



Foster Bishop Miles Jr.

December 14, 1939 - February 23, 2018

Dr. Foster B. Miles, Jr., 78, of Henrico County, entered into eternal rest on February 23, 2018. He was the son of the late Bishop and Maggie Miles of Charles City, Virginia. He was predeceased by his brothers, Ernest, Spencer and Sanford Miles; sister, Eula Miles Cotman and stepmother, Beatrice Miles. Foster is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, Ruth R. Miles; loving daughter, Dr. Kara Miles Turner (Clinton); loving son, Foster B. Miles III (Lisa); three beloved grand daughters, Kayla and Karrington Turner, and Abigail Miles; ten sisters-in-law and nine brothers-in-law. Also mourning his loss is a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, including devoted cousins, Patricia Humphrey, Alphonso Miles, and Donna Hicks; devoted sister-in-law, Karen Motley and fraternity brother, Edward West.

Foster received his public school education at Ruthville High School in Charles City, graduating as valedictorian of his class in 1957. After high school, Foster enrolled in Virginia State College (University), where he thrived as a student and a leader. He joined the Nu Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi in December 1959, and served as Basileus in 1960-61. He was well-known on campus, both as a scholar who graduated with honors in 1961 and as a loyal Omega man. Foster was also an active participant in the civil rights movement, having proudly been taken to jail once as a protestor. His picture was published in Look magazine in one of the protest scenes.

During his senior year at VSU, Foster served as Vice-President of the Student Government Association and advisor to the freshman class. This handsome gentleman caught the attention of freshman Ruth Ragland, who liked the looks but was not yet ready for this serious, "older" man. Three years later, Foster and Ruth did connect, and after a brief courtship, married in 1964.

After graduating from VSU in 1961, Foster began his career as a business teacher, first in Charles City County and then in the City of Chesapeake and Prince William County. While teaching in Chesapeake, he continued his education, first at VSU and then at Boston University, where he earned a master's degree in Business Education with the Virginia Department of Education, and relocated to Richmond. Foster furthered his education at the University of Virginia, and earned his doctorate in Administration and Supervision in 1978. He continued to work with the State in several capacities for the remainder of his career, except for a 2-year period in which he served as Assistant Superintendent in Charles City County, realizing a goal he always had to give back to his home county. He took early retirement in 1991, but continued to work part-time from 1992 to 2005, briefly with M.H. West Company and then back with the State.

Through the years, Foster continued to be actively involved with VSU, serving on the Alumni Board for a number of years, as President of the VSU National Alumni Association, and as Vice-President of the Richmond Alumni Chapter.

He was well-known supporter of VSU, as a member of the President's Club, the Athletic Boosters (Life Member), the Band Boosters, and the Powell Society. He served on the search committee for two presidents, Wesley McClure and Eddie Moore. Foster and Ruth also purchased an endowment and a chair in the renovated Virginia Hall.

Foster received several awards and distinctions from Virginia State University,

including Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Alumnus of the Year. Member of the Sports Wall of Fame, several Proclamations, and Homecoming Parade Marshall. In Charles City County, Foster was honored as Man of the Year by the local NAACP chapter. The Upsilon Nu chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity bestowed upon Foster the Citizen of the Year Award, Omega Man of the Year Distinction, and the Scroll of Honor.

Foster was an active member of Gilfield Baptist Church since childhood. He served as an usher, a member and president of the senior choir, and a member and chairman of the Trustee Board. Upon retirement from the Trustee Board, he was awarded the distinction of Trustee Emeritus. Additionally, he chaired the search committee for the two most recent pastors.

Cemetery Details

Gilfield Baptist Church Cemetery

6640 Church Lane
Charles City, VA 23030

Previous Events

viewing

FEB 28. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Wake

FEB 28. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Omega Service

FEB 28. 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Service

MAR 1. 1:00 PM (ET)

Gilfield Baptist Church
6640 Church Lane
Charles City, VA 23030

Tribute Wall



“ *Kara Turner lit a candle in memory of Foster Bishop Miles Jr.* ”



Kara Turner - September 21, 2024 at 10:46 AM



I love and miss you daddy

Kara Turner - September 21, 2024 at 10:47 AM



“ *I miss you daddy* ” 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷



Kara - February 23, 2024 at 07:33 PM



“ *Kara Turner lit a candle in memory of Foster Bishop Miles Jr.* ”



Kara Turner - November 21, 2023 at 09:50 PM



“ *Foster Bishop Miles Jr.* ”

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

KM

“ Kara Miles lit a candle in memory of Foster Bishop Miles Jr.



Kara Miles - February 19, 2021 at 09:45 PM

AP

“ Eric and I are so sorry to hear of Foster's passing. While words cannot take away the pain, time in prayer can help ease it. It is during these difficult times that we really have to find our strength through our Creator. Here is a verse I would like to share with you: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live. " John 11:25
May God hold each of you close and give you strength and peace knowing you'll see him again in Glory.
Love, Amie

Amie & Eric Powers - March 01, 2018 at 09:16 PM

LR

“ Larry Riddick lit a candle in memory of Foster Bishop Miles Jr.



Larry Riddick - March 01, 2018 at 11:14 AM

AR

“ Angie Riddick lit a candle in memory of Foster Bishop Miles Jr.



Angie Riddick - March 01, 2018 at 11:08 AM

TR

“ Ted And Lola Richardson lit a candle in memory of Foster Bishop Miles Jr.



Ted and Lola Richardson - February 27, 2018 at 10:19 PM

YS

“ Dr. Miles was invested in the education of the children in Charles City, Virginia. He supported the county in many endeavors. He was always there to give service. We will miss him for his kindness, intelligence, and his spirit of service. To his family, you have lost a beloved member but, we have lost a Hero and Champion for the love of people.
Dr. Smith-Jones

Yvonne Smith-Jones - February 27, 2018 at 11:18 AM

OL

“ My cousin and my friend, sweet memories of from childhood on.
REST in peace cousin.

ODESSA CHARITY LOGAN..(MAE)

Odessa Charity Logan - February 27, 2018 at 10:15 AM

AC

“ Arlene Cundiff purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Foster Bishop Miles Jr..



Arlene Cundiff - February 26, 2018 at 10:30 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Foster Bishop Miles Jr..



February 26, 2018 at 10:14 PM

KE

“ To the family of Foster Miles.

I want to offer my condolences during this difficult time. Please find some comfort in knowing you can go to god in prayer and he will give you peace to endure the pain. Philipians 4:6,7

Kendra - February 26, 2018 at 07:57 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Foster Bishop Miles Jr..



February 26, 2018 at 06:35 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 - February 26, 2018 at 02:04 PM