



George Oliver Bates Sr.

August 19, 1937 - August 6, 2020

Our beloved father, George Oliver Bates Sr. was born on August 19, 1937 to the late Whalen Bates Sr. and Ellen Bates in Richmond, Virginia. He departed this life on August 6, 2020 to begin a new life in the presence of the Lord. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age and was a member of Moore Street Baptist Church. He later became an active member of New Bridge Baptist with his wife and children. George grew up in the Uptown area near Moore Street Baptist Church with his siblings Whalen, Grace, and Leroy. The “Bates Brothers” were known to be handsome, smart and stylish men. George graduated from Maggie L. Walker High School. He received his professional education from Virginia Union University and later went to business school at the University of Richmond. He pledged Phi Beta Sigma at VUU. George and a few of his fraternity brothers founded the Regulars Social Club in Richmond. George was one of the first Black Firefighters in Henrico County, and he was the first Henrico County Firefighter with a college degree. During his service, he took pride in his calling and always exhibited the values of professionalism, respect, integrity, dedication and empathy. Later, he became a Lieutenant and retired after 28 years of service. He was a committed member of the Black Firefighter Association and a mentor to many of the rookie firefighters. George joined in holy matrimony and married the love of his life, Jean A. Spratley, his beloved that he adored. They were blessed with two loving children George Jr. and Michele. He was a humble man with a great sense of humor. George was very loving, fun, and

loyal to his family and friends. He could fix anything around the house and was the dependable person that family and neighbors called if they needed anything. He enjoyed eating out at great restaurants, reading, and movies. He was known to have an immaculate and well-manicured lawn and flower gardens. The pride and joy of his life was being a grandfather. George was known as "PaPa". After retirement, he enjoyed fishing, brotherhood activities in his fraternity, watching his oldest grandson play baseball, and spending quality time with his other grandchildren, family and friends. George was preceded in death by his wife, Jean A. Bates; brother, Whalen Bates Jr.; sister, Grace Christmas and brother-in-law, James Christmas, Sr. He leaves to cherish his memory: son and daughter, George Bates Jr. (Iris) and Michele Powell (Theron Sr.); four grand-children, Theron Powell II, Emanuel J. Sanchez, Derek Powell and Genesis A. Bates; brother, Leroy Bates; god-brother, Wortham Tinsley; four sisters-in-law, Margaret Bates, Joyce Bates, Ann Ruff, and Kathy Davis; two brothers-in-law, Joseph Spratley, Jr. and Dan Davis; devoted friends, William Leabough and Jeff Shelton; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces, other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

4000 Pilots Lane
Richmond, VA 23222

Previous Events

Walk through Visitation

AUG 11. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes
2110 E. Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23222

Celebration of Life

AUG 12. 1:30 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for George Oliver Bates Sr., Please Click the Link below.*



March Funeral Homes - August 10, 2020 at 08:52 PM

MG

George and I came on the fire dept about the same time. I worked with him at #10, couldn't find a better person to work with. I have and will continue to miss him. Rest In Peace George. "The Goo"

mitch goodman - August 11, 2020 at 12:30 PM

MK

George was a wonderful and loving husband and father. Peace Blessing, Strength and Love Always from Marshall Bates' Family.

Marsha Bates Karim

marsha karim - August 12, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ *George Oliver Bates Sr.*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

DB

“ *Every chance I had to work with George was a treat. He was always a gentleman and a role model. Prayers for his family. Danny Bareford*

daniel lee bareford - August 12, 2020 at 10:30 AM

TJ

“ *Dearest Bates Family-May the Lord's blessings continue to be with you during this time as you reflect upon so many fond special memories. With heartfelt sympathy and prayers. Love and prayers, Cousin Thelma Bolling Jones and Family, Sutherland Va.*



Thelma and Kim Jones - August 12, 2020 at 09:00 AM

JS

“ *James Stenhouse lit a candle in memory of George Oliver Bates Sr.*



James Stenhouse - August 12, 2020 at 07:58 AM

SZ

“ *Shiva & Niki Zadeh purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of George Oliver Bates Sr..*



Shiva & Niki Zadeh - August 11, 2020 at 05:10 PM

JT

“ George was one of the good guys. Always friendly and willing to give you a hand. He may have had some bad days but George's positive attitude is the only ting I ever saw.

My sympathy to all his family and friends.

*Jim Trice
HFD Retired*

J.E. (Jim) Trice - August 11, 2020 at 03:05 PM

HP

“ I worked with George back in the day when we were young with Henrico Fire at Station 6. I have g.reat memories of a good firefighter. H.T. Pritchard, FF. Ret. HFD

Hiram Pritchard - August 09, 2020 at 08:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of George Oliver Bates Sr..



August 09, 2020 at 12:03 PM

DF

“ DOMINIQUE TELFORT and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of George Oliver Bates Sr..



DOMINIQUE TELFORT and Family - August 08, 2020 at 03:04 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 - August 07, 2020 at 12:23 PM

HS

Michele and George, Jr. We're sorry to not be present at your Dad's service today but we were virtually because of our health. We were able to participate in viewing on yesterday. We'll remember George as our Friend forever, many memories good and sad, lots of love and caring. We pray that even though your Mom and Dad are now resting in Heaven our chair will remain intact. Bless you and your families and He bring you sweet comfort. Love you Hattie and Foster.

Hattie Smith - August 12, 2020 at 03:05 PM

MI

The Powell Family is so sorry to hear about the loss of Mr. Bates. We loved him! He was kind, sweet and always a gentleman. We know that he is now in Heaven and at peace. We will miss you always Mr. Bates.

Minni - August 17, 2020 at 05:33 PM