



Carlton Funn

January 29, 1932 - September 11, 2012

Carlton Allyn Funn Sr., son of the late James Funn and Lorraine Funn Atkins was born on January 29, 1932 in Alexandria, Virginia. He was predeceased by his loving wife Joan, brothers; John, Lorenza, Arthur, and James, aunts Louise Taylor and Ellyn Carpenter and a devoted cousin, Marquita McLean. He was called to be with the Lord on September 11, 2012. at Alexandria Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Carlton was reared in a Christian environment and accepted the Lord as his personal savior at a young age, becoming a member of Alfred Street Baptist Church. He was educated in Alexandria Public Schools graduating from Parker-Gray High School in 1949. He matriculated to Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia where he received a B.A degree in Elementary Education in 1953. While at Storer he was a member of the football and basketball teams. He also pursued additional studies at George Mason University, George Washington University, the University of Virginia, and Rocky Mountain College. After graduating from college he was inducted into the U.S. Army and served at various posts including Ft. Jackson, SC, Ft. Lee and Ft., Eustis, VA, as well as overseas duty in Greenland. Honorably discharged in 1955 he began his teaching career in Purcellville, VA before joining Alexandria Public Schools as an elementary school teacher at Lyles-Crouch Elementary School. He later taught for many years at Robert E. Lee Middle School before moving on to Fairfax County, where he taught at Hollin Meadows Elementary School. After serving the state of Virginia as an educator for 22 years, he pursued a move to the District of Columbia School System and for 16 years, taught at Parkview Elementary School and finally at Hine Jr. High school before retiring in 1997. He continued to serve as a much-requested substitute teacher in Alexandria for several years following his formal retirement.

During Carlton's time at Storer, he met his college sweetheart, Joan Berry, who spent 34 years in the Alexandria Public School System as a teacher and 18 years as a substitute after her retirement. They were married on June 20, 1959 and enjoyed 49 wonderful years together until her passing in 2008. From this union, three children were born, Carlton Jr., Tracye and Marc.

Throughout his over 40 years in the classroom, Carlton enriched the lives of thousands of young people and was frequently approached by former students who shared their fond

memories of their days in his class and how much he inspired them throughout their lives. He was a lifelong member of Alfred Street Baptist Church, and was a former member of the Board of Trustees. His mother Lorraine was a pillar of the church congregation and was the founder of the Optimist Club. Carlton was a devoted community activist and shared his time and talents with a multitude of civic and social organizations. He was the past President of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Hopkins House Association, the Alexandria Boys & Girls Club and the Northern Virginia Branch of the Urban League. His many other civic commitments include; the Alexandria Police Department, the Metropolitan Council of Governments, the Alexandria Democratic Committee, the Human Rights Commission, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Storer College Alumni Association, The Grandfathers Group, Jack & Jill of America, The Alexandria 250th Celebration Committee, The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Poster Contest, the Alexandria Black History Museum, The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Life Member of the Alexandria Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. For many years he was the Chairman and driving force behind the annual N.A.A.C.P. Annual Membership and Awards Banquet.

To tens of thousands of people he will always be remembered as the Founder and President of National/International Cultural Exhibits, Inc. (NICE), his lifelong passion which he presented over 500 times in 13 states over a incredible 52 year period. In 1955 when he began his teaching career he was given a textbook from which to teach, Virginia: History - Government - Geography. This textbook made little reference to African Americans beyond slavery. Ironically this was the same textbook he studied from as a student several years earlier. He began to collect, memorabilia, artifacts, pamphlets, and other information to educate his students on the many contributions and achievements of African-Americans throughout our country's history. Over the years the collection grew in size and scope and in 1969 displayed the exhibit, then called the Afro-American Experience, for the first time. During the 1970's he realized our community and country were becoming more culturally diverse and always the visionary he expanded the exhibit to include sections on Latino-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native-Americans, among many other cultures, thus changing the name to The History and Culture of Minorities. As the exhibit traveled the country he once again sought to add more diversity and created special sections on Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement, the Status of Women, the elderly, the handicapped, and a new section honoring President Barack Obama. The list of places the exhibit has been displayed over the years includes: the Alexandria Police Department, Xerox Corporation, Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Labor, Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Pentagon, George Washington University, National Park Service, Ft. Belvoir, VA, Ft., Meade, MD, Bolling AFB, Baltimore African American Festival, Alexandria Public School System, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

Dept of Education, Terre Haute, IN, Federal Penetentiary. Alfred Street Baptist Church, George Mason University, Mountain View College, TX and many other churches, schools, civic organizations, businesses, military installations, and local/state/federal governments.

Over the years Carlton has received numerous awards and recognitions for his service and dedication including; National Council of Negro Women Mid-Atlantic Teacher of the Year, Carter G. Woodson Award for the Study & Preservation of Black History, Omega Psi Phi, Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Man of the Year, 2008 Alexandria Living Legends Award, Outstanding Service Award from the Northern Virginia Branch of the Urban League. He has received recognition and resolutions from the U.S. House of Representatives, the Virginia General Assembly and the City of Alexandria. Carlton was a die-hard Redskins fan and would faithfully don his 1970's era Redskins ski cap to watch every game. He enjoyed watching documentaries with any relation to history and loved listening to Hammond organ jazz artists including Jimmy McGriff, Groove Holmes, Jack McDuff, Jimmy Smith, and Joey DiFrancesco, amassing a album collection in the hundreds. In later years he enjoyed visiting local eateries and was regular at Table Talk, Four Seasons Diner, and Royal Restaurant. He also enjoyed watching his grandson EJ's high school basketball games and visiting with his grandchildren Mia and Marcus on visits from California. He leaves to cherish his life and legacy, his three children; Carlton Jr., Tracye, and Marc; three grandchildren, Mia and Marcus Funn and Earl Carter, Jr. (EJ); one sister, Mattie Funn Hopkins; one brother, Charles B. Funn; two sisters-in-law, Bette Funn and Dolores Duncan; one brother-in-law, John P. Hopkins; one aunt, Westine Jameson; two nephews, David Funn and Jay Duncan; six neices; Juanita Bradby, Lauren Leggett, Linda Funn, Latania Funn, Sherrette Coleman, Sherri Funn; a cousin, Stella McLean and a host of great neices and nephews, cousins and relatives representing the Johnson, Roper, Berry, and Chisley families, in addition to many devoted friends. A wake service will take place on Monday, September 17, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 South Alfred Street, Alexandria, Virginia, where a viewing and visitation will also be held on and Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at 11:00 a.m. Interment, Mt. Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.

Comments



“ My prayers and sympathies are extended to each of you.

Connie Turnage - September 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayers and thoughts are with you during this time. Mr. Funn was a brilliant, gentle and kind man. His knowledge of and on the history of our people was an encouragement to any who had the honor and blessing of meeting him. I met Mr. Funn when I was in my late twenties and he worked with my mother at the then Hines Junior High School located at 7th and Pennsylvania Ave. S.E. He always made time to speak with my sons who are now 32 and 24, they speak fondly of him and with much respect and admiration. He was a very gifted man.

William A Watson Jr - September 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayers and deepest condolences are extended to the family at this time of loss. Having been raised on the South Side, as a young boy I served papers all thru the Dip and came to know about Mr. Funn in the early to mid 60's. I can tell you that he was an inspiration to so many children down there from all the different neighborhoods, all of them. everybody talked about Mr. Funn, and smiled. May he rest in peace.

Chip Carlin - September 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Tracey Lauren, Linda and family, Was saddened when I heard that your Dad and Uncle had passed. Mr. Funn was my 7th grade Science Teacher and I shall forever remember how much he taught me about the world of science and his support of my science fair entries through those formative years in elementary school. And to later in adult life to be able to call he and Ms. Joan "friends" to me and my family. We shall miss his dedicated service to Black History and the preservation of Black History in Alexandria! Our prayers are with you,Dr. Deborah Hall-Greene (Thomas) and family.

September 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ As a native Alexandrian and the former director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, I am honored to have known Mr. Funn. The poet Longfellow wrote, "Lives of great men all remind us, We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us, Footprints on the sands of time." Thanks for allowing me to walk in your footprints, Mr. Funn.

Eugene Thompson - September 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Carlton and I started to teach together at Lyles-Crouch School in 1956. If there is a consolation it may be that you will always have fond memories of him. May he rest in pace.

Teresa Swain Bowman - September 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To the entire Funn Family. My deepest regrets over your loss. He was a great asset to the community and a good friend. He will be missed by all who crossed his path. I'll miss him a lot especially his cheerfulness when he came into the print shop. I can still hear him say: fine, just fine when I would say, "how you doing today Mr. Funn?" Richard Dufek Landmark Printing

Richard Dufek - September 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Am so sorry to hear of your loss. Carlton was a fantastic gentleman I loved conversing with, his sense of humor was truly a personification of our last name. My prayers and condolences are with you...

Charles Funn - September 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Many of us have been inspired, over the years, by Mr. Funn's knowledge and love of African American History. He endeavored to share that history, with all who had that hunger for "our" truth. Please know that many people appreciated you Father, and Grandfather. May you be at peace, with your good memories and love. Beverly Patterson Pollard Alexandria, Virginia

September 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr Funn was truly a great teacher. But for me he was truly an engineer and a builder of men. He took young men like myself and help to build Character, Integrity, Responsibility and Purpose. This was his main way for Blackmen to break the self-destructive cycle and give something back. To take this concept and apply to Humanity truly makes him Renaissance Man. The world is a better place because of Mr Funn and he will be missed but rest asure his teaching will go on and passed on by everyone he touched. Rest in Peace job well done. McArthur Myers

September 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My prayers are with you during your time of sorrow. God Bless your family.

Jennifer Braxton - September 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM