



## Ernest C Hammond Jr.

August 22, 1939 - September 13, 2015

Ernest C. Hammond, Jr., 76 of Baltimore passed away September 13, 2015 at home. He was born August 22, 1939 in Baltimore to the late Ernest C. Hammond Sr. and Arnetta Williams Hammond. He earned his high school diploma from Baltimore City College in February of 1958. He earned a B.S. in physics in 1962 from Morgan State University and a M.S. in physics in 1965 from Howard University.

Professor Hammond was a tenured faculty member with over forty years of service in the science department at Morgan State University. He worked as a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Physics at Howard University from 1962 to 1964. In 1964, he started his career at Morgan State University as an instructor of physical science where he taught courses in physics, chemistry, geology, astronomy and mathematics.

Professor Hammond became an assistant professor of physical science in 1970. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor in the physics department in 1990 and worked as a principal investigator of a NASA research project at Morgan State University until his retirement in 2012.

Affectionately known as "Ernie" by friends and family, he was an accomplished violinist and avid supporter of the performing arts. He will be fondly remembered as a photography enthusiast who was well versed in astrology

and astronomy. His late wife, Dr. Roselyn Brown Hammond, joined the Morgan faculty as a biology professor in 1970 and the couple married in 1973. Their mutual interest in the sciences, classical music and gathering with friends made for thirty-eight years of companionship, intellectual compatibility and love until her passing in 2011.

He strived to encourage more minorities to pursue careers in science and technology. Besides the scientific rigor of the work, Professor Hammond struggled against the stereotypes that African Americans cannot do cutting edge science and that scholars at historically Black colleges and universities cannot meet the high standards expected by agencies such as NASA. Under his leadership, Morgan State University entered into a partnership with Johns Hopkins University as part of a Space Grant Consortium.

Additionally, Professor Hammond conducted various experiments for NASA involving spectroscopic film, electron microscopy, and image processing with research teams of faculty and students. Through his NASA grants, he supported over fifty (50) students through graduate school at Morgan and many of whom went on to complete advanced degrees in: Engineering (D.Eng.), Higher Education (Ph.D.), Podiatry (DPM), and Dentistry (DDS). In 1991, in recognition of the strength of its science programs, Goddard Space Flight Center donated a supercomputer to Morgan State to support a Minority University Space Infrastructure Network.

Professor Hammond received the Alan Berman Research Publication Award from the Naval Research Laboratory, worked with the IBM research team that discovered the organic dye laser and received grants from NASA for the purpose of conducting research.

As a member of the Visiting Research Staff at Thomas J. Watson Research

Center for IBM in Yorktown Heights, New York during the summers of 1966, 1967, 1970, 1971 & 1972, Professor Hammond worked on problems in organic dye lasers and spectroscopy. In the summers of 1973 and 1974, he was a Visiting Summer Scientist at the MIT Lincoln Laboratories in Lexington, Massachusetts where he participated in the planning and development of the Spin Flip Laser and associated Infrared Detection Apparatus. In the summer of 1975, he was a member of the Visiting Research Staff at General Electric Research and Development in Schenectady, New York..

During his accomplished career, Professor Hammond worked on organic dye lasers, absorption spectroscopy of  $EU 2 O_3$ , scanning electron microscopy, transmission electron microscopy, photographic film studies in space and lunar sample analysis using SEM & TEM from Apollo 11. He jointly developed a method and device to calibrate spectroscopic film according to certain spectral-photometric characteristics used in ground-based and rocket launched instruments by the Laboratory for Optical Astronomy.

At Morgan State University, he was Chairman of the Committee on Admissions, Member of the Faculty Executive Committee, Chairman of the Morgan State University Advisory Committee on Recruitment, Chairman of the University Parking Committee and Alternate to the Morgan State University Senate.

He served as Captain in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps from February 1968 to January 1970, where he engaged in research in laser-induced plasmas at the Aberdeen Research and Development Center, the Ballistic Research Laboratory, the Terminal Ballistic Laboratory, Laser Branch and the Aberdeen Proving Ground. He also served as a Public Information Officer for the 4th Psychological Operations Group in Saigon, Vietnam. Additionally, he served with the Propaganda Development Section, 8th Psychological

Operation Battalion in Pleiku, Vietnam.

In 1970, he was appointed by Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird to serve as a Consultant for the Joint Inter-service Task Force on Education in Race Relations. This task force was assigned responsibility for developing an effective race relations education program that would be applicable across services.

Professor Hammond published many works and received numerous awards, certificates of appreciation and accolades. In 1985, he was recognized by the City of Baltimore as an outstanding educator in the field of space science and technology. Additionally, his expertise and leadership skills propelled him into positions of responsibility in various professional and social organizations of which he was a member. He held memberships in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated and Sigma Pi Sigma, the National Honor Physics Society. He was recognized as an ASI Fellow by the African Scientific Institute (ASI); was a member of the American Physical Society of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; past executive committee member of the Forum of Physics and Society; member of the History of Science Society; Member of the History of Science Club of Washington; Member of the Chesapeake Section of the American Association for Physics; Vice Chairman of Board of Directors, Afro-American Total Theatre; past treasurer of the Board of Directors, Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., and member of the Public Affairs Committee of the American Lung Association of Maryland, Inc.

