



Jethro Williams

March 9, 1940 - June 22, 2018

Jethro (Jay, J.C.) Carl Williams was born March 9, 1940 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, to Jones E. and Annie B. Williams. He was the fifth of eight children, and grew up on the campus of Elizabeth City State University, which served as a building block for his call to service in the field of education. He attended P.W. Moore High School and graduated in 1958, having served as Student Body President and Captain of the Varsity Football team as a junior and senior. He was known about campus as “Ironman.” His sense of responsibility and work ethic were developed at an early age, as he started his own shoe shine business as a student in the eighth grade.

Upon graduating from high school, Jethro attended Elizabeth City State College, now University. After completing one year, he decided to withdraw, so that his younger brother, Elwood, could attend instead. Jethro elected to enlist in the United States Army in 1960, and became a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He earned the rank of Sergeant after 17 months of service and served his country for three years. While in the service, he met his future bride, Anna Briggs, an aspiring teacher herself, from Wilmington, North Carolina, who was transferring from Elizabeth City. He helped her with her books and boxes at the bus stop and in turn, she gave him her address. They were married June 24, 1967. Two days after being honorably discharged from the Army, he returned to Elizabeth City State to complete his education. There he served as

editor of both the student newspaper and yearbook for two years and was a member of the football team as well. He received many honors and awards during his matriculation and was selected for Who's Who during his junior and senior years. As a sophomore, he was initiated into the Beta Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He graduated from Elizabeth City State College in 1967, with a Bachelor's Degree in English.

Upon graduation, Jethro began his career in teaching, serving as an instructor of English and Reading at Queen Anne's County High School, located in Centreville, Maryland. Mr. Williams served in that position for two years before accepting the position of Director of Admissions for what was then known as Delaware State College. At the start of his tenure at Delaware State, student enrollment was listed at 888 students. At the time of his retirement in 2002, student enrollment had grown to 3,024. In the course of administering his responsibilities as Director of Admissions, Mr. Williams accepted over 10,000 students for matriculation at the University and spoke to over 90,000 students in both large and small groups. His contribution was not simply limited to increasing enrollment; he also was very much involved in student life and devoted himself to not only the academic growth, but the character development of every student he met.

In 1970, he founded and became the advisor of the Delaware State Gospel Choir, which under his leadership, grew from a membership of two, to over 160 members. This great choir traveled throughout the United States and produced and recorded the school's first live album entitled "Take Me There." Mr. Williams also served as Chairman of the Homecoming Committee for 24 years and was responsible for coordinating participation in that event with many area high schools, both from the State of Delaware, and the surrounding areas of Washington D.C., Maryland, and New York. With his encouragement and assistance, many of those very participants chose to attend Delaware State University upon graduation from high school. Mr.

Williams' work as chairman was evident in the success of the event, as his creativity and woodworking skills were seen in the floats he built, from the ground up, for the annual parade. Those skills were further showcased in the Pan-Hellenic shields crafted by his hands that were proudly displayed across the campus. After 33 years and two months of service to Delaware State University, he retired in 2002 and began his second career as a Charter Member and Director of Initial Operations at The Academy of Dover Charter School and ultimately served as the school's Vice-Principal.

Jethro and his family were faithful and longstanding members of Calvary Baptist Church since 1970. His experience with the Delaware State Gospel Choir provided him with the motivation to organize the Calvary Baptist Church Young Adult Choir in the winter of 1990, with the encouragement and endorsement of then Pastor Rev. Dr. Richard M. Avant. He and his wife's love for children was evident, even in the church, as they spearheaded the creation of the Calvary Baptist Church Nursery, allowing parents the opportunity to worship knowing their children were being cared for with love and affection under their guidance.

Throughout his career, Mr. Williams received over 100 awards and honors for his contributions of service in education. Some of his awards and honors include the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Man of the Year Award (1974, 1981), Outstanding Student Service Award, SGA (1982), the Kent County Action Agency Award (1987), the Delaware State College Employee of the Year Award (1991), the Henry Street Settlement Operation Athlete Education Award (1991), the City of East Orange, New Jersey City Council Education Award (1991), Inducted – DSU Alumni Hall of Fame (1997), the Delaware State University Award for Appreciation for Service (2002), the City of Wilmington Education Award (2002), Award of Appreciation, Camden, New Jersey Alumni Association (2002), Educator of the Year, Psi Iota Chapter of

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (2007), the DEMCO—Shofar Educational Advancement Award (2007), Missionaries of Calvary Baptist Church Award (2007), and the Academy of Dover Service Award (2009). The one award he unofficially but unanimously received was for his renowned sweet potato pies, which developed a devoted following over the years, particularly during the holiday season.

He was preceded in death by his cherished wife of 48 years, Anna Briggs Williams; his parents; and his siblings, Alphonso Williams, David Williams, Eula Moore, Franklin Williams and Lester Williams.

The Lord took him home on June 22, 2018, and received Jethro C. Williams to his eternal rest. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed by his brother, Elwood Williams, sister Wanda Williams and his in-laws, Anna Briggs Moore and Reverend Aaron Moore. His amazing strength and spirit will be forever remembered by a host of extended family and friends, many of whom cared for him as he travelled the long road home to be with the Lord.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Jethro Williams, please visit our
Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

RO

“ JC grew up with us on what was originally called Poor House Rd which became Elaine Ave then Hofflet St, where the Pharmacy and Science Buildings now sithat on ECSU"s campis now sits. He was more than an Iron man to us, he wa's a Superman. JC was intelligent and could play any sport. He was our mentor and hero. Uncle Jones and Aunt Anna Bell would be so proud of him and all of their kids. Rest in peace my cousin.

Randy Overton - July 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. While nothing will completely take away your grief, by meditating on Gods promises found in the Bible, you can find real hope and the strength to keep going. My family and I have found the scripture at Isaiah 25:8 to be especially comforting. Here it promises that God "will swallow up death forever and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."

H. Fields - June 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ To a most distinguished gentlemen: Being a part of the Alpha Phi Alpha Sweetheart Court (Miss Black and Gold), I was privileged to know Jethro Williams. His kindness and caring Spirit was a plus in all that he did. With his wife alongside of him, the two of them were Jewels.

As the family grieves for his loss, be mindful in knowing that God is still on the throne. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He has sent a comforter that will soothe your Spirit.

Rest in peace Jethro Williams

Rev. Ceceilia Whitehead-Jones - June 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SI

“ Please accept the condolences of the Brothers and Sweethearts of Gamma Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on the DSU campus. Brother Jethro C. Williams served as the Advisor of the Chapter for a generation of Fraternity members and sweethearts who passed through Gamma Sigma Chapter. It was our great fortune to have Jethro as a mentor, friend and Brother and his wife, Ann, also as a mentor and friend. Our prayers remain with his children and family. May God continue to bless you with His peace and love.

Seaton James White III - June 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

NO

“ So sorry to here that my friend jethro Williams passed. I would have never went to college or Delaware state without Mr Williams. I will always tell the story of how he gave me a chance. I hope I made him proud. Thanks my friend

Norman Oliver
1985

Norman Oliver - June 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ Sorry for your loss of a loved one. Read Psalms 34:18 for words of comfort and peace.

Irene - June 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one and I would like to extend my deepest condolence to the family of Jethro Williams. May you find comfort in God's words in (Revelation 21: 4.)

JoyceA - June 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss
Jesus Loves Me
You Are Special

Thomas & Libby Widgeon - June 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM