



Carl Rowan

August 11, 1925 - September 23, 2000

Washington, District of Columbia

Carl Rowan - Carl Thomas Rowan - American journalist, author, and diplomat whose syndicated columns and television commentary made him one of the most widely read Black voices of the late twentieth century, died in Washington, D.C., on September 23, 2000. He was seventy-five. Born August 11, 1925, in Ravenscroft, Tennessee, and raised in McMinnville under Jim Crow limits, he served in the Navy's wartime V-12 program, studied at Oberlin and the University of Minnesota, and rose through the Minneapolis Tribune before national syndication.

President Kennedy appointed him deputy assistant secretary of state; President Johnson named him director of the U.S. Information Agency - then the highest federal post held by an African American. He later returned to columns and broadcast debate with a style that mixed civil-rights urgency, foreign-policy briefing, and sharp domestic criticism. Readers who disagreed still had to answer his facts; allies sometimes winced at his independence.

Washington was both workplace and final address. He died of heart and kidney complications related to diabetes, closing a career that had moved from segregated Tennessee classrooms to the Situation Room's outer orbit and back to the op-ed page.

He died in Washington on September 23, 2000. Archives of mid-century American argument still carry his byline in ink that has not faded.

Rowan's gift was public clarity - translating power and prejudice into sentences ordinary readers could use.

Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 23 remembers the Tennessee-born reporter who became a diplomat and never stopped filing.

Services

Died in Washington, D.C., September 23, 2000. Syndicated journalist; U.S. ambassador to Finland; director of the U.S. Information Agency.

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