He is preceded in death by his parents and wife, Roselyn Brown Hammond. He is survived by cousins John Williams (Takisha), Gilbert, Arizona; Terry Williams, Baltimore, Maryland; caregiver, Peggy Bailey, Baltimore, Maryland and Joanne Williams, Baltimore, Maryland, who was like a daughter. Also

surviving are extended family, many friends and former students.

# Cemetery Details

## Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road  
Owings Mills, MD

# Previous Events

## viewing

SEP **29**. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Wake

SEP **30**. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

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SEP **30**. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Ernest C Hammond Jr.

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Mrs. Melanie Veda Simon lit a candle in memory of Ernest C Hammond Jr.



Mrs. Melanie Veda Simon - February 20, 2021 at 12:54 AM



“ I am very late to this, but I want to share the Professor Hammond impacted my life more than he knew. After I graduated I came back to visit him and brought my two daughters. He was like a father to me in a way I didn't realize back then. He is the inspiration for the character of my children's book, *Rocko Rocket*. He did my astrology chart, let me look through an electron scanning microscope and made me feel I was getting smarter just by being in his presence. I am grateful to have known him.

Yolande Clark-Jackson - October 21, 2019 at 09:41 PM



“ Years ago I met Ernie and was very impressed with him and his knowledge of Astology and the zodiac. Even if I did not agree at the time of his reading, I later discovered how accurate, insightful he was. Thank you Ernie for the man you are/was.

Connie

connie Williams - November 05, 2015 at 12:45 PM

DM

“*Dr. Ernest C. Hammond, jr. was a "one of a kind man." Ernie was a true scholar and multitalented person. His voraciously inquisitive mind and intellect led him to constantly follow the scientific method of inquiry and research. Additionally he had a fierce love for his people and a belief that education was the key to racial advancement. He treated his students and protégés as his own children.*

*He truly loved classical music, the arts and was at his best ,exhibiting his drole wit when socializing with friends.*

*After giving so much of yourself to others, rest in peace noble warrior.*

*Dr. Linda R. McLean*

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**Dr. Linda R. McLean** - October 01, 2015 at 09:12 PM

PU

“*It was working with Professor Hammond, "Uncle Ernie", that I first learned the thrill of scientific discovery, analyzing isotopic content of soil near Calvert Cliffs. He taught me that science requires field work (collecting samples in a swamp full of mosquitoes!) and lab work (on his Electron Microscope) and mathematics and computational analysis. He was a truly interdisciplinary scientist, ahead of his time. His scientific legacy lives on through his discoveries and the many students' lives that he touched. But he will be deeply missed. Our Thanksgiving dinners will never be the same without Uncle Ernie's wit and humor.*

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**Professor Melanie Moses, UNM** - September 30, 2015 at 09:14 AM

 Reba  
Hawkins

“ I will always remember Ernest Hammond Jr! The main thing is that he and my Father share the same name! I have many fond memories of Professor Hammond. He truly believed in the importance of Education and the belief that an educated mind can bring about the much needed change to help our communities! I will never forget the stories he told about his time in Cambodia! Hammond and Rose treated us students like we were their own children! They had such a big heart and I thank God for the time he gave me to experience this Beautiful couple! I remember Hammond being frugal but knew where to get a good down home meal. I spent a number of years having in depth conversations about world issues and life! I know that Ernest an Rose would both share in my vision to create an Educational Scholarship Fund in their Names! I Love You Ernest Rest In Paradise! Over And Out! You Fought A Good Fight! You touched many lives! Know That Those With UnPure Hearts Will Find Their Fate!!!Love You To Infinity And Beyond!!

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Reba Hawkins - September 23, 2015 at 09:06 PM

DG

“*Dr. Hammond embodied the vision of what an HBCU used to be. As a Morgan student and after I had matriculated, I was always welcome in the Hammond home; they were like a family away from home and took care of us like we were their children. He helped me to build a professional network and encouraged me to continuously seek to increase my education. Even when I moved out of the country, Dr. Hammond always kept in touch.*

*While at Morgan, I worked in the Scanning Tunneling Electron Microscopy Lab which Dr. Hammond developed and maintained through grants from NASA and the state of Maryland. It was because of his work with graduate students that the film on the Hubble Space Telescope was changed; their research found that it would not work in deep space. Because of this, Dr. Hammond was able to fly a group of graduate and undergraduate students to Cape Canaveral to watch the launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery and the Hubble Space Telescope.*

*I look back with laughter and fond memories of dinners with Dr. Hammond and Mrs. Rose; the Perring Inn was a favorite, but we also enjoyed trying out new places.*

*I will ever be grateful to the Brown and Hammond families for lending both Drs. Hammond to Morgan. Their generous hearts and spirits will never be forgotten.*

*Denise Berry Graham '90*

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**Denise Graham** - September 23, 2015 at 07:25 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.

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**March Funeral Homes** - September 23, 2015 at 11:33 AM