



## Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr.

April 24, 1924 - April 13, 2020

Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr., 95, passed away peacefully, Monday morning, April 13, 2020, at home with his son, Roland McDougald Jr. by his side.

Born on April 24, 1924 in Vero Beach, Florida to the late John and Hattie (Smith) McDougald, Roland had been a resident of Galesburg Illinois since November 1950. Growing up, Roland picked oranges in the Vero Beach groves along with his siblings until he graduated high school. He enlisted in the Navy in 1943, serving in World War II on the USS Intrepid. Upon discharge in Aurora, Illinois, he was lucky enough to catch the attention of and marry "that cute girl from Ft. Pierce" that he used to see when his family visited town. Rebecca Davis became his bride in 1946 and together, they relocated to Chicago, Illinois, where he used his G.I. Bill benefits to study Mortuary Sciences and apprentice with local morticians.

Roland's skills eventually caught the attention of Mrs. Georgia Fletcher, whose husband owned a small funeral home in Galesburg, Illinois. Mrs. Fletcher saw the promise in Roland and offered to sell to the talented African-American male in a town with a relatively low African-American population. Roland seized the opportunity and relocated his young family to Galesburg to operate the Fletcher & McDougald Funeral Home. He and Mrs. Fletcher agreed that keeping "Fletcher" in the title would make the transition easier for those who might not be open to using a minority-owned company in the early 50s. Roland expanded his work by serving as the Director at Simons Mortuary in Peoria, Illinois after Mr. Simons passed away. In addition to the funeral homes, Roland worked at the Galesburg Research Hospital on the third shift; retiring in 1985 as Assistant Chief of Security. Roland also owned Able Flower Shop on Seminary Street in Galesburg. Over the years, he served the community by helping to found the Galesburg Research Hospital Credit Union, and served on the Carl Sandburg College Mortuary Science Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Allen Chapel AME Church for many years.

Roland closed the doors of Fletcher & McDougald when his health began to fail, but in honor of his legacy, the staff of Simons Mortuary allowed him to continue serving as an honored part of their ceremonies until well into 2019.

Roland was preceded in death by his parents, John McDougald and Hattie McDougald (Smith), his wife Rebecca McDougald (Davis), five brothers: John, Clyde, Anguish, Tommy

and Wayman McDougald, and one sister: Leona McDougald.

Roland leaves behind two children: Freda Hall and Roland McDougald, Jr., who will both miss interacting with him on a daily basis. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren: Rebecca Cribbs (Harry), Lisa Harris (Jerry Townsell), Rhonda Perry (Mike), Deanna Nowell, Ronald Hall, Brian McDougald, Tyrone Hall and Riki Gordon (Jason). Roland lived long enough to have strong, active relationships with many of his great grandchildren: Matthew Roland Harris, Gracie Taylor, Brytney Walton (James), Bobby Taylor, Michala Nunn, Jordan Perry, Drew Perry, Samirah Nowell, Amani Nowell, Kyce Hall, Katrina Hall, Darius Hall, Roni Hall, Cyrus Rollins, Shaylee Rollins, Dakari McDougald, Justice McDougald, Teryn Hall, Blake Hall, Teela Hall, T.J. Hall, Brantley Hall, Brayden Hall, Hunter Gordon, and Gallie Gordon. Roland was also blessed to meet several great-great grandchildren: Matthew Harris Jr., Ashanti Harris, Tayla Harris, Clowie Love, Cayden Love, Kennedy Wigley, Shanyla Cousett, Jayden Walton, Jayvin Walton, Jalayah Nunn, and Zayden Nunn.

Roland will be fondly remembered by family as a strong and loving patriarch. His granddaughter, Lisa Harris, will especially miss visiting him almost every day for lunch. Friends and community members will remember him as the thoughtful and compassionate Funeral Director at Fletcher and McDougald Funeral Home and Simons Mortuary, through which he was afforded the honor of serving as a calm and respectful witness for the many families who said good-bye to their loved ones over the years.

A private service for family only will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2020 from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm and will be streamed on Facebook Live on the Simons Mortuary Facebook page. Pastor Dale Kelley of Chicago's Clair Christian United Methodist Church will bring words of comfort. Reverend Tyson Parks III of Peoria's Bethel United Methodist Church will read scriptures.

The Facebook Live video will also be available for viewing later on [SimonsMortuary.com](https://www.SimonsMortuary.com). Roland will be buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Fort Pierce, Florida, next to his wife and close to his parents and multiple siblings on Saturday, April 25, 2020 with the assistance of Stone Brothers Funeral Home.

# Events

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**APR** **Service**  
**19**

03:00PM

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Facebook Live Stream on Simons Mortuary Facebook Page  
IL, US

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Simons Mortuary** - April 19, 2020 at 05:46 PM

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Simons Mortuary** - April 19, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ Such a wonderful tribute

**Linda Hardy Phoenix Avondale Arizona** - April 24, 2020 at 04:20 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Burial Ceremony



**Simons Mortuary** - April 27, 2020 at 11:58 AM



“ Going home. My mentor and friend of the Kelley family. I am in the business today because of him. I thank God for purpose at a young age in Galesburg, Illinois. Love, Tawny Kelley undertaker.

**tawny kelley** - September 08, 2020 at 01:04 PM

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“ 8 files added to the album Funeral Program



Simons Mortuary - April 19, 2020 at 10:21 PM

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“ To the Family of Mr. McDougald - I became acquainted with him when he worked at Simons. His quiet, pleasant & stately demeanor was much appreciated during some very sad times in my life. I pray God will grant you comfort & peace as you contend with your loss.



Vickie King - April 19, 2020 at 07:58 PM

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“ Curtis Bond lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr.



Curtis Bond - April 19, 2020 at 06:27 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Simons Mortuary** - April 19, 2020 at 06:05 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Departure from Galesburg, IL Funeral Home



**Simons Mortuary** - April 19, 2020 at 06:03 PM

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“ Prayers for the family, he will be missed.



**Karyn Freeman** - April 18, 2020 at 12:43 PM

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“ Sorry for your loss. Sending prayers to you and your family Lenny and Chris Guerrero

**Lenny and Chris Guerrero** - April 18, 2020 at 09:03 AM

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“ New Home Missionary Baptist Church  
433 East First Street  
Galesburg, Illinois 61401  
Pastor Kemp Jones

Church Number (309)3371686 Fax Number (309)289-8788

April 18, 2020

To the family of Mr. Roland “MAC” McDougald Sr

Once again we find ourselves bowed down in humble submission to the divine will of almighty God.

Be assured that the passing of your loved one was his will and that all things done by him are not to be doubted even through we don't understand.

We hope that these few words will comfort you in the tomorrow's to come.

There is promise in each sunrise.

There is hope for each new day;

There's a sunbeam for each raindrop,

There is help along the way.

There is faith for all life's problems,

There is strength for the trials you face,

There is mercy and compassion,

Even in life's darkest place.

That makes all life's sorrows dim.

When you place your hand in God's hand,

And walk life's path with him.

We, the Pastor and Members know that he will be missed.

Respectfully Submitted

Pastor Kemp Jones

Church Clerk

Annette Cato

**annette cato** - April 18, 2020 at 07:34 AM

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“ Kalista Hallberg lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr.



**Kalista Hallberg** - April 18, 2020 at 04:21 AM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr..



April 17, 2020 at 10:46 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Roland W. "Mac" McDougald Sr..



April 17, 2020 at 01:38 AM

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“ Ronald Furness lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr.



Ronald Furness - April 16, 2020 at 11:41 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to the family of Mr. McDougald. He was a wonderful member of the Galesburg community. My mother, Rose Peters, and he and his wife were faithful members of Allen Chapel AME Church. He was very intelligent, respectful, and supportive of the community as a whole. He served as an excellent role model. His smile and words of encouragement will be missed. His, is a life very well lived. I am making a donation to the Carl Sandburg College Mortuary Department in recognition of his monumental contributions to his profession and especially the African American community.



Naomi Law - April 16, 2020 at 07:49 PM

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“ To the family of Mr. Roland W. McDougal, Sr.:

The pastor and members of the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ would like to extend to you and your entire family our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one.

Although our hearts are saddened, we pray that the Lord will comfort your hearts and bless you with endearing memories that you will always treasure. He is with you even in this time of sorrow too deep for words.

God be with you,

Pastor Henry L. Bolden II  
Lady Marcia J. Bolden  
and the PCJC Church Family

Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christh - April 16, 2020 at 06:45 PM

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“ To Freda, Roland, Jr. and Family--I am so very sorry to hear of the death of your beloved father!! He was truly a pillar of the Galesburg community and he carried out the funeral arrangements of so many of Galesburg's families for so many years!! So many are very grateful for your dad's service to his community and he will be sorely missed, but lovingly remembered forever.

Please accept my very sincere condolences to you and all your family during this time of loss and grief. Thanks be to God, he lived a long and well-lived life and you were so fortunate to have him here on earth for 95 years!! The Lord bless and keep you and have His strong arms around you and grant you peace. The Lord grant Roland McDougald, Sr. eternal rest!!!! If there is anything I can do for you, just let me know.

MaryEllen Carson - April 16, 2020 at 04:37 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Roland W. "Mac" McDougald Sr..



April 16, 2020 at 03:02 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Roland W. "Mac" McDougald Sr..



April 16, 2020 at 02:47 PM

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“ We offer our prayers and heartfelt condolences from Charles S. Childs, Jr. and the entire A.A. Rayner & Sons Funeral Home Family and Staff. Peace Be With You Roland.

**Charles S. Childs, Jr.** - April 16, 2020 at 01:38 PM

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“ Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr.



**Kathy collins** - April 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM

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“ Jane and I wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to Freda and Roland Jr. I remember assisting at Simon Mortuary over the years. Mac was a wonderful Gentleman to work with. Respectfully Donald L. Chapman, Jr.  
(Knapp-johnson & Ludwig Mortuary  
Morton, Illinois)



**Donald L. Chapman, Jr.** - April 16, 2020 at 09:09 AM

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“ My condolences to the family of Mr. McDougald. He was an icon in Galesburg and will be truly missed throughout the community. Our Coleman family will be praying for Roland Jr. And his family. God bless you and may God bless you with strength during this time of need.

**Curtis Cunningham** - April 17, 2020 at 03:48 AM

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“ Sending our thoughts and to the entire family of Mr Roland . He was an awesome man. His service to the public will never be forgotten. RIH



**Joanie Brown** - April 16, 2020 at 08:57 AM

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“ Sorry for your loss



**Jacqueline McCullum** - April 16, 2020 at 07:01 AM

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“ We send our prayers to the Family of Mr. Roland “Mac” W. McDougald Sr. with deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences. Our Family has many precious memories of Mr. McDougald, a Gentleman's Gentleman whose expression of kindness during our Grandfather's Homegoing, a fellow WWII Veteran and other members of our Family will never be forgotten... A true cornerstone in Peoria's history of Mortuary Science whose service was filled with class and dignity. Well Done Mr. McDougald as you've taken your rest and entered into life eternal.  
The Carter-Allen-Walker Family

**Sherry Carter-Allen** - April 16, 2020 at 05:12 AM

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“ Curtis Shumate sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr.



**Curtis shumate** - April 16, 2020 at 01:02 AM

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“ I am very sorry for your loss. There were many kindnesses shown to me as a Pastor.  
Lewis Woods, Calvary Baptist Church.

**Pastor Lewis Woods** - April 16, 2020 at 12:36 AM

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“ To the family of Mr. Roland McDougald,

My sincere sympathy is extended to each of you. I can not recall a time in my life when I did not know Mr. McDougald. Growing up next door to the funeral home, he became my earliest mentor and role model. He provided me with years of examples and most certainly impacted my decision to become a funeral director. As the years passed he was always supportive of my career and encouraged me to continue on. I shall forever cherish the impact that he made upon me. May God bless and keep you in His care.

Respectfully,

Adrian Duckworth



**Adrian Duckworth** - April 15, 2020 at 11:35 PM

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“ Sorry for your loss.

Mr. McDougald will be missed immensely. He had a handshake and mannerism that was second to none. Family stay strong and find peace!



**M Jones** - April 15, 2020 at 11:26 PM

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“ Praying for the family and friends. He was a gentle man of few words but always the professional. May God give you peace during this difficult time.



**Evelyn Tate-Clayton** - April 15, 2020 at 08:21 PM

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“ Prayers,condolences,hugs,and love go out to the family.Lean on God for peace and comfort during times of sorrow.



**Camille Thomas Harris** - April 15, 2020 at 07:14 PM

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“ Nancy Pittman sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Roland "Mac" W. McDougald Sr.



**Nancy Pittman** - April 15, 2020 at 06:50 PM