

National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.



Date: 1942 - 1949

Vol. No.1

HOME OF THE ORIGINAL MONTFORD POINT MARINES

www.montfordpointmarines.org

Press Release

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT



Mr. Roland Bernard Durden

1927 - February 8, 2018

On Thursday, February 8, 2018, Roland Bernard Durden passed away at the age of 91 years. He leaves to cherish his memories his daughter, Danelle Kelly, son-in-law, Michael Kelly, son, Anthony Durden, granddaughters Alexandra Kelly and Jessica along with her husband, Jose Resto; great-grandson, Jameson Resto and other family members and friends.

Roland was predeceased by his first wife, Gloria, and their son, Eric. Roland was also predeceased by his second wife, Shirley Lane with whom he was married to until her death last year. Roland also leaves behind

Roland was a proud member of the 20,000 Montford Point Marines, an all-black, special unit of the armed services. In 2014, the 400 remaining Montford Point Marines travelled to Washington, D.C. to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Following his tour of duty in World War II, Roland returned to the main land and found work with the New York City Transit Authority, where he worked for 30 years until his retirement. A few years following the death of his first wife, Gloria, Roland married Shirley Lane, and relocated to Colorado Springs.

Roland had many adventures as he travelled the globe with his second wife, Shirley, as part of former president, Jimmy Carter's organization called Friendship Force. He and Shirley got travelled the world visiting other Friendship Force families.

In 2014, Roland moved to Deerfield Beach, Florida to be closer to his daughter and her husband who became his caregivers until his death. A celebration of Roland's life will take place the first week in May at Rosedale Cemetery in Linden, New Jersey.