



Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired)

February 16, 1947 - October 22, 2024

Major Peter Ward Henderson, Retired, the only child of Marcellus Thomas Henderson, III and Margaret Ward Henderson, was born on February 16, 1947 in Manhattan, New York. He was baptized and reared in the Catholic faith.

Major Henderson received his primary and secondary education in private and military schools in New York and completed his undergraduate studies in political science at Howard University, Washington, D.C. in 1978. While at Howard, he joined ROTC was also initiated into Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Upon graduation from Howard University, he obtained the rank of officer in the U.S. Army, embarking on a distinguished military career spanning more than 20 years. He served two tours in the Marine Corps during the height of the Vietnam War, where he earned commendations that included a Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal and numerous others. He retired from active duty in 1995 as a Major.

Major Henderson began working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1994 while serving with the U.S. Army's XVIII Airborne Corps in Haiti, as a member of the organization's disaster

assistance response team. His expertise in organizing complex logistics, forging relationships with global communities, and maintaining composure in crisis situations, combined with his deep commitment to public service, made him a highly effective humanitarian leader.

After retiring from the Army, Major Henderson joined USAID in 1996 as a Team Leader for Operations Support, now known as the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Over the course of his 28-year career with the agency, he held various pivotal roles, including in the Office of Civil-Military Cooperation (CMC). During his tenure in CMC, he served as the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Coordinator and Unit Security Officer. In doing so, he advanced USAID's partnerships to build more stable and prosperous communities. Furthering his education, he earned a Master of Science degree from the National War College of the National Defense University in 2009.

Major Henderson devoted his life to serving his country and humanity, often at great personal sacrifice. He placed himself in grave danger, endured separations from family and friends, and faced physical and mental hardships. His legacy of service did not reflect personal reward or recognition, rather the desire to protect others, uphold peace, and serve a higher purpose. He was an optimist, witty and engaging, and through thick and thin, thought about others first.

Major Henderson departed this life on October 22, 2024 after battling cancer.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Lynne Evans, and his two sons, Evans Peter and Marcellus Thomas, IV, and a host of loving relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico

18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - Prince George's County
4308 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746
(301) 736-1616
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marshallmarchfh.com>

Service

NOV 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel
1701 Semper Fidelis Way
Triangle, VA 22172

Burial

NOV **12**. 2:00 PM (ET)

National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico
18424 Joplin Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Tribute Wall



“ *Marshall-March Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired)*



Marshall-March Funeral Homes - November 11, 2024 at 03:12 PM

DS

“ *Dr Virginia and Michael Sargent planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired).*

Dr Virginia and Michael Sargent - November 12, 2024 at 08:19 AM

DS

“ *Dr Virginia and Michael Sargent purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired).*



Dr Virginia and Michael Sargent - November 12, 2024 at 08:19 AM

MH

“ From your neighbor Miranda Haywood, Peter's humor and friendly personality will be missed. To be absent in the body is to be present with God. To Ms. Joyce, May the Lord keep you in perfect peace. God will comfort you during your time of grief. Love



Miranda Haywood - November 11, 2024 at 09:05 PM

YA

“ Your neighbors, Collin and Ali purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired).



Your neighbors, Collin and Ali - November 10, 2024 at 05:13 PM

YA

“ Your neighbors, Collin and Ali planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired).

Your neighbors, Collin and Ali - November 10, 2024 at 05:13 PM

MF

“ Mt Sinai-Cornerstone AME Church Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired).



Mt Sinai-Cornerstone AME Church Family - November 06, 2024 at 10:15 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Major Peter Ward Henderson, (Retired).



November 06, 2024 at 11:04 AM



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

November 06, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - October 29, 2024 at 02:44 PM