



Patterson, Mr. & Mrs. Donald, Sr. & Jennye

September 28, 2011

Donald, the beloved son of Robert and Blanche Patterson was born on October 9, 1933 and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. The fourth of five children, Donald was an athlete and avid sports fan. Throughout his early education in Baltimore City Public schools, Donald was an enthusiast and ultimately ran track and played football for Dunbar High School. He continued his involvement in athletics, playing halfback for Bears while earning a B.S. in Physical Education from Morgan State University (then College).

Donald continued his education earning a Master of Education degree from Loyola College; but his allegiance remained with Morgan, where he gave generously of his time and resources. Morgan also provided the backdrop for his meeting Jennye Agnes Thomas. Though they left the institution and continued along separate paths, life brought them full circle and they were married in Baltimore in 1987.

Education was a passion for Donald. He taught at Booker T. Washington Junior High School, Hampstead Hill Junior High School, and his alma mater, Dunbar High School. Ascending the ranks of the Baltimore City Public School System, Donald served as Assistant Principal for Garrison Junior High School and Principal at Greenspring Junior High School among others, retiring in 1983 as Assistant Superintendent.

Though active in sports and education, Donald found time for involvement in city and state politics, community activities, and service to his country in the United States Army. His most important role, however was father to his only child, Donald E.L. Patterson, Jr. Donald Jr. fondly remembers his Dad coaching his little league football team, and the pride with which his father related his accomplishments on the field, and off.

Donald was a cherished member of the Guardsman, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, the NAACP, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Morgan State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated and other professional organizations.

Donald touched the lives of many people with his smile and generosity. He leaves his son Donald Ernest Lee Patterson, Jr., (Annette) and Grandsons Donald Ernest Lee Patterson, III (US Army currently stationed at Ft. Bliss, TX) Sean Michael Patterson, (currently attending Germanna Community College) and Nicholas Christopher Patterson, (currently a freshman at Stafford High School) from Fredericksburg, VA.

Jennye, the beloved daughter of Isaac and Rebecca Thomas, was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Jennye had four siblings all deceased: Elizabeth T. McCabe, Edwin Thomas, Ioene Thomas, and Kathryn T. Frisby. In her North Philadelphia neighborhood, Jennye grew up in the atmosphere of a large extended family—including the Thomas', the Robinson's and the Richardson's. Always intelligent, energetic and outgoing, she was an active youth member of the AME Union Church of Philadelphia.

Jennye was an excellent student who attended the Darrah School and later was graduated from Simon Gratz High School with honors. After extensive training she became an accomplished ballerina. Her abilities led to her being awarded a scholarship to Morgan State College—a relationship which would

last a life-time. Jennye was very active at Morgan. This culminated in her being elected Miss Morgan. Later she would obtain her masters from Morgan.

Jennye was inspired to enter into education by her sisters Elizabeth T. McCabe (an educator in Philadelphia) and Kathryn T. Frisby (a Baltimore educator). A fluent linguist Jennye joined the Baltimore City School system as a language teacher. She began as a teacher, and severed as a department chair and guidance counselor in various schools. Later Jennye became Vice Principal and then Principal of the Greenspring Middle School.

Jennye was very interested in community affairs. She was very fashionable and loved clothes, parties, and travel. She particularly loved to journey to the Islands and South America. She liked to serve as a hostess and participated in many organizations. Jennye was a very caring person who loved her family and friends. In fact, one of her last conversations with family was in reference to going to see a grand-nephew in a stage production. Jennye rendered both physical and financial support to her Alma Mater; Morgan State University. She was a faithful supporter of the Morgan State University Foundation, Inc. and the Morgan State University Choir.

Jennye loved children and young people, and mentored many young women. She was famous for congratulating young children by saying to them: "good child by candy." Jennye also loved a good debate. Some of her happiest times involved sitting around a table in Baltimore or Philadelphia and discussing issues of the day or gossiping with family and friends. Jennye was a beloved and active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, The Links Incorporated, Pierians, Les Grande Dames, National Secondary Principals Association, Maryland State Teachers Association, and National Teachers Association.

Jennye leaves to cherish her memory: Nephews Hon. H. Russell Frisby, Jr. (June,) H. Russell Frisby, III and James Thomas Frisby, Niece: Janet McCabe (Baltimore) and Cousins: Dr. Edward Robinson, Elaine Richardson, Pamela Robinson Johnson and numerous other relatives.

