

# Celebration of Life

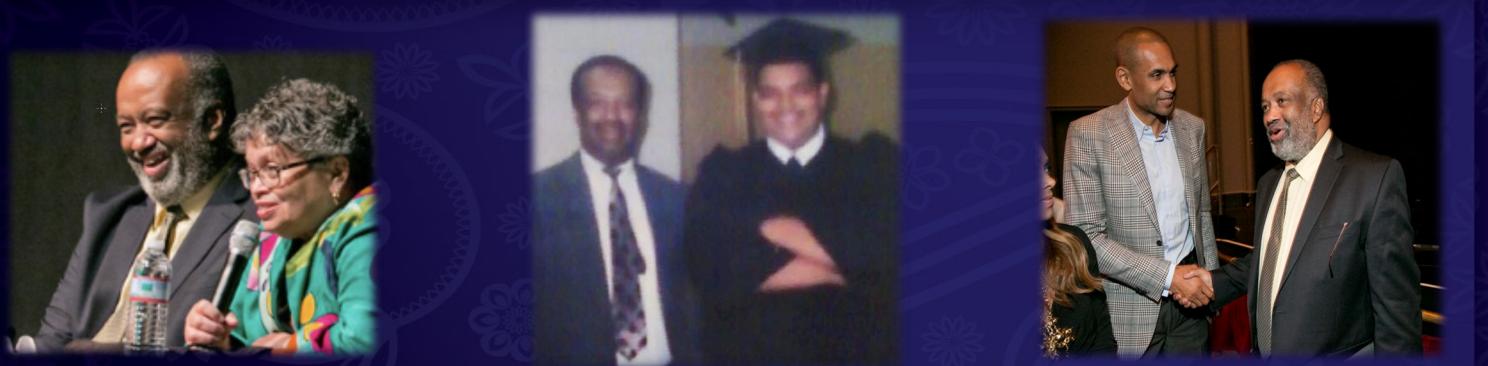
## NATHANIEL B. WHITE, JR.



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of the Late Nathaniel B. White Jr. would like to thank you for the many acts of kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. We give thanks to each of you for all you have given to us, including expressions of love, concern and kindness, during this time of bereavement.

God Bless and Keep You  
THE FAMILY



Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:

Carl M. Williams Funeral Directors Inc.  
492 Larkin Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30313  
404.522.8454 ~ 404.522.8418  
[www.carlmwilliams.com](http://www.carlmwilliams.com)



AUGUST 10, 1945 - MARCH 19, 2021

Carl M. Williams Funeral Directors Chapel  
492 Larkin Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021 ~ 11 am

Pastor Rori Blakeney  
Officiating



and biostatistics to undergraduate students of color to encourage them to pursue careers in public health sciences.

He secured a grant from the National Institutes of Health Extramural Associates (EA) for the Sponsored Research Infrastructure Support Program (SRISP) that provided support to develop a comprehensive office of sponsored research with a special emphasis in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. This resulted in his establishing the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs at Morehouse College (1995) where he worked to strengthen the college's research enterprise by assisting faculty in identifying funding opportunities in the biomedical and the behavioral sciences and supporting faculty already involved in research efforts, developing policies and procedures for sponsored research projects.

He was instrumental in mentoring a number of highly skilled proposal and grant administrators and helped to establish the National Sponsored Programs Administrator Alliance (NSPAA), a sponsored programs network for professional staff and administrators of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). He played a central role in creating the Council of Sponsored Program Administrators (CSPA). The CSPA consortium of sponsored programs officers maintained members from all six Atlanta University Center (AUC) schools to support viable collaboration of research and resources.

After leaving Morehouse College, he established the startup, The Formation Consulting Group. He worked as an independent consultant continuing his work in the area of scientific and community proposal development and grant administration.

Formation allowed Nathaniel to return to his roots in the end. He spent his life shaping his family, work and community to make a difference. Whether it was organizing a gathering of old friends at the drop of a hat or catching up with friends either on the phone or in person, he was investing in people. A master storyteller, Nathaniel had an incredible memory, and would regale listeners with details of White family matters, Durham history, his years at Duke University and other matters of interest.

