



Edward Anderson Chance

October 16, 1932 - January 30, 2003

Edward Anderson Chance, Sr., was born in his family home in Parmele, North Carolina on October 16, 1932. He was the youngest son of William Claudius Chance, Sr. and Julia Johnson Chance, and baby brother to Claudius, Jr., Warren, Harold, Anson, Anice and Wilbur. Affectionately known as Eddie, and later Ed, he was raised in a nurturing, close-knit family who instilled in him a sense of self-worth and value, and he was always encouraged to pursue his dreams and aspirations. Ed attended W.C. Chance School, the educational institution founded by his father and where his mother taught for elementary and high school. He was a good student who excelled in English, mathematics, science and oration. As a teenager he was a member of the school's winning basketball team. He was baptized at the Mt. Olive Branch Baptist Church. From an early age, Ed had a love and appreciation for travel. He enjoyed visiting his maternal grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins in Charlottesville, Virginia, and summer vacations with his Aunt Virginia in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. At the tender age of sixteen, Ed attended his parent's alma mater, Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia. There he joined R.O.T.C., was a member of the Pershing Rifles, the Omicron Social Club and was a student tutor. His college career was briefly interrupted when Uncle Sam came calling in 1953. For two years he served as a corporal in the U.S. Army, 36th Field Artillery, Battalion at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Ed said of his military days, "The most valuable lesson I learned was to take care of myself. The army was a real wake-up call." Upon receiving an honorable discharge, Ed

returned to Hampton Institute on the G.I. Bill and graduated in 1956 with a BS degree in social science. Like numerous southern-born African Americans Ed, would travel north in search of job opportunities that were denied him in the south. Soon after graduation, he came to Baltimore, Maryland and went to work for the city's Department of Public Welfare as a caseworker. It was there that he met his wife, the former Shirley Chase. In 1959 he enrolled at Howard University School of Social Work in Washington, D.C. At the urging of his brothers, he moved to New York City for a while and got his first job as a psychiatric social worker at Brooklyn State Hospital. From that experience Ed realized that social work was much more than a job-it was his calling. After a year in New York he returned to Howard and earned his Masters of Social Work degree in 1961. While Ed had every intention of returning to New York, he happened to get a job as a social worker at Spring Grove Hospital Center a few months before receiving his degree, and settled into a 38-year career. He also settled down. He and Shirley married and had their first child, Julia Anne, in 1962. Five years later, Elise Chinyere was born, and five years after that, his only son and namesake, Eddie, Jr. rounded out the Chance family. As a black son of the south, Ed was keenly aware of the racial inequities and injustices of his time. From his father in particular, he learned that segregation was not only immoral, but also unconstitutional. In 1948, W.C. Chance was arrested in Emporia, Virginia when he refused to go to the Jim Crow section of an interstate train. He sued Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and won a decision by the U.S. Fourth District courts of Appeals, outlawing segregated interstate travel. The rich legacy for advocacy in human and civil rights inspired Ed to join the Baltimore Chapter of the Congress for Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.) where he worked as a community organizer and later became Chairman. In 1963, he rallied local and national clergy, students and other in two days of non-violent protest at Gwynn Oak Amusement Park where 283 demonstrators, including himself, were arrested. The resulting desegregation of the park represented a major milestone of the Civil Rights Movement in Maryland. Ed also served on the Maryland Committee for the historic March

on Washington. Throughout his adult life, Ed remained active in civil rights and social causes as chairman and president of the Baltimore chapters of the Black United Front and National Association of Black Social Workers respectively. But the cause that he fought the hardest was the one for the just and humane treatment of his son Eddie who is developmentally disabled. Among his many achievements and honors, Ed became Spring Grove Hospital's first black Director of the Social Work Department in 1967 and was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by the Maryland State Conference, NAACP in 1998. Governor William Donald Schaefer appointed him to the Baltimore City Foster Care Review Board in 1987. He was a very proud member of the Hampton University Alumni Association, and the Howard University School of Social Work Alumni Association. He co-founded the Carol Wilson Caldwell Legal Scholarship Foundation (in honor of his late niece) and co-founded the W.C. Chance/East End Schools Alumni Association, serving as first president from 1981 to 1992. Intelligent, charming, humorous, opinionated, spiritual, compassionate, loyal, tenacious, tolerant... These are only a few words that sum up Ed Chance's great qualities. He was an aficionado of jazz, an avid sports fan (especially of basketball and football), and a master par excellence of crossword and jigsaw puzzles. He loved literature and understood the power of the written word. He was an excellent writer and poet. Moreover, he was a loving and devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle and cousin, and dear friend to many. Though he will be greatly missed, he enriched our lives and his spirit lives on in our memories.