Cemetery Details

Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT 5. 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Service

OCT 5. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Murphy Fine Arts Center
Baltimore, MD 21218

Tribute Wall

RG

“ We still talk about Dr. Patterson. A great principal of green spring jh. He made a difference in our lives, because he truly cared about his students. We loved Dr. Patterson and he is truly and deeply missed. We were the first 7th graders to attend Green Spring. We tell our grandchildren about him. We loved you.

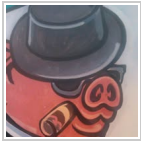


Renay Griffin - November 24, 2024 at 08:32 PM



“ Patterson, Mr. & Mrs. Donald, Sr. & Jennye

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Dr. Patterson was my Jr. High Principle he was very big on excellence. His students was his 1st priority no matter what, His death was a shock and a loss.



Doren Davis - February 03, 2022 at 10:39 AM

FC

“ Great friends, Marcia and Frank

Frank B. Coakley - October 25, 2011 at 03:17 PM

MC

“ Donald would never forgive me if I did not make it known that among his many other accomplishments, organizations and the like, he was also the very proud President of the SWAGS. The SWAGS is a social group that was founded more than 60 years ago and initially was comprised of Doctors. They would meet at one of the members homes, every other Wednesday (when their offices are typically closed). The host would serve dinner after which there would be fellowship, a little poker and socializing. In addition to Doctors the group now tends to also consist of some of the most prominent and influential men in the area. A few of the prior members included Henry Parks Jr., the former owner of Parks sausage, Harlow Fullwood who owned several KFC's who still, even after his death, has a major charity event each year that supports the community, Sam Daniels the former head of the Masons, James Cheek the former President of Howard University in addition to others. Today the SWAGS continues to have several very prominent Doctors as members as well as others that have tended to have excelled and gained significant notoriety in their given professions. Presently approximately half of the members are retired or semi-retired. Donald often reminded us that he was our President and that to a large degree he unilaterally made many if not most of the decisions that needed to be made. We humored him as much as possible and always enjoyed his presence, jokes and fellowship. There could not have been a better President. We will always miss and remember our President, Donald Patterson, Sr.



Mike Cassell - October 07, 2011 at 09:20 AM

BT

“ my late granfather samuel givan and mr pattersons father were good friends as well as mason brothers. my mom and mr patterson were good friends as well later on mr patterson bcame my principal at greenspring jr high the first graduating class, he call us his boys , he was a class act then and remained one .. he will be sorely missed rip in peace

byron m tolliver - October 06, 2011 at 11:33 AM

RG

“ Renay Griffin lit a candle in memory of Patterson, Mr. & Mrs. Donald, Sr. & Jennye



Renay Griffin - October 05, 2011 at 12:13 PM

RG

I still think about Dr. Patterson, I was one of the first 7th graders to attend Greenspring jr. High. Dr. Patterson was the best. Student's really wanted to go to school to learn. I now tell my grandchildren about him. Dr. Patterson really cared about the students and made sure that they were learning. He was a great and dedication man for education for children. Many of the students from Greenspring jr. High school love and miss you.

Renay Griffin - September 21, 2018 at 11:02 PM

RC

“ The memory that I have are too many to name... My parents, Ossie and Jasper Clay knew the Family since before I was born. I remember being on trips, vacations and gatherings with our families and all the children. It was always special!!! My mother shares this wonderful memory that I do remember also. My mother was pregnant and went into labor with my younger brother and my father was out of town on business, Mr. Patterson came to the house, picked up me and my mother and drove my mother to the hospital and I went and stayed at the house on Mohawk until my father arrived back home from out of town. Pillars in the community. My heart goes out to a friend(big brother) that I have not seen for years, Donnie and his family. To all of the family members, I encourage you to read Psalm 121 and know that your help during this time will come from the Lord and the many friends and family who love you all.

Regina Clay - October 03, 2011 at 01:31 PM



“ My Grandpa and Grandma were amazing people and were a big part in my life. I remember one Christmas they went out of there way just to buy me a skateboard that was hard to find. When I played football he came to watch my champion ship game, that meant a lot to me. I also wore his number, “44.” They were both very supportive of what I did. I love my grandparents very much and I always will. They will be loved and missed dearly.



