



## Hayward Steele

November 5, 1939 - February 25, 2024

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:1

Hayward Steele, the youngest of nine children, was born on November 5, 1939, to the late Tom and Lessie Steele. He moved to Beauregard Parish from Alabama with his family in 1949. His father, Tom, worked at Long-Bell Lumber Co. and was a farmer. As a young man, Hayward worked for Big Star Grocery in DeRidder. He graduated from George Washington Carver High School. He went on to attend Southern University as well as McNeese State University. Hayward married his college sweetheart Lula Compton, from LeCompte, in 1961. To this union they had one son, Roderick. After graduation from Southern University, Hayward became a coach at Carver High School. Steele taught in the Beauregard Parish School System for years. He would become the first Black assistant principal at DeRidder High School in 1975, and he later became the first Black

principal at DeRidder Junior High School. Hayward led DJHS across two decades until his retirement in 1999. He holds the record for the longest tenure as principal in the history of DJHS.

Some other jobs Hayward held during his lifetime was working for Long-Bell, the City of DeRidder Recreation Department as the director of the Northside Swimming Pool, and Boise Southern.

For over three decades, Hayward served the city in a Councilman-At-Large seat. He was first elected in 1984 and retired in 2017. His campaign slogan turned political legacy was “Build with Steele.”

Hayward served in several leadership roles in educational organizations on state and national levels. In DeRidder, he was active in Sweet Home Baptist Church and was a Deacon and Trustee. He also served in many other civic involvements.

Hayward leaves to cherish his memories his lovely wife of 62 years, Lula Compton Steele, his only son, Dr. Roderick L. Steele, Sr and his wife, Patricia, 2 grandchildren, Jasmine Steele

Edwards (Kedric) and Roderick L. Steele, Jr., 2 great grandchildren, Cruze Steele and Jalani

Edwards, one sister, Anna Bell Broussard, along with a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. He also leaves to cherish his memories his beloved ‘man’s best friend’, Benji.

# Cemetery Details

## Beauregard Cemetery

DeRidder, LA 70634

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 2. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sweet Home Baptist Church  
501 Carlisle St.  
DeRidder, LA 70634

## Funeral Service

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sweet Home Baptist Church  
501 Carlisle St.  
DeRidder, LA 70634

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ I met Coach Steele when I was a DeRidder High School Senior (grad 1971). He taught one of my classes. He was terrific in multiple ways!! I thoroughly enjoyed him and felt like he was a friend as well as a teacher. I did leave Louisiana in 1972 and had not kept track of many... but I did touch base with Coach Steele a few times in 2020. I checked with him a few times... but had not been able to do so for a while. I searched for him online today since I knew his approximate age. I found this information. While I am sad he did leave the planet, I know he went directly to Heaven and is living extremely well!! Hope I make it there when it's my time... and get to meet up with him again.

*My blessings to his family members. God loves you all.*

*Mary Nell Condren*

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**Mary Nell Condren** - November 03, 2025 at 10:01 AM

LY

“ After my Dad passed, my Momma brought me home to DeRidder. Mr Steele welcomed me to DHS with a kind smile and a comment that he was there to talk to me should I ever need it. I saw that same kind smile every time I saw him. Heaven has gained a true gentleman. I know my Daddy was there waiting to thank him. May all who love him be blessed with healing and the knowledge he is still right beside them. 🙏

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**Linda Youngblood** - March 02, 2024 at 01:56 PM

RO

“ *Rosa lit a candle in memory of Hayward Steele*



Rosa - February 29, 2024 at 05:26 PM

RO

*Mr. Steele was my seventh grade history teacher. 1970 graduate of George Washington Carver High.*

Rosa - February 29, 2024 at 05:31 PM

BW

“ *I will forever remember how wise and articulate he was and A man of God, and always remember that laugh, the time spent with him. and Mrs. Lula were priceless and I got to do that everyday for the last 7.mths, I'll never forget him, changed my life in so many way Always in my heart, i have truly suffered a terrible loss, Barbara Washington.*

Barbara Washington - February 28, 2024 at 09:39 PM

SW

*From the first time I met Deacon Steele and his wife, Sis Lula, I felt a closeness to them! Deacon Steele was an easy to talk to person, humble, and when he spoke, it was to the point and right. I knew him only at church but he definitely was a man of God! He got my attention when he spoke cause he had a calmness and an authority about himself and he knew the Bible! I loved to hear him talk and he had a beautiful laugh and smile. Deacon Steele will truly be missed! R.I.P. 🙏  
🙏❤️ my thoughts and condolences to the family! Much love!*

Sis. Kathryn Williams - March 03, 2024 at 10:17 AM