



Joseph A. Yates

April 18, 1922 - January 21, 2006

JOSEPH ANTHONY YATES, SR., the fourth child of the late Buddy and Eula Fields Yates, was born April 18, 1922, in Eufaula, Oklahoma. The family moved to Gilbert, Arizona, then Mesa, Arizona, and finally settled in Phoenix, Arizona. Joseph and his four siblings, Alma and the late Vula, Jeremiah, and Emma, attended the Mesa Public Schools. Joseph was graduated from Mesa Union High School in Mesa, Arizona, as a participant in football, track, orchestra and the Citrus Follies. He departed this life peacefully and quietly at Good Samaritan Hospital on Saturday, January 21, 2006. Joseph was a long-time member of Forest Park Community Church. He supported his church with his time, talents, and resources, having served faithfully as a trustee and deacon. He lent his services whenever and wherever needed. His life served as a model for countless young men. He joined the army in 1942, serving in Europe with General Patton's Third and Sixth Tank Divisions. After his military service, he studied at Arizona State University, Prairie View A&M College, and Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina from which he received his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in health and physical education. While pursuing graduate studies at Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts, he was recruited by the Baltimore County Public School System to teach at the Banneker School in Catonsville, Maryland, where he taught grades K-12 for six years. He also taught and coached at Sollers Point, Catonsville, Parkville, and Franklin high schools before retiring in 1982. In fact, when he took over as head coach of football at the Parkville High School

in August 1971, he became the first Black head football coach in the Baltimore County Public School System. His coaching specialties were basketball, track, and cross-country, but football was his love. As a coach, his main concern was the lessons students learned that would enable them to become outstanding citizens. He served as an example for students, never losing his temper or ridiculing an unskilled player or becoming upset by the mistakes of the team. He used those opportunities to teach and re-teach. At the Banneker School, Joseph always found time to visit or walk past the mathematics /science teacher's room in search of fruit or candy, "to meddle," or to ask a question. After several years of courtship, the former Edmonia Townes (that same mathematics/ science teacher) became his wife on June 25, 1960. They spent six weeks driving across the country to Mexico and visiting relatives and friends before returning to Baltimore. Two precious children, Joseph Anthony Jr. and Patrice, completed the family circle. Each year since 1960, there has been at least one trip taken by Joseph and his family to a foreign country, an island, or a place of interest in the USA. Last year Joseph and his wife celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on the Queen Mary II, visited relatives in Arizona and Nevada, and attended the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Convention in Houston, Texas. Joseph has always reached out to help young people, family members, and non-family members to pursue an education. After retiring from the Baltimore County Public School System, he worked briefly in real estate and spent time volunteering at the Liberty Medical Center before it closed. His civic, social and fraternal affiliations included service as president of the Zeus Club, Inc., the Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., and the Baltimore Alumni Association of Johnson C. Smith University. He also found great pleasure in coaching the James Mosher Little League teams. He was a life member of the NAACP, a member of the Hillside Heights Neighborhood Association, and a member of the Ombudsman's Club of the NANBPWC, Inc. "Joe," as he was called by his family and friends, was devoted to his family and made special efforts to see his relatives in Arizona and Nevada at least yearly. He was a true and trusted

friend to many people and enjoyed being of service to those who needed his help. Until his health began to fail, he did not mind doing the menial tasks for his church, organizations, and fraternity. His motto was, "Let me serve where there is a need, I don't need to be seen or praised, I just need to help."

Joseph's pre-med dreams were fulfilled by his son, Joseph A. Yates, Jr., who works in various medical technologies, and his daughter Patrice R. Yates Sappington, M.D. Additionally, he was proud of the accomplishments of his godchildren, family members, and friends. His love, caring, and sharing did not have any boundaries. A greater joy of his life was his grandchildren, who held a special place in his heart. They always brought a big smile and genuine laughter whenever they were in his presence. Joseph leaves a legacy of love and devotion to his wife, Edmonia Townes Yates; his son, Joseph A. Yates, Jr., and his daughter, Patrice R. Yates Sappington, M.D.; his sister, Alma Yates (2 sisters, Vula and Emma, and one brother, Jeremiah, preceded him in death); his son-in-law, Ronald Sappington, Jr.; three grandchildren, Joseph A. Yates, III, Gobia McDonald-Yates, and Laila S. Sappington; seven nephews, J.D. Harper, Joseph A. Yates, Marvin Ray Yates, Michael Yates, Terrence Yates, Clemon Bragg, and Rev. Buddy Yates; five nieces, Lothaire Parker, Jerretta Lothlen, Eula Faye Penison, Pamela Yates, and Michelle Yates; great-nephew, Rev. Dr. Charles R. Hemphill, who lived with the family for three and a half years while attending Morgan State University; and other family members including seven godchildren, Barbara Harding, Jacqueline Steele McCall, Joyce Mason, Barbara Mason, Thomas Mason, Jr., Alice J. Reynolds, and Tyrone Anderson.

Tribute Wall



“ I miss you soo much Uncle Joe! I wish you and my grandma had the chance to meet my girls. Your yearly visits to AZ are surely missed. Love you tons.