Love,
Nick Patterson

Donald Patterson - October 02, 2011 at 04:56 PM

RG

My prayers go out to the Patterson family. I was one of the 1st.7th graders to attend Green-Spring Jr. High, a brand new school in the early 1970's. Dr. Patterson at the time was the Principal, he was much more than a principal, he was also your friend. Dr. Patterson was a leader and a educator, and a person who really cared about his students education. Going to school every day was something you looked forward to because of Dr.Patterson. Dr. Patterson will be missed, but never forgotten.

Quincie R. Griffin

Renay Griffin - October 05, 2011 at 12:09 PM



“ *My grandfather, Donald Ernest Lee Patterson Sr., always reminded me of a second father. He would always help me by pushing me to strive for the best in everything I did and always had his mind on the future just like my father. He always had helpful advice for me and cared about me as if I was his very own son. I will remember him every time I accomplish an achievement in my life and will hear his words every time I feel that I need help. I loved my grandfather very much and I will always be very proud to say that I am his grandson.*



*God Bless,
Sean Patterson*

Donald Patterson - October 02, 2011 at 03:33 PM

DM

“ Donald was an extraordinary friend to Patricia and I, almost immediately welcoming us to Baltimore. He and Jennye were gracious and attentive to each other and all with whom they had contact. A kind man, Donald immediately commanded your respect by his mere presence. We never saw Jennye without a smile on her face. We will never forget them.

Donald and Patricia Wilson

DONALD E. WILSON, MD - October 02, 2011 at 01:17 PM

DJ

“ I have been sitting here staring at a blank computer screen and I am not really sure what to write. I wish that I had inherited the great oratory gene that my father seemed to possess...never at a loss for words.



The more and more I speak with family and friends the larger in stature they both seem to grow. They were relatives, friends to many, coaches of life, leaders of a community...it seems as though I share them with the whole city and an extended network of others across the country.

My dad was my dad and for that I am who I am today. I couldn't be prouder! Jennye came into my life during my adulthood but still provided an indisputable warmth, compassion, and comfort for me and my family. And she provided undying love and comfort for my father for which I will be eternally grateful.

I consider this a celebration of life, a tribute to all the good things that they have accomplished, all the lives they have touched , and all the influences they have provided.

Love always,

Your son....

Donnie

Donald Patterson Jr - October 01, 2011 at 09:43 PM

MC

I remember my French teacher Mrs. Jennye Thomas at Hampstead Hill Junior High School. I was 12 years of age. She was so pretty and very elegant. I admired Ms.Thomas because she very kind, and patience with her students. She set a great example for being a lady. I looked up to her because she always told me to be great and never look back put look forward.I did learn to speak french. I didn't get to see her again until I became 45 yearsof age.. There she was the mentor of my beginnings and I will sorely miss Mrs.Jennye Patterson. Thanks for sharing your mom,grandmom, and this great woman and educator.
Maxine Davis

Maxine Davis Coates - October 04, 2011 at 08:21 PM

CS

Donnie, I was saddened to hear of your Dad and Ms. Jennye's deaths. They were two beautiful people well respected in the Baltimore community. I am reminded of childhood days in Jack and Jill in the 60's-70's with a smile. I pray that you and your family will remain strong during this most difficult time. My Dad passed in 2009 and I just want you to know that each day gets a little easier. I will not be able to attend the services this evening, but my Mother will be there. Take care !

Ceily Johnson Simms

Cecilia Slmms - October 05, 2011 at 02:54 PM

DM

They call him a great man,he was that and more.My uncle was more than my uncle,he was my best friend.He will me miss but never ever forgotten.Darryl Patterson Mitchell

Darryl Mitchell - October 06, 2011 at 06:28 AM

DJ

“ 3 files added to the album *A Tribute to Donald and Jennye*



Donald Patterson Jr - October 01, 2011 at 09:27 PM

HD

I met them when I first came out of Morgan State Univ., and I had the opportunity to be as a Science Teacher at Greenspring Junior High in 1975. I was very taken by how they both treated me as a new instructor and how I will always remember their firm, but gently way of making their points and getting all of the staff motivated. I had the utmost respect and love for them then and now in their passing I know how much you will miss them, but God has made a new home for them and they will pave the way for all of us and they have raise the bar to a higher standard. Thanks for all to memories and may God Bless you and your family in this time or mourning.

