



Lethel Levold Rather who was affectionately called Bob, was born November 17, 1931 to Richmond and Veatrice Matthews Rather in Decatur (Cedar Lake) Alabama.

While attending Cedar Lake Elementary school, Lethel performed in plays and would often sing solos. He had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with his grandparents, Haywood and Mahalie Matthews Holly in Cedar Lake which included working in the fields and going to St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church. Lethel later attended elementary school and Parker High in Birmingham, Alabama. He enjoyed playing football and also boxed at the Boy's Club while attending high school in Birmingham. Lethel returned to Cedar Lake and worked at the Lyons Hotel in Decatur while completing high school. He graduated from Lakeside High School in 1958.

Lethel volunteered to serve in the United States Army in Korea. He faithfully served in the 7th Infantry Division, 3rd Platoon Com, C-86th Recon Bn, 6th Armored Division which was nicknamed Super Sixth. He received an honorable discharge and was awarded the "Order Of The Bayonet" in 1954. After fighting for freedom in Korea, he returned home ready to confront discrimination and do his small part to promote equality in the United States.

Some of Lethel's hobbies were cooking, playing sports, traveling and singing. Lethel's favorite song was "You Can Make It If You Try" by Gene Allison which was his mantra during his lifetime.

Lethel died at a very young age in Birmingham Alabama on Oct 17, 1958. He is survived by a daughter Edwina (Charles) Beason Sr, Hartselle, Al; two grandchildren, Kimberley Beason (Hartselle, Al), Charles Jr. (Huntsville, Al); granddaughter, Arri Beason; brother, Leon (Elizabeth) Rather, Birmingham, Al; two loving aunts, Mattie Rather and Ramona Humphrey and a host of cousins who have many fond memories of him.



Lethel is buried in the Rather Family Cemetery in Decatur, (Cedar Lake) Alabama between his father Richmond and his uncle Delbert Rather.