Tynisha - August 26, 2023 at 10:07 AM



“ Joseph A. Yates

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Pat & Family: You are in our thoughts and prayers. No one can fully understand your sorrow. May you be blessed with courage and strength to carry on. We are here for you. Cherish his memories. Love Glo & Sapp###imported-begin##Ronald & Gloria Sappington###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We will truly miss Brother Yates. He was a joy to talk to at the various Alpha activities that we attended. May you and your family find comfort in knowing that he is now with the angels that watch over us daily. May God bless and strenghten you all as you mourn the loss of your love one.##imported-begin##Isaiah & Gloria Frost###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We both have unique and fond memories of Joe. May all your warm memories ease the sorrow that you feel. We are thinking of you with sympathy.##imported-begin##Martin and Marie Austin##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My sympathies to the Yates family. Mr. Yates was my 10th grade phys. ed. teacher, and I've always remembered him as a great teacher and person. Parkville Class of '78##imported-begin##Brian Klausmeyer##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ O, Heavenly Father, you are the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort. Bring comfort to the Yates Family through your Holy Spirit. Help them to see your power and to experience your love for all of their tomorrows. With love, Virginia##imported-begin##Virginia B. Vauls##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Dr. Patrice Yates and Family: Our prayers go out to you and your family. Pat we are here for you in your time of sorrow. Cherish your memories of your Dad.##imported-begin##Sarah Opher - Johnson##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Dr. Yates, we are thinking of you and your family here at St. Francis Hospital. Karen Moon, social services, Integrated Case Management###imported-begin###Karen Moon###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Sorry for your lost. Finding comfort is difficult when you lose a love one especially a mate. 1st Corn 15:26 says "As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing". Please take comfort in this scripture during your time of lost.###imported-begin###Phyllis Duvall###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am very sorry to learn that your family have loss Joseph, to death. This must have been a difficult time for your family. I am forwarding scripture that will comfort you. Psalm 90:10 says that the usual human life span is 70 to 80 years. That was true when Moses wrote it, but that was not so from the beginning. (compare Genesis 5:3-32.) Hebrews 9:27 says, It is reserved for men to die once for all time. This, too, was true when it was written. But it was not the case before God passed judgment on sinful Adam.###imported-begin###JT Nunnally###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am truly sorry to learn of your loss of Joseph. I am sure that this must have been a difficult time for your family. I am forwarding scripture that might comfort you in this time of sorrow. Psalms 116:15 reads...Precious in the eyes of Jehovah is death of his loyal ones. Ecclesiastes 7:1 reads...A name is better than good oil, and the day of death than the day of being born. Isaiah 25:8 reads...He will actually swallow up death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces. And the reproach of his people will take away from all the earth, For Jehovah himself as spoken it.##imported-begin##JT
Nunnally##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but know that the God of comfort is with you all during this time of tribulation. (2Corinthian 1:3-4) Due to the many unforeseen occurrences that brings tragedy to our lives Jehovah God promises one day soon Death will be no more (Rev 21:3-4) and his son have been given the authority to bring all those in the memorial tombs back to life. John 5:28-29 Just think there will come a time not only will death be no more but Jehovah promises that no one will have to say I'm sick according to Isaiah 33:24. I feel the need to express these words of hope because so many of us today treasure the gift of life and we do all we can to maintain it to hold on to it. That is why it hurts so badly when our loved ones die. With so many of us desiring life today no matter how good or bad it is we still want life here on earth. No one looks forward to that time of death. That is why I am under obligation by the spirit and love of God to share that hope that is in our near future that the righteous shall inherit the earth and reside upon it forever according to Psalms 37: 29 along with the above stated promises on a paradise and peaceful earth. We all can hold true to this everlasting promise because Isaiah 55:11 states all the words Jehovah have spoken WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT RESULTS. What a wonderful prospect for our future especially enlight of the fact that Hebrews 6:18 States of God, it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to lie.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

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“ Please accept my condolences for your loss. Mr. Yates appears to have lead a full and accomplished life. I am certain that he is missed by family, friends and all who knew him. Death takes these precious ones from us. The Bible tells us that death is the enemy and we never get used to. But the Bible gives us hope for a resurrection at John 5:28-29 where Jesus promises that, "the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out". This scripture has brought comfort to many. I hope that this will comfort you as well.##imported-begin##Senita Swann##imported-end##

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“ I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. THE SCRIPTURES GIVE COMFORT AND HOPE. ISAIAH 26:19 SAYS THE DEAD WILL LIVE AGAIN.##imported-begin##BARBARA GRAY##imported-end##

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“ Just wanted to share my sympathy with you and give you a little comfort from the Bible about the resurrection hope. Acts chapter 24 and verse 15 says that "There is going to be a resurrection... so please read that passage in the Bible and we can look foward to that promise that God made to all of us.Isaiah chapter 61 and verses 1-3. Pleaae read this passage in your Bible and I do hope that it will bring you some comfort.##imported-begin##E Nelson##imported-end##

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“ Pat: I have been thinking about you a lot lately... Surfing the internet, I found this site. God works in misterious ways! I am sooo sorry! Please know that I am always thinking about you and will keep you and your family in my prayers so that God gives you lots of strength and understanding!! Love always, Anita###imported-begin###Anita del Toro###imported-end###

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“ Dear family, please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one. Please be assured that Almighty God knows your pain and promises us hope for those we have lost in death. At Isaiah 26:19 it says, "Your dead ones will live. A corpse of mine- they will rise up. Awake and cry out joyfully, you residents in the dust..." Afterwards, Isaiah 25:8 tells us, "He will actually swallow up death forever..." Not only will we have our loved ones back, but they won't ever have to die again. These promises are to soon take place through God's Kingdom that will take place here on earth as it is in heaven. My prayers are with your family.###imported-begin###Denise Dukes###imported-end###

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“ My sincere condolences to the Yates family. Mr. Yates was my physical education teacher at Parkville High School in 1979. I was terrible at sports but Mr. Yates was very kind, patient and supportive. I will always remember how nice he was.###imported-begin###Robert Hoehn###imported-end###

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