



Rodney "Butch" Carl Baker, Sr., 76, of Atlanta, Ga., died suddenly May 4, 2023. His father, Arnold C. Baker, was executive director of Carver Center in Port Chester from 1953-1964 and was instrumental in ensuring that Carver Center's doors were always open to all residents of Port Chester, regardless of race, gender or age.

Baker's death occurred just a short time after he attended Carver Center's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Apr. 22. "He was thrilled to be a guest, along with his many family members and friends," wrote April K. Langus, Carver's marketing director, in an email.

"Since our 80<sup>th</sup> Celebration's theme was 'A Lasting Legacy,' I reached out to Rodney in January to see if he would be interested in being interviewed for our impact video, which was shown at the event," Langus wrote. "Not only did he graciously agree, but he flew up to New York from Atlanta and spent a full day with us telling us countless stories of his memories of Carver and his dad's tenure as ED. We enjoyed sharing with him many pictures that we had in our archives."

"We all feel blessed to have had the opportunity to meet him," Langus said.

Baker was born in Muskegon, Mich., Nov. 23, 1946 to Arnold C. and Ruth L. Baker, the oldest of three children.

He received his early education in Rye, N.Y., and proved that he was a leader at a young age.

He was a very social student who played soccer, basketball, and golf and sang in the choir in high school.

After graduating from Rye High School, he studied at Howard University and Morris Brown College where he received a Bachelor of Science in Management.

Mr. Baker was employed at the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), formerly called the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and assisted in the establishment of many minority-owned businesses throughout his many years of employment.

After retiring in 2007 from the SBA, he continued to consult with minority businesses, assisting them in all aspects of business development.

He served the Lord faithfully as a member of Laster Chapel United Methodist Church and was a devoted member of the Gospel Choir, Chancel Choir and Male Chorus.

Mr. Baker loved entertaining, playing golf with friends, traveling and enjoying the frequent gathering of family and friends.

He was a dedicated member of the Rye High School Alumni Association and made every effort over the years to attend the yearly Rye/Harrison game.

He looked for opportunities to help young people, whether in their track and field efforts or as they matriculated at local universities.

He left a significant impression on those who knew and interacted with him and will be greatly missed by numerous friends, family and colleagues.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold C. and Ruth L. Baker, and is survived by his children: Rhonda (Brian) Kelley of Durham, N.C.; Angela (Greg) Dockery of Riverview, Fla. and Rodney and Carl Baker, Jr. of Granby, Colo.; his siblings: Joanne (Richard Jr.) Jones of Mitchellville, Md. and Arnold C. Baker II of NYC, seven grandchildren and hosts of friends, colleagues and loved ones.

Arrangements were made by Murray Brothers Funeral Home in Atlanta, Ga.