



Herman Spencer Caldwell, Jr.

May 6, 1945 - January 29, 2025

Herman Spencer Caldwell, Jr. completed his life of public service on January 29, 2025, following a brief period of declining health.

Born May 6, 1945 in Durham, NC to Herman S. Caldwell, Sr. and Doris Bandy Caldwell, he attended Rock Springs High School in Denver, NC and was graduated from Mooresville Senior High in 1963, Davidson College in 1967 and the University of Georgia Law School in 1970. He was licensed to practice law in South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

Active Army assignments included a tour in Vietnam 1972-73 where he was the S-5 Civic Action Officer at the Dong Ba Thin Training Battalion, a unit that trained Cambodians. He was a company commander in the Second Infantry Division in Korea 1977-78. Stateside posts included Fort Benjamin Harrison, Fort Jackson and Fort Monmouth. His Army Reserve assignments included work for the Army Material Command Headquarters and later for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition in the Pentagon. He retired from the Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel. After five years of work as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense, he became a Procurement Officer in 1989 for the US General Services Administration which provides services and supplies to the other parts of government. When he retired in 2016, he had performed 43 years of combined federal service.

A life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans and the National Rifle Association, his hobbies included photography, woodworking, blacksmithing and his beloved greenhouse. His amateur radio operator's license was N3RAQ.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years Mary Ellen Searson Caldwell, daughters Carol C. Weddington of Salisbury, Catherine C Caldwell of Sacramento, CA, grandson Hunter C Weddington, brother Bill Caldwell (Vicki) of Statesville, sister-in-law Terry Searson of Montvale, NJ, nieces Kristine Scibetta of Garwood, NJ, Kelly Chladil (Michael) of Woodcliff Lake, NJ, Colleen Schumacher (Jarret) of Montvale, NJ, and nephew Jeffery Naviello of Edison, NJ. Also surviving is his first wife Erlene Caldwell of Salisbury, NC. A special thanks to Andrae Hemmings who helped on innumerable projects both in Statesville and in Adelphi, MD.

He was predeceased by his parents as well as his son Herman Spencer Caldwell, III of Adelphi, MD and son-in-law Jonathan Weddington of Salisbury, NC.

No Memorial Service will be conducted at this time. At a later date his ashes will join his son's ashes in the Columbarium West of the Salisbury National Cemetery Annex.

The family will receive friends following that service.

Memorials may be made to Welcome Home Veterans, 165 Main St, Mooresville, NC 28115
or Fifth Street Ministries, PO Box 5207, Statesville, NC 28687 or Gordon Hospice House, 2341 Simonton Rd, Statesville, NC 28625.

Fond memories and condolences may be left on Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory Mooresville, NC at www.cavin-cook.com.

Tribute Wall

LM

“ It is so appropriate that there are so many who expressed their fond memories and grief at the loss of Herman. He was indeed larger than life, never shirking his responsibility to speak up to help lead GSA to a better place, and valuing all he knew. Thank you, Herman, for your service to this great nation. May you rest in peace in the palm of his hand.

Lisa Maguire - February 13, 2025 at 01:38 PM

JS

“ Jennifer Simms purchased the Hot Cocoa Gift Basket for the family of Herman Spencer Caldwell, Jr..



Jennifer Simms - February 10, 2025 at 07:27 PM

FC

“ Herman was on of the best supervisors that I have worked under within the federal government. So sorry to hear of this loss! I send prayers for the family!



Francine Cox - February 10, 2025 at 11:39 AM

DA

“ It is extremely difficult when you lose a loved one. I pray that you hold onto the good and funny memories that your family has made over a lifetime together. I pray your strength during this season.

I had the privilege to work with Herman and I will forever remember those delicious cakes he brought to work. He shared it amongst his colleagues. I'm grateful to have know Herman and the professional perspective/guidance he provided to me.

Praying for you all.

Deborah Aubert-Bell - February 07, 2025 at 02:33 PM

LY

“ Condolences to the family. Herman was my first supervisor when I started my career GSA straight from college and he made me like working in procurement. "Why are you afraid of making mistakes, what's the SF30 for!?" He was a great mentor. Rest in peace Uncle Herman. We missed you and Mary Ellen's rum balls around the holidays after you retired, but we never forgot about you. How I wish I reached out when you kept crossing my mind last month. Your occasional check in emails will be missed.

Lisa Yimbo - February 07, 2025 at 02:18 PM

BH

“ My condolences to the Cadwell family, I worked with Herman at GSA, he was a great gentleman to work with.

Bianca Henderson - February 07, 2025 at 01:54 PM

JA

“ Deepest condolences to Mary Ellen and the rest of his family. I worked with Herman for years. He actually hired me twice and I had the opportunity to observe his love of his family and his work. He liked to challenge his team and get the best out of them, but he was always so appreciative of their efforts, and always said thank you in words and gestures. I now realize how many lessons and practices I actually got from him. Even more than a great supervisor, he was someone with a huge heart that cared about people and their circumstances. I'll always be thankful to him for reaching out to me when I was going through a personal loss and sharing with me some of the resources he had used over the years. I'm so happy he got to enjoy his retirement and spend time with his family- he often spoke of his excitement for that chapter in his life. I hope his memory gives peace and comfort to his family and those that loved him. I'm truly sorry to hear about his loss. RIP Herman, you have touched many and you will be missed.

Jasmine Alexander - February 07, 2025 at 01:34 PM

TW

“ Mrs Mary Ellen and family, please accept our deepest condolences for the loss of your loved one. As neighbors in Adelphi, MD, we remember the kindness you both showed us. Mr. Herman was cherished and his relationship and kindness will never be forgotten. We pray for continued peace and comfort during this time of grief. From your former neighbors in Adelphi, MD- the Wrights.

The Wrights - February 06, 2025 at 12:57 PM

JR

“ Thank you for your Military and Federal Service. You were one of the best Supervisors at GSA. To the family, I'm sorry to hear of Herman's passing, may you keep the memories of him in your hearts forever! RIP!

Janetta Roberts-Owens - February 06, 2025 at 06:49 AM

TD

*Tessa Dorsey, To the family of Mr. Herman Caldwell. Herman was my supervisor for many years at GSA. Herman was "Bigger than Life". Words can't express how much I appreciate his teaching, kindness & wisdom. I still appreciate his guidance today, and he helped me understand that "I can do it".
My Deepest & Heartfelt Condolences to the Caldwell Family. Thank you Herman.
May You Rest in Peace 🌹*

Tessa Dorsey - February 07, 2025 at 02:42 PM