



## Cecil Mayo

January 21, 1940 - February 27, 2026

Cecil Mayo is a son of the South who was born and raised in Anniston, Alabama. After completing high school in 1958 at Cobb High in Anniston, Alabama, he served in the United States Marines for six years. His tour of duty included serving as a military police officer in Okinawa, Japan. After his military service, he moved North to Buffalo, New York as his family was part of the great migration of African Americans moving North for greater opportunities. In Buffalo, he attended the University of Buffalo and received his bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus on accounting. After graduation, he landed a job as a claims adjuster with Nationwide Insurance. Rather than return to graduate school, he pursued and earned several professional insurance designations. Nationwide promoted him to District Claims Manager supervising claims adjusters and services in New York City, upstate New York, and Long Island. After a few years, he was recruited to serve on the personnel side of the business with a move to Syracuse, New York rising to the level of Personnel Manager. During his tenure in Syracuse, he was recruited as a member of the local graduate chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in 1980. After three years in Syracuse, New York, he moved to Columbus Ohio to take a personnel management position in the Nationwide home office. His work in Columbus, Ohio, led to a promotion to Regional Personnel Manager for the company, now expanded to Nationwide/Wausau Insurance, supervising the personnel operations in eleven states in the central region of the country. At the ripe old age of fifty-

five, he decided to take early retirement to focus on his leisure time passion of gardening. He enrolled in the agriculture program at Texas State University to enhance his knowledge and received a bachelor's degree in horticulture. The full-time focus on horticulture led to receiving the official designations of Master Gardener and a Master Naturalist. At his new home in New Braunfels, Texas, he cultivated the largest vegetable garden of his life, including the cultivation of a variety of fruit trees and a woodland park. He volunteered in the San Antonio community for several organizations including the Carver Community Cultural Center Garden, the San Antonio Botanical Center, the San Antonio African American Genealogy Society, and the Organization for Black Unity. He was also a diamond life member of the NAACP.

In 1971, he married Sandra M. Perry (Mayo). Dr. Sandra Mayo is a retired administrator and professor emerita from Texas State University in San Marcos. At the time of his passing, they celebrated fifty-four and a half years of marriage. In 1974, they welcomed their son Kamal Rasheed, currently a civil engineer in Houston, TX. As a father, he mentored numerous young men in the Boy Scouts of America, including his son, Kamal and grandson Joshua, who both ascended to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Cecil loved hunting and fishing in his youth with his brother Claude, son, and friends. He was an enthusiastic researcher of African American history, especially the Civil War. He loved westerns and listened frequently to Nat King Cole. At dinner, he preferred collard greens, okra, cornbread and sweet potato pie.

Cecil leaves to mourn his wife Sandra, his son Kamal, and daughter in law Deidre, his grandson Josh, granddaughter Ashley, and great granddaughter Aiyanna, two of his seven brothers Claude and John Mayo, numerous nieces and nephews including Gregory, Gina, Michael, Cookie, Donald, Quinton, Brenda, Tim and Frank, and numerous sisters in law, brothers in law, cousins,

and friends across many states.

# Cemetery Details

## Forestlawn Gardens

730 Golden Springs Road  
Anniston, AL 36207

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAR **14**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Homes and Crematory- Anniston  
830 Noble Street  
Anniston, AL 36201

# Tribute Wall

CM

“ Uncle Cecil, I'm so immensely thankful that you and Uncle Claude gave me the opportunity to go to CA to see my daddy, to spend time with you, Aunt Sandy, Uncle Claude, and my Cousins, Kamal & Greg. 🌹 ... I'll miss our talks where you shared your many stories of life experiences and the history of African Americans and of our Mayo family. You enlighten me on many things about life itself. May you Rest In Heaven with our Lord and with family that have gone on before. 🙏...I Love You Uncle Cecil ❤️ and please tell my Daddy I said, “Hi Daddy!” ✨🌹✨ 🙏❤️ Blessings to You Aunt Sandy and to all of the family and friends. 🙏❤️ .. I love you all.  
Claudia Mayo  
Fredericksburg, VA

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**Claudia Mayo** - March 14 at 10:05 AM

DS

“ Debra S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cecil Mayo.

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**Debra S.** - March 13 at 06:43 PM

DB

“ Under the sadness, there is grace... and grace will lead us home. Wishing you, Sandra and your family the comfort of peace and hope-today and in the days to come. With my deepest sympathy.  
A Friend  
DeBorah Banks

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**DeBorah Banks** - March 13 at 04:19 PM

FM

“ Frank M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cecil Mayo.

Frank M. - March 12 at 12:22 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Cecil Mayo.



March 11 at 04:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Cecil Mayo.

March 11 at 04:23 PM



“ Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Cecil Mayo.



March 10 at 10:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Cecil Mayo.

March 10 at 10:17 PM



“ *Majestic Heart was purchased for the family of Cecil Mayo.*



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March 10 at 08:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Cecil Mayo.

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March 10 at 08:55 PM