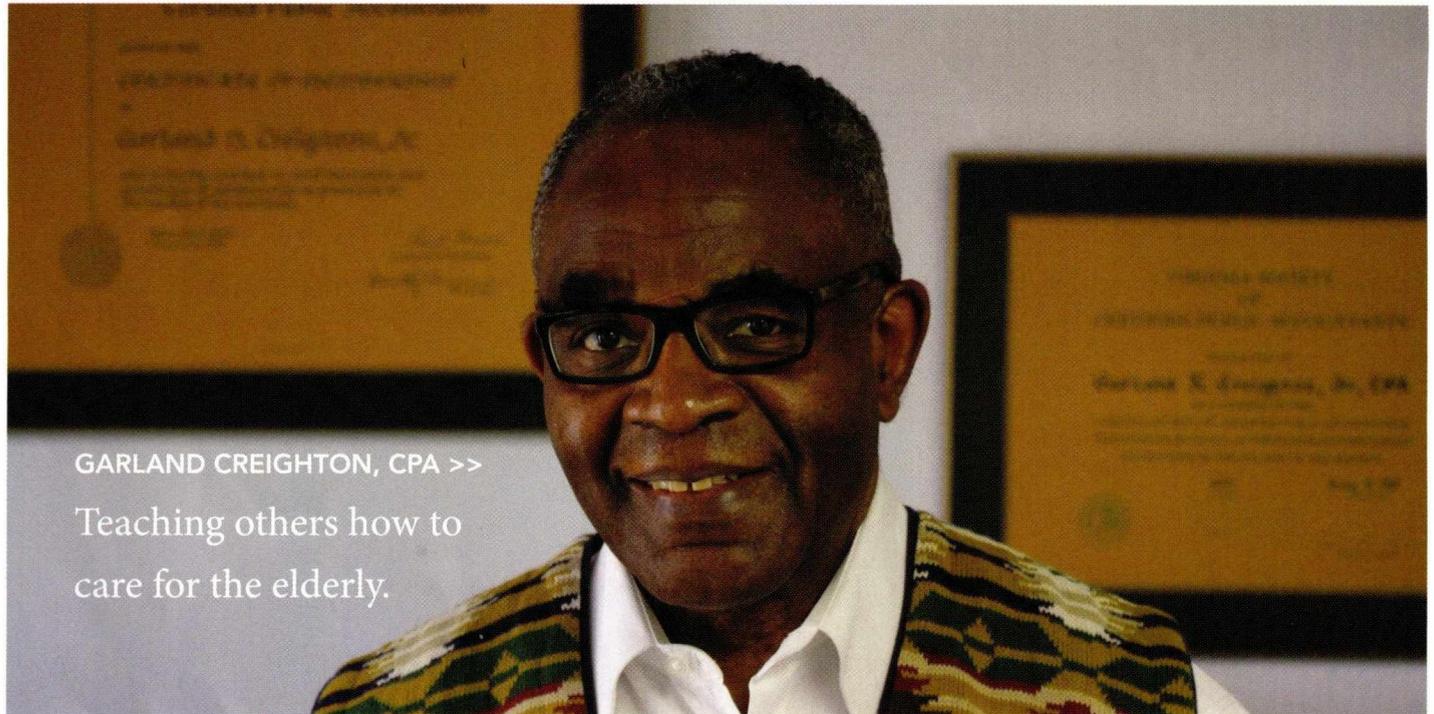


CPA STRONG >>

Two minutes with Garland Creighton, CPA



GARLAND CREIGHTON, CPA >>

Teaching others how to care for the elderly.

Garland Creighton began his accounting career as an auditor with Peat, Marwick, and Mitchell (now KPMG). After leaving KPMG he started his own accounting practice, Garland Creighton, CPA, in Richmond. He counts his marriage to his best friend, Gwen, for more than 40 years and his two children and five grandchildren as his most rewarding achievements.

I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT... Caregiving for the elderly. After spending more than four years as a primary caregiver for my aging parents, I discovered that caregiving is not a spectator sport. The responsibilities that come with the title extend far beyond the limits of simply providing comfort and care. It's an opportunity to make a difference in the life of your loved one. Taking care of those who took care of you may be one of life's greatest demonstrations of love and humility.

PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THIS, BUT... In addition to being a CPA, I'm also an author. My most recent book, "Coming Alongside" (subtitled "Exchanging the Anguish and

Heartache of Caregiving for Laughter, Love, and Peace of Mind"), will be released in late summer. The book provides a front-row seat into the joys, trials and triumphs of caring for an aging parent or loved one. It's a transparent look at an inevitable journey that each of us, at some point, will be asked to take but are totally unprepared for.

MY ADVICE TO ASPIRING CPAs IS...

Three things: 1. Be the best 'you' that you can be and treat others the way that you would want to be treated. 2. Integrity, trust and committed relationships are all cornerstones to succeeding in business (and in life). 3. Your tomorrows will be here sooner than you think; learn to embrace and enjoy today!

I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

Having a moment of prayer with my wife. In this go-go, high octane world that we all now live in, taking time to pray is how we launch our day. Despite the drama or occasional life-storm that may attempt to come our way, it's been the power of prayer that has always sustained us.

I WISH MORE CPAs KNEW... That while it's okay to geek out over numbers, it's time to shed the super nerd image. We're not "bean counters," and pocket protectors went out with the 90's. We're a committed group of highly skilled and highly trained individuals who happen to be exceptional at what we do. We're CPA Strong!

WHEN I TOOK THE CPA EXAM... The closest testing site to Richmond was in the basement of the Norfolk Scope; and you'd grind out the Exam the old fashion way — with pencil and paper. (Anyone out there remember those little blue exam books they'd pass out for the essay portion?) To this day, I still cringe at the thought of taking "The Exam."

I AM A CPA BECAUSE... I've always been intrigued by numbers and finance. I enjoy helping businesses and individuals position themselves to achieve success by being fiscally responsible, yet never losing sight of their moral compass. ■