

Tribute to Dr. Rogers Ayodele David Jones (4577)

By Eugene Terry (4565) – Washington DC USA



We were all veritable little runts, tiny tots in the real sense of the word, and he was among the tiniest of us all – Rogers Ayodele David Jones, and he was destined to leave his mark as an illustrious son of Sierra Leone and a worthy and distinguished Regentonian.

We called him “Rogie” from the very beginning, but his parents, I believe must have called him “Rogers”, as did other members of his family.

Down the years he has been called, and has answered, to different appellations at different stages of his life, as follows, “Rog” – “RAD Jones”, “Fellow Regentonian” “Uncle Fayi Cole Jnr.” All this, strong testimony indeed to his versatile character and nature.

I use the term versatile to describe our dear departed colleague advisedly. I could have chosen synonyms like – protean, mercurial, adaptable, flexible, outgoing, temperamental, multitalented, multifaceted; and I would have been close to being accurate, for I knew the man!.

Indeed, I have known the man since we were about seven years or so, since we were classmates at Trinity Infants School! We reunited again as members of that gang of rascals –Sierra Leone Grammar School, Class of 1951 – the year we enrolled as Form 1 pupils. We parted company in 1955 when we finished Form 5, alas to be reunited once more in 1961, in a little town outside Montreal in the Province of Quebec Canada. The name of that town is Ste. Ann de Bellevue, where we had both (together with cousin Teddy Jones) been accepted into the Second Year of a four year degree program at Macdonald College, Mc Gill University. It was now clear that our paths were destined to cross often, and in significant ways. Even though “Rog” – which is now what most of his Canadian friends called him, left McGill in 1962 to enroll at the University of Ottawa, the bond still remained strong. Indeed we spent one summer vacation together, himself, Teddy and myself, working in Ottawa, where we shared an apartment.

I know I can say without the slightest hesitation or fear of contradiction, that all who are gathered today, be they close family, friend, classmate, professional colleague, masonic brother, or mere acquaintance, have come to pay homage and tribute to a man who was above all a good man, a Christian and upright man, a good family man. They have come here to recognize him for his scholarship and scientific accomplishments and for his contribution to this country in his professional capacity. I had described him earlier as versatile, and mercurial, among other characteristics. He was indeed all of those things and surely that made him such an interesting and engaging human being. I dare say we are all the better for it, and for having being associated with him. We will miss him dearly.



May his soul rest in perfect peace.

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