Herman A Douglas, RS/REHS

Herman A Douglas - October 04, 2011 at 06:15 AM

HD

May the Sprit of your parents remain in you and may their wisdom continue to guide you as you go through your life touching others as you go. God Bless you and your Family Herman A Douglas

Herman A Douglas - October 04, 2011 at 06:18 AM

DH

What a great sense of humor Donald always had. He could boil everything in life down to an intelligent sports metaphor. It wasn't Morgan's Homecoming until I heard Donald talk about the game and flash that smile. I will miss he and Jennye greatly, but glad they were in my life.

Daniel Henson - October 04, 2011 at 02:28 PM



Mr. Patterson was my ninth-grade physical education teacher at Booker T.. Washington Junior High School in 1956. He later was a member with my father in the infamous "No Name" Club. I am looking at a picture of the group from some time ago at one of their affairs. Always a fun person and an encourager. He loved to call me and Dad "Doog-er" May he and Mrs. Patterson rest in peace!

Milton A. Dugger, Jr.

Milton Dugger, - October 04, 2011 at 05:38 PM

MC

“ 7 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Michael Cassell - October 01, 2011 at 09:22 AM

KH

“ Karen Harris lit a candle in memory of
Patterson, Mr. & Mrs. Donald, Sr. & Jennye



Karen Harris - September 30, 2011 at 05:34 PM

KH

God bless the Patterson family and the neighborhood family. Knowing that they are with God, and don't have to be here in this evil and sinful world. May God embrace Donald, Jr. Even though your parents are gone, God will send others to embrace you. Before you know it, you will have many Mothers and Fathers. God bless all of you.

Karen Harris - September 30, 2011 at 05:37 PM

JP

To my loving family in remembrance of Cousins Donald and Jennye. I will always remember attending meetings for The Concerned Citizens of Baltimore in the early 70's. He was quite an educator and an activist. It seems as though that is a major family legacy. My dad, John William Elbert Patterson, Sr.(102 yrs. old), brother, John Jr. (Jack), send to Donnie and his family...our most sincere condolences and love.

Donald and Jennye....two of God's generals!

Love and Peace,

Joan Patterson-Taylor

joan patterson-taylor - October 01, 2011 at 12:01 PM



“ I was as close If not closer to Donald and Jennye then I was to my own Mother and Father. Donald was my very best friend and somewhat like a Father to me, we talked two or three times a day, most days, even when I was out of the Country. We talked about everything and anything especially politics. Nothing was too personal for me to discuss with Donald. He was so wise and worldly and always had a funny joke, to tell. I could never figure out where he got the all jokes from, because they never ran out. He loved Jennye, Morgan, Football, Poker, Omega Psi Phi, the Guardsmen, Boule, the Morgan's Varsity "M' Club and so many other organizations and things that he was involved in, dedicated to and supported. His seat and area (he had his own section of the Presidents box in Morgan's Hughes Stadium that seated about 10) will be draped in Black in his honor. But, he won't be there to tell us anymore how we could have made that touchdown or play as he always did.



He and Jennye seemed to know everyone in the Baltimore area and they were very influential in the Community. Jennye was a former President of the Links, was a Delta and involved in many other organizations and things. They were both as active as their health would allow them to be. Everybody loved and respected them. There will never be another couple that makes the impact on students, Maryland, so many organizations and people and that touches and uplifts the lives of as many people they have. It was an honor and privilege to have known and experienced them and to be able to say that we were not only Frat Brothers but more importantly we were real friends that cared about and really loved one another.

They did a great job of living their lives, while dedicating themselves to uplifting Mankind and particularly Minorities and Students as much as they could. Because of them the World is a better place. Edna and I will never forget or stop loving them. I could go on but I'll close by saying, may God grant them the rewards they deserve, they certainly earned it and I hope Donald can play poker in Heaven

(and win).

Mike Cassell

Michael Cassell - September 30, 2011 at 04:36 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - September 30, 2011 at 02:52 PM

AS

Al April Whitehead wish to extend my deepest sympathy to the family. My prayers go out to the family in your time of loss. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. I am an old Greenspring student and I will always remember Donald and Jennye Patterson. Look to God.

April Whitehead/ Old Student - October 01, 2011 at 02:17 PM