



Jesse T. Williams

February 20, 1940 - April 25, 2021

Jesse Teleferro Williams, Sr., the fourth child of George Allen and Carrie Cofield Williams, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, February 20, 1940. He departed this life on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

Jesse attended public schools in Philadelphia, graduating from Benjamin Franklin High School in 1958. A talented basketball player, he was recruited by Bluefield State College in West Virginia and by Maryland State College (MSC) now University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) in Princess Anne, Maryland. He attended MSC, where he further distinguished himself as a basketball player. In his senior year, Jesse made all CIAA First Team and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work. He was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated and was a member of the Distinguished Service Chapter.

Years later, Jesse returned to UMES to give back. He served as Chair of the Board of Visitors for 17 years; attended games and supported the Athletic Department; gave financial help to students in need and started the Pep Band.

After graduation in 1962, he was recruited by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and was accepted in its management training program. He was the first Black basketball player on the Goodyear's AAU team. The team was

selected to go on a Goodwill Tour of the Far East, representing the United States.

After joining Goodyear, he married his college sweetheart, Vernetta Brittingham. From this union two children were born, Jesse T. Williams, Jr. and Jesselyn Shawn Williams.

Throughout most of his adult life, Jesse was a committed Christian. Moving around the country for Goodyear, Jesse and Vernetta were members of several churches in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Kansas, and after retiring, Delaware. He served as Deacon in most of these churches. After being healed from cancer, Jesse promised to be a "loud mouth Deacon" who would tell all who would listen, of God's goodness, grace and love. At the time of his death, he was a Deacon at Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

Jesse leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his life, his loving wife Vernetta; son, Reverend Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr. (Gelanie) of New York and daughter, Jesselyn Shawn Williams Thompson of Maryland; four grandchildren, Jared, Jesse III, Camille and Nicholas; nieces, nephews and very special friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that contributions be made to the endowment funds of Jesse T. & Vernetta B. Williams, and the Athletics Department of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ To Rev. Dr. Jesse Williams and family: My sincere condolences in the loss of your Husband/Father/Father-in-Law/Grandfather There are no words I can say that will make the loss any easier but God has a word for you. I know you know those words that can comfort you. My words are these: Always remember the smile he put on your faces, how he loved you and protected you. Most of all that he will always be with you in your memories of him. God Bless you Rev. Williams.

Della E. Brown - May 09, 2021 at 06:20 PM

MG

“ To The Williams Family ~ Sending Our Heartfelt Condolences to each of you. May he rest in heaven knowing others cared for him. Blessings

Micah, Darlene & Darius GLOVER - May 06, 2021 at 03:11 PM

TP

“ From: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. "The Distinguished Service Chapter".. We will forever hold the name high of the Honorable Bro. Jesse Williams.

Theoplis Woodard, President - May 05, 2021 at 01:27 PM

CR

“ It was a joy to work with Jesse. His warmth and energy made the world a better place. You are in my prayers.

Catherine Rein - May 03, 2021 at 03:14 PM

GY

“ *Mr. William's was not just a Goodyear co-worker and fellow member of Mt. Carmel in Topeka, but a dear friend of my Dad's. May the family find happiness remembering his fantastic life. I will be donating to his Nonprofit in the name of Wash Wills. Lovingly: Gearlene (Ms. Gerry Wills) Young*

Gearlene Ms-Gerry Young - May 02, 2021 at 09:22 AM

HS

“ *DEAREST VERNETTA, HOW BLESSED WE ARE TO HAVE KNOWN YOUR JESSE. HE WILL REMAIN IN OUR HEARTS ALWAYS. LOVE, BECKY AND TONY ALEXANDER*

Heartfelt Sympathies Store - April 29, 2021 at 04:48 PM

PA

“ *To the family . Jesse was a wonderful business associate and friend. May he rest in peace. Paul T Addison*

Paul T Addison - April 29, 2021 at 03:04 PM

DH

“ *Jesse was a personal mentor of mine during my career at Goodyear. I moved from a manufacturing Supervisor position in the N. Chicago hose plant to my first position in Human Resources under Jesse's leadership. Jesse was always open to have conversations about work and personal struggles...but he always found a way to advise you and help you using God's Word. We did not talk much after his retirement but the times we did share a phone call was special. I will miss that big smile coming from that 6' 8" humble man. Don & Gerri Harper*

Donald D Harper - April 28, 2021 at 08:18 PM