

Mr. Edgar Leroy Law, Jr.

July 2, 1924 - August 13, 2013

Edgar LeRoy Law, Jr. was a real-life pioneer and hero of our time. With quiet determination he rose from humble beginnings to become the first of his family to graduate from college, helped to integrate the U.S. Marine Corps, pioneered the way for people of color to enter the field of Architecture, and ultimately became a successful entrepreneur, while modeling an exceptional role as devoted husband and father.

Born July 2, 1924 in Orlando, Florida, Edgar was raised by his father, Edgar Law, Sr. and his step-mother, Hattie (Potts) Law in Macon, Ga. He was a three-sport student athlete at Macon's Ballard High School, competing in track, baseball and football.

Edgar grew up during the Great Depression, followed by the conflict in Europe and Pearl Harbor. As a freshman, at Tuskegee Institute, Edgar got to see and was inspired by the historic Tuskegee Airmen. In 1943, at age 19, he enlisted among the first African Americans to serve in the Marines. He was honorably discharged as a corporal in 1946.



After his service, Edgar attended Howard University where he earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Architecture. His career included employment by the prestigious architectural firm of Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA), Richmond California Redevelopment Agency, City Planner for Simi Valley, the city Compton, and for Atlanta, GA. He eventually formed his own consulting business, Ed Law and Company, and was the recipient of numerous awards.

It was at Howard University where he met his future wife, and great love of his life, Fay Anita Yvonne Mitchell. They were married for 55 years. From this union came four children who were the jewels of their life. The children were raised in an egalitarian household, fully committed to gender and racial equality. As such, Edgar worked tirelessly to give each one the opportunity to pursue their passions, and the encouragement to develop to their full potential. Their lives were a family affair! During the last 8 years of Fay's life, Edgar was her primary caregiver and what a gift it was: pure love, demonstrated; thoughtful, tender, and selfless.

The last two years of his life became a time for Edgar to rediscover himself and others. Re-embracing life, he indulged in pursuits that gave him pleasure. Chief among these was golfing and being an active member of the Knollwood Senior Men's Golf Club. Other passions included his grandson, reading, fixing anything, anywhere, that was broken; concerts, plays, church, lemon meringue pie (on special occasions), Houston (his cat); and hiking Mission Peak, and the N. Y. YANKEES! Most of all, he embraced his family and friends, and whenever he was asked how he was doing, he would respond, "Faaan-tastic!"

During this period, *the* highlight of his life was the recognition of his military service to his country. In June of 2012, Edgar was one of the 434 Black Marines to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal at the presentation ceremonies in Washington, D. C. Edgar, with Fay, now watches over his loving family from a distance: his children, Edgar LeRoy III, James Leonard, Elliott Laurence (Robert), Shaun Lucile (John Michael); grandchildren, Daisy and Sean Michael; cousin Mary, 'sister'-cousin Yasmin (David), niece Charlotte, grand nephew Glen, close friend Gloria and #4 son John; other relatives; old friends and new.

Donations in Edgar's memory may be made to the Montford Point Marine Association Museum Fund.