Tribute Wall



“ *Edward Anderson Chance*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Edward Anderson Chance*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *"Jesus, let Thy Beautiful Presence be always with us." I just wanted to take a moment to let the Chance family know that you are still in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Joy Coleman##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Dear Shirley and Family, Please know that you have my deepest sympathy in the loss of your husband and your loved one. I know he was a very special person and I am sure you are proud of his accomplishments. Shirley, I regret that I was not able to be with you during your time of bereavement. It is my hope that we can meet and talk real soon. Much Love, Marion##imported-begin##Marion Murphy##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ May the peace of God comfort the bereaved family and friends of Mr. Chance. Much gratitude is felt for the courageous acts of people like Mr. Chance. Because of his efforts, our family and friends have an annual Family Day gathering at Gwynn Oak Park. Thanks Mr. Chance for allowing African descendants an opportunity to have an enjoyable day at a public park. Your contribution to mankind is appreciated by many people and was not in vain.##imported-begin##Lizzie Johnson##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Elise & Family, our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Gary & Tracey Fraser##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Heartfelt condolences to the Chance Family during their moment of bereavement. May God bless you all. I will miss Ed.##imported-begin##George and Sonia Yizar##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We would like to send the Chance family our sincerest condolences, where we keep you close through prayer.##imported-begin##Chris Morin and Meaghan Allan##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Shirley, May it comfort you to know what a remarkable man your husband was. What a incredible legacy he leaves for his family. His strength and wisdom will be missed by us all.##imported-begin##Sandy DeShazo##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I'll miss you Uncle Ed.##imported-begin##Wilbur J Chance, Jr##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To my teaching sister and from the same heart friend.My condolences to you and your family and everyone who knew your father. He will always be with you and I know he will be proud to watch such a special and beautiful daughter.##imported-begin##Randy Pepe##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ May it comfort you to know that so many prayers are with you and your family. I will keep you in my prayers.##imported-begin##ANDREA GORDON##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Elise, I know it's been a long time since we've spoken or seen one another. Joy and Monique sent me the news. I wish you and your family the best in your time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Jerome Agurs##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Elise and family I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I will keep you and your family in my prayers. Remember that God will give you strenght even in the time of sorrow. Lean upon his word even now. God bless###imported-begin###Mornique Conaway###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My heartfelt Sympathy to you Shirley and your Family; I care deeply about what you are going through. God Bless,love Vashti###imported-begin###Vashti M. Bristol###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Good-bye to an old friend whom I'll never forget.###imported-begin###Karl Crosby###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ The Family and I are wishing you (Elise and Family) the warmest wishes to get through this. May his spiritual presence enrich your memories and comfort you to know that he has gone home to heaven and is watching over you with showered blessings. Love you much!###imported-begin###Charlene Fergus and Family###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Elise and family...may you find comfort in knowing your father is now with the Lord. May love and the comfort of others ease your time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Bridgette Gessner Dill##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Wishing the Chance family much strength and support during this time of bereavement. May the love and laughter that Edward Anderson Chance brought you, last throughout your lifetime.##imported-begin##Meagan McInerney##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I would like to send my sincere condolences to the family.##imported-begin##Cathy James##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Healing happens slowly over weeks and months and years and even then, there will be days when memories call fresh tears. A song, a scent, or photograph keeps your heart in touch; with all that you so treasured in the one you miss so much. Live with your good memories, as they will add to your comfort, which comes from knowing that your grief is shared and understood.##imported-begin##The March Family and Staff##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM