidge High School in 1964, he continued his education attending Howard University in Washington D.C.. In college he helped establish the school's first Astronomy program, and also Minored in Astronomy. He was tri-lingual in French and German in addition to his native tongue, English, and he performed languish translation as a summer intern for the CIA. After graduating from Howard University with a dual major in Mathematics and Chemistry, he was hired by IBM but then drafted into the U.S. Army to serve during the Vietnam war in 1969. He served 2 years as a tech specialist assigned to the Command and Control Detachment at the Pentagon. One of only a handful of black soldiers, he was awarded soldier of the month in the largest company in the U.S. in August of 1970. He finished his military career with an E5 rank.

In 1971, Ronald moved to Houston, Texas to resume his career with IBM. He met Texana Byrd and they were wed in 1973. Ronald and Texana's union lasted 49 great years and provided 2 children, Ronald Lance Echols and Rodney Walker Echols.

Ronald was a beaming asset to his community. His church home was Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church. He served his community as a loyal member of the Boy Scouts of America. Himself an Eagle Scout, he served Pack 53 at OLMC as a den leader, a troop leader, and commissioner. He was president of the School Board at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel school. He was volunteer for the Big Brother Big Sisters of America and Sheltering Arms Foundation, and a member of the Knights of Columbus Fraternal Organization.

Before retiring from his dream job as Computer Networking & Security Professional with IBM, he served in the Mission Control for the Apollo Mission, he was a private contractor who wrote security applications for Lockheed Martin, McDonald Douglas, Boeing and NASA. He retired after 30 years and spent his time cheering for his favorite sports teams the Houston Rockets, the Washington Redskins and the Houston Astros. In his retirement years he was an avid computing enthusiast, a loyal and devoted spouse to Texana and we all remember his extraordinary appetite around meals.

Ronald Francis Echols was predeceased by Geraldine and Lilo Echols. He is survived by his brother Gerald Echols, sister Karen Echols, wife Texana and 2 son's Ronald and Rodney, daughter-in-law Heather and 3 grandkids, Jackson, Bennett and Wilson Echols.



ORDER *of Service*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

Entrance Song

Invitation to Prayer

Collect (Opening Prayer)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm (Song of Praise)

Second Reading (New Testament)

Gospel

Homily

The Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Song of Farewell (Incensing)

Prayer of Commendation

Procession to the Place of Committal (Closing Song)

Our Sincerest Gratitude

The family would like to thank everyone who made our burdens lighter and our bereaved days brighter. We will always remember your prayers, your cards, your thoughts and your many expressions of kindness extended to us during this time of sorrow. We hope to personally thank each of you as our hearts are lifted.

The Family

Final Arrangements Entrusted To

MH

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