



by Mary Ann Hutcheson

Albert (Al) Leval Daniels

April 25, 1947 - November 25, 2022

On Saturday, March 11, 2023, baseball season's opening day, the American flag will be raised at the Lexington ballpark and Taps will be played in recognition of Al Daniels. "He was a stickler about the flag," Tommy Frazier remarks. Daniels believed that the sun never goes down on the American flag; it is always down before nightfall, unless the flagpole holds a light. "A light has been added there now, so the flag will go up on March 11, 2023, and it will never come down again," added Frazier.

Albert Leval Daniels, known to his friends and family as Al, passed away on November 25, 2022. Al was the embodiment of the expression, "Live life to its fullest." He was known to many Lexington residents for his dedication to Dixie Youth Baseball, where he served as baseball commissioner. Al was at every game or tournament, often seen driving his golf cart to make sure that both players and parents were well taken care of. He did it because he loved it. His good friend, Tommy Frazier said, "He was a true-blue military man; he bled red, white and blue. It was God, country, family. He loved his two sons, and his grandchildren had a special place in his heart. Al even used his grandchildren's first name initials for a baseball team he sponsored."

Describing his friend is easy for Frazier. "He was like an old pair of shoes; he was that comfortable to be around. Reliable as anybody you could ever know. Al was someone who didn't know how to say no. He volunteered his time out at the ball park for the kids. And when we built the baseball stadium across the street, he just dove right into the middle of it with me on that," Frazier said. The two friends became acquainted in 2012 when Al came out to the ballpark and talked about his two boys who he had coached there years ago. At the annual league members meeting, he said he'd like to get back involved in coaching, was voted onto the board, and ended up staying.

Al Daniels was one of a kind, someone whose life affected so many others for the better. A leader who was devoted to his family, his friends and his ball players, he also carried a strong allegiance to his country. Condolences to his wife, Linda Daniels, his family and his loved ones such as Tommy Frazier, who knew his friend well enough to speak with his heart. ■

