



Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr.

August 14, 1959 - September 25, 2025

Obituary for Ronald B. Ramsey Sr.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

The Honorable Judge Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr., devoted public servant, trailblazer, and beloved husband, father, and friend, entered eternal rest on September 25, 2025. His life was one marked by faith, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

Born to Margaret McClelland on August 14, 1959, in Salisbury, North Carolina, Ronald—affectionately known as “Ronnie” to his family—was destined to overcome obstacles. He grew up in the segregated South and made history as the first Black child to integrate Cleveland Elementary School. Raised on his grandparents’ 88-acre farm, alongside his sister and extended family, Ronnie developed a strong work ethic and deep appreciation for community. Whether feeding cows, sweeping floors in his uncles’ garage, or competing in sports, he carried with him the values of discipline, humility, and determination.

His academic journey continued at North Carolina Central University, where he excelled as an honor student, played varsity tennis, and pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. in the Fall of 1979. Graduating cum laude with a degree in Political Science, Ron’s dedication to excellence was evident from

the start. He began his professional career with the National Labor Relations Board, but his passion for justice called him further. While working full-time, he attended law school at night, ultimately earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence from John Marshall Law School in 1992.

It was also during this season of his life that Ron met the love of his life, Doris. They married on May 10, 1985, and together built a family rooted in love, faith, and resilience. Their son, Ronald Jr., and daughter, Christyn, were the pride of his life, and he and Doris were committed to ensuring their children had greater opportunities than they themselves had known. In 2014 he became a grandfather and Christyn's daughter Mariah became his "heart".

Judge Ramsey's professional and civic career was nothing short of extraordinary. He practiced law privately, served as Director of Legal Affairs for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, and later as Chief Legal Officer for the DeKalb County School District. In 2000, he was appointed as the first African-American judge for the Municipal Court of Stone Mountain, serving with distinction until his election in 2006 as the Georgia State Senator for the 43rd District. During his nine years in the legislature working tirelessly across party lines, he chaired committees, championed justice reform, and fought tirelessly for the communities he represented and loved. His influence extended nationally through his leadership in the Gate City Bar Association and the American Bar Association's (ABA) Judicial Division, where he held multiple leadership roles and elected to the ABA House of Delegates in 2023.

In 2015, he was appointed Judge of the State Court of DeKalb County, Traffic Division, where he presided with fairness, compassion, and innovation. Judge Ramsey pioneered initiatives such as the Deferred Sentencing Program, the Court-Supervised Community Service Program, and the "Angel Wings Initiative," which provided holiday support for homeless students. He also embraced technology to make the courts more accessible, piloting a "Virtual

Calendar” system that allowed defendants to appear remotely. His leadership reflected his belief that justice should be both firm and humane, offering pathways to redemption where possible.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Judge Ramsey was deeply committed to his community. He was a proud Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., an active member of Springfield Baptist Church, and a mentor to countless young people. His many honors—including the Thurgood Marshall Award from the NAACP, the Key to the City of Stonecrest, and the John Marshall Law School Outstanding Alumni Award—reflect the breadth of his impact. Yet, he wore these recognitions with humility, always pointing back to his faith in God as the source of his strength.

Judge Ramsey’s journey was not without trials. He often reflected on a season in his life that tested him, comparing it to the trials of Job. But through prayer and faith, he emerged stronger, reaffirmed in his calling to serve with integrity and compassion. His story is one of defying the odds—rising from a segregated childhood to serve as a senator, attorney, and judge who helped shape the future of his community and state. He leaves his memory to be cherished by his devoted wife of 40 years, Doris; his children, Ronald Jr. and Christyn; his grand-daughter Mariah; his sister Denise and her husband Doug; his brother Michael; a host of extended family, fraternity brothers, colleagues, and friends who were inspired by his example of service, perseverance, and faith.

The Honorable Judge Ramsey will be remembered not only for his professional achievements, but also for his kindness, humility, and relentless devotion to lifting others. His legacy will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know him.

To celebrate the remarkable life of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr., a Celebration of Life service will be held at Springfield Baptist Church 1877 Iris Drive SE, Conyers, GA on Friday, October 3rd, 2025, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Senior Pastor Reverend Dr. Eric Wendel Lee Sr. Friends, family, and colleagues are invited to gather in remembrance of his impactful journey and to share in moments of reflection and gratitude. Please express your condolences here on our website. Following the service, a repast will take place from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the same location, where those who knew Ronald are welcome to join in fellowship and share stories of a life well-lived. Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. SOUTH DEKALB CHAPEL (404)241-5656.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to City of Hope, A cancer treatment center that gave us almost an extra decade with the honorable Judge Ramsey after his diagnosis.

Your generosity will honor his legacy.

<https://www.cityofhope.org/giving/give-honor-or-memory>

Ronald's presence will be greatly missed, but the values he championed and the lives he touched will endure in enduring tribute to his remarkable legacy.

As we say goodbye to Ronald B. Ramsey Sr., we hold close the memories of his kindness, his dedication to justice, and the love he shared with those fortunate enough to know him. May he rest in peace.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 3. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Springfield Baptist Church
1877 Iris Drive Southeast
Conyers, GA 30013-1816

Repast

OCT 3. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Springfield Baptist Church
1877 Iris Drive Southeast
Conyers, GA 30013-1816

Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr.



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - October 01, 2025 at 09:56 PM



“ My sincerest sympathies to the family during this incredibly difficult time. Wishing you peace and comfort. ❤️



Lynita Henderson - October 05, 2025 at 08:26 AM



“ It was such an honor to know and work with The Honorable Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr., during his engagement in leadership roles in the American Bar Association's National Conference of Specialized Court Judges. He was a true servant leader, inspiring and collegial. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.
Linda Strite Murnane

Linda Murnane - October 03, 2025 at 03:48 PM

DB

“ Our hearts are heavy as we gather to honor and remember our beloved Ron. To us, he was far more than just a friend or fraternity bro — he was like a big brother. Our story with him dates back to the 1980s, and over the years, he has become a lifelong friend and a true brother at heart.

We were blessed to share so many memories — the trips, the fun, the laughter, and the countless visits that brought us closer as a family. Those moments filled our lives with joy, and they are memories we will carry with us forever.

Ron had a way of making people feel loved and welcomed. His laughter could fill a room, and his presence made every gathering brighter. He was dependable, loyal, and kindhearted, and we were fortunate to experience his love and friendship throughout the years.

As we reflect on his life, we know that words can never fully capture what he meant to us. He wasn't just part of our lives — he became a part of who we are. Though it is hard to imagine life without him, we take comfort in knowing that his spirit will continue to live on in our hearts, our memories, and in the stories we will share about him for years to come.

We are deeply grateful for the time God gave him to us.

Love Joe and Dee Biggers

Dee Biggers - October 03, 2025 at 01:22 PM

SJ

“ My deepest and most sincere condolences to the Ramsey Family. I met Judge Ramsey when he was a Senator and our connection continued after he became a judge. He will truly be missed. Rest in peace my friend.

Sandy G Johnson

Sandy G Johnson - October 03, 2025 at 01:21 PM

LB

“ Judge Ramsey and his beautiful wife Doris share memories with our children who attended Fernbank ES and later Druid Hills HS. He and his wife Doris were always warm, kind and generous to all who knew them. On behalf of my family, we offer our deepest and sincere condolences. Rest in Peace.
The Bromfield Family



Lorene Bromfield - October 03, 2025 at 12:17 PM



“ May his memory be eternal. We were so saddened to hear of his passing but take solace in knowing we were blessed to have known him and to know that he leaves behind a legacy that can never be replaced. You are all in our prayers and we know he is watching over all of you. Love you always.

Bianca Karafotias - October 03, 2025 at 12:16 PM

KH

“ Kendal Hubbard lit a candle in memory of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr.



Kendal Hubbard - October 03, 2025 at 09:41 AM

RT

“ My deepest condolences to the entire family! My heart broke to hear the news as I know he and my mother fought a great fight at City of Hope. Jay, Christyn, surround your mother during this time and months after to offer meals, love and encouragement. Mr. Ramsey's bright smile is ever imprinted in my mind, as is his standard of excellence and memories of riding in carpool to school listening to Clark Atlanta's radio station. Sending comfort to the entire family as you grieve. Love, Raina Turner-Greenlea and family

Raina Turner-Greenlea - October 03, 2025 at 07:11 AM

DP

“ I met Ron some 34+ years ago. I was a recent college graduate, a newlywed, and a new homeowner in a small subdivision near Panola and Salem Roads in Lithonia. I eagerly wanted to give back to my community; my organization of choice was the Lithonia Jaycees. Ron made sure I became a part and was well-acclimated. He also mentored me and encouraged me throughout my time with the Champion Newspaper as well as my magazine, IMANI. I was blessed to meet Doris and the children, all of whom he absolutely adored. On behalf of my mother, Mrs. Velma Parks and I, most heartfelt condolences are extended to the entire family. May you be comforted by the lifetime of memories and the outstanding legacy that has been left. Much love today and always.

Dr. Alonia D. Parks - October 02, 2025 at 10:43 PM

DP

I'm not sure how the system incorrectly logged my name, but it is Dr. Alonia D. Parks.

Dr. Alonia Parks - October 02, 2025 at 10:52 PM

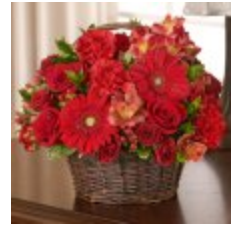
GT

“ *What a man, what a friend, since we met in 1986, both newlyweds moving into the same neighborhood. He displayed a unique ability to make friends. through years of carpooling our kids, vacationing together, talking about politics and achieving his dream of serving on the bench. He and my wife Patsi shared many laughs at the treatment center over the last 5-6 years. Until the end, his sense of humor and compassion proved to be his hallmark. Some call him Senator; some call him Judge. I called him my friend. May God bless the family.*

George Turner - October 02, 2025 at 09:50 PM

NF

“ *Noreen Banks-Ware and the Ware Family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red for the family of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..*



Noreen Banks-Ware and the Ware Family - October 02, 2025 at 07:11 PM

NF

“ *Noreen Banks-Ware and the Ware Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..*

Noreen Banks-Ware and the Ware Family - October 02, 2025 at 07:11 PM

AP

“ As we say “see you on the other side Ronald,” my prayers are extended to his wife, children, family, Line Brothers, Fraternity Brothers friends and our NCCU Classmates. The NCCU Class of 1981 has loss another good solider and a great man. Take your rest my D9 brother.



Annette Best Perkins - October 02, 2025 at 10:02 AM

RA

May God accept him in Jesus with open arms to the family stay strong

Robert Allan Feggins Newville Alabama - October 02, 2025 at 10:32 AM

SH

“ Steve and Beth Henson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..

Steve and Beth Henson - October 02, 2025 at 08:59 AM

SH

“ Steve and Beth Henson purchased the Heartfelt Sympathies Blue & White Funeral Standing Basket for the family of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..



Steve and Beth Henson - October 02, 2025 at 08:59 AM

RM

“ Ron was a great inspiration to me as a civic leader. I’ve witnessed and admired his unbreakable commitment to family and community. His wise words, infectious smile and calm humility were uplifting and comforting during times of need. May peace and comfort be with the Ramsey family and friends. Rest in peace, good brother.

Rahn Mayo - October 01, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JA

“ I have known Judge Ronald Ramsey for many years first as a lawyer and later as a fellow member of the DeKalb Judiciary. I serve as a Superior Court Judge in the DeKalb Judicial Circuit, while Ronald Ramsey served as a State Court Judge. Although we worked on different benches we had many similar experiences. I have always found Judge Ramsey to be a hard working lawyer and a compassionate Judge. He was a true leader in and out of the courtroom. Judge Ronald Ramsey will be deeply missed in the legal community.

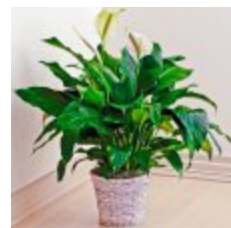


Judge Gregory A. Adams, DeKalb Superior Court

Judge Gregory A. Adams - October 01, 2025 at 05:54 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..



October 01, 2025 at 01:26 PM

AR

“ Aaron and Sherri Rushing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr..

Aaron and Sherri Rushing - October 01, 2025 at 11:18 AM

AR

“ Aaron and Sherri Rushing purchased the Plants-A-Plenty for the family of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..



Aaron and Sherri Rushing - October 01, 2025 at 11:18 AM

SR

“ Sherri Rushing lit a candle in memory of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr.



Sherri Rushing - October 01, 2025 at 11:10 AM

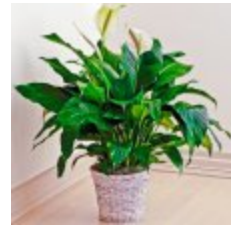
GP

“ Ron was a fellow North Carolinian and a friend. May his soul be at peace
Greg Pridgeon

Greg Pridgeon - October 01, 2025 at 10:35 AM

MA

“ Mae A. purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..



Mae A. - October 01, 2025 at 09:56 AM

BS

“ Bashiru S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..

Bashiru S. - October 01, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ Calm & Comfort Bouquet for Sympathy - Florist C hoice was purchased for the family of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..



September 30, 2025 at 06:05 PM

RG

“ To the Ramsey Family,
Trust God and know that Ronald is resting with our Lord!
I will miss my NCCU classmate. He was such a true friend and fun to be around. We shared many classmate memories with others and I will miss seeing him at homecoming and alumni association events. What a dear friend!
RIP! Rosalyn Gilmer-Flanagan God bless!



Rosalyn Gilmer-Flanagan - September 30, 2025 at 05:51 PM



“ *Red Rose And Lily Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Judge Ronald B. Ramsey Sr..*



September 30, 2025 at 05:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr..

September 30, 2025 at 05:17 PM