He loved politics and would quickly enter into vigorous debates to articulate a point of view, and was passionate about matters pertaining to the well-being of the African-American community. He loved helping others in a variety of ways. Always generous with his time and expertise, Nathaniel provided scientific support for 43 doctoral candidates throughout the South.

As John reminds us, John 12:24 reminds us, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Nathaniel "Buddy" Bradshaw White, Jr.'s life has produced many seeds. We are forever grateful for his life, love and legacy. On his last day in this earthly plane, the last words he heard were "Job well done."

He is survived by his daughter Natalie White, grandchildren Victoria White, Jazmine White, Robin Mason, Christian Thomas; and great-grandchildren Malachi Watkins and Imani Watkins.



*Order of Service*

<p><b>GREETING</b> Pastor Rori Blakeney</p> <p><b>MUSICAL SELECTION</b> 'Can't Give Up Now' Llewon Felder</p> <p><b>Quotes From the Baha'I Scripture</b> Dr. Sherry Crump on behalf of Jamila Kennedy</p> <p><b>NEW TESTAMENT</b> 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 Robin Mason</p> <p><b>PRAYER OF COMFORT</b> Said Sewell</p> <p><b>REFLECTIONS</b> George Creed Cloria Wentrope Mama Khadijah and Family Said Sewell Velories Figures</p> <p><b>MUSICAL SELECTION</b> My Help ~ Carole Petinaud</p>	<p><b>REFLECTIONS</b> Diane Rowley Steve Council Chris Thomas Rob Mason Ed Cooke Rear Admiral Gene Kendall</p> <p><b>MUSICAL SELECTION</b> 'Ain't No Need To Worry' - The Winans</p> <p><b>EULOGY</b> Victoria White</p> <p><b>MUSICAL SELECTION</b> 'Soon and Very Soon'</p> <p><b>DEDICATION</b> Natalie White</p> <p><b>BENEDICTION AND ASCENDING BLESSING</b> Angela Earle Reed</p> <p><b>RECESSIONAL</b> 'Going Up Yonder' 'See You Again'</p>
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## IN MEMORIAM: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NATHANIEL BRADSHAW WHITE, JR

August 10, 1945 -- March 19, 2021

**Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. – John**

**For three quarters of a century**, Nathaniel “Buddy” Bradshaw White, Jr has lived a fruitful life. Whether it was home, work or the community, his exceptional gifts and talents produced a bountiful harvest. Nathaniel’s life is an example of what happens when you invest in self and others.

This is a philosophy he learned from his parents, Nathaniel B. White, Sr. and Jean Elizabeth Briscoll White. Buddy as he was affectionately called by family and friends was the eldest of the three White children. He later would be joined by Lorraine White and Joseph Marvin White II.

His parents along with the Durham Community, diligently worked to instill timeless values within him. While his parents were the primary shapers of his identity, Nathaniel’s life was enriched by institutions such as Service Printing, White Rock Baptist Church and Hillside High School.

At White Rock, Nathaniel began his spiritual journey. He also was an active member of Boys Scout Troop 55, where his father, Nathaniel B. White, was scoutmaster. He participated in camping and other scouting activities both in the local area and at the National Scout Jamboree in Colorado Springs, CO in 1960.

Scouting instilled in Nathaniel a sense of community. His Alston Avenue home and backyard became the common gathering place for all of the neighborhood boys who often met afterschool and weekends and played till dark. Buddy was known to be a very good player who could have pursued basketball, but his true interest and passion lie in the academic world.

Early on, he distinguished himself as a learner with great potential in the area of mathematics and science. His parents cultivated those gifts as they emphasized the importance of education. This ethos was reinforced by his teachers at Burton Elementary School, Whitted Junior High School and his beloved Hillside High School where he graduated class of 1963.

Active in a number of activities in high school, he particularly enjoyed the math club, the Hornet yearbook staff, and distinguished himself as a scholar as evidenced in his induction into the National Honor Society. Buddy was in the honors classes all through High School. Always seeking to be well-round, he enjoyed attending Hillside football games with his father. They would often provide rides to out of town football games in the family station wagon.

Very popular among his peers and one of the few students in his school with a driver’s license, he’d often take his friends on excursions to the various football and basketball games, dances, picnics and anything else that required a car to reach. He was well trusted by his friends and their families, and was particularly well-liked by the young ladies in the school.

Hillside’s “Class of 63” was exceptionally large and bright. The math students were the brightest among them and math was Buddy’s gift. He would go on to incorporate that love of math throughout his long and storied career. But first, he’d go on to graduate third in his class at Hillside before beginning his historic matriculation at Duke University.

In 1963, Duke University was the last major college in North Carolina to fully integrate. As a private institution it was decided that they would recruit the top five black high school graduates in North Carolina to be in first integrated class. Hillside High School would fill two of those spots, one going to the late Dr. Mary Mitchell Harris, and one to Nathaniel B. White, Jr, thus Hillside produced two of the historic “First Five,” the first group of African American undergraduates to break the racial barrier at Duke University in 1963.

When asked to recount his experience at Duke--Buddy often focused on the positive experiences of becoming a close knit unit with the other 4 black students, who often attended activities together despite the indifference towards them from their white counterparts.

Buddy had taken three years of French in high school so he took advanced French at Duke. In high school, his teachers had emphasized reading and writing the language. At Duke, the emphasis was on speaking the language. When Buddy was asked to read a passage in French, he did so with his deep Southern drawl. When he finished the passage the room was dead quiet. The professor said: “Monsieur Blanc (Mr. White), ‘Do you come from the Southern part of France?’ The class broke out in laughter. It didn’t bother Buddy at all. He laughed along with them. That tension in that class dissipated and Buddy was fully accepted as a member of that class. His ability to laugh through the highs and lows of life became a core tenant of his ethos.

In 1967, he graduated with a degree in mathematics making him the first African American man to graduate with this degree from Duke University. Nathaniel would go to attend the graduate school at the Mathematical Statistics Department at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at George Washington University.

At George Washington, he would meet the love of his life, Sylvia Hall who was a student at American University. For Buddy, it was love at first sight!

Family was always important to him. He and Sylvia would plant their roots in the Washington Metropolitan Area. He was a constant companion to Sylvia. He always made sure she had the best. Their union would produce three wonderful children, Imani, Maia and Bari. One of his greatest joys as a father was to support each of his children as they forge their own path in life. He was there for every high moment. But, most important, he was a cheerleader during the tough and difficult times.

Nathaniel had the blessing of seeing his four grandchildren – Victoria, Jazmine, Robin and Christian thrive. He had the same dedication to them as he had for his children and truly made them all feel special, held and supported. In 2012, he received the blessing of becoming a great grandfather. Nathaniel’s eyes would light up at the mere presence of Malachi, Imani and Omari, as he was able to bear witness to his legacy expanding with another generation.

In addition to the great personal success Washington provided him, Nathaniel professional life started to bloom. Recruited by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1969, he started a 17 years career as a statistician for laboratory scientists and several clinical trials, and as section chief for a computing support service at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. While at NIH he also taught mathematics and statistics to non-degree holding federal employees who were seeking degrees. He co-authored the book *Statistics from Scratch*.

In 1981, he answered the call to return to the community that nurtured him. Nathaniel returned to Durham to work on the revitalization of the Hayti district, the historic African American community of residents and black owned businesses that had been disrupted by urban renewal and a freeway project. His father owned a printing business in the heart of the Hayti community.

He left NIH in 1985 to work fulltime on Hayti redevelopment, becoming president of the Hayti Redevelopment Corporation. Among other accomplishments, he was instrumental in the development and opening of a True Value Hardware store and other businesses in Hayti. With the lessons learned in Hayti and their great success, he would then apply the community development skills to the city of Knoxville, Tennessee.

His seed would fall to the ground once again. This time, Nathaniel had the opportunity to return to one of his first loves – the academy. In 1992, he would join the staff of Morehouse College where he became the Director of the Public Health Sciences Institute. The Institute provides education and training in epidemiology