



Joseph Garfield Taylor

September 10, 1944 - March 19, 2008

Music is a gift from the creator, and blessed are those who have the ability to share its beauty with others. Through the symphony that was his life, Joseph Garfield Taylor, Jr. provided us all with the music of the world and his spirit. Joe's opening performance was in Richmond, VA on September 10, 1944. We have to thank Joseph Garfield Taylor, Sr. and Elizabeth Wood Taylor for providing Joe with his first instruments. Joe's performances certainly were influenced by his brothers Theodore, James and Robert Kenny, and John Taylor, each one blessed with symphonies of their own. Teachers in the Richmond public school system helped Joe devise better forms for his compositions. Professors at Virginia State and Virginia Commonwealth Universities mentored Joe so that he could refine his musical style. Perhaps it was through these early collaborations that Joe found jazz so compelling, spellbinding even, yet so very familiar. Through a multitude of experiences, with the Armstrong High School Band, Virginia State University Marching Band, the U.S. Air Force Band, and a host of fellow musicians throughout Virginia, Joe experimented with and improvised his symphony. He shared his musical expertise and compositions with thousands of appreciative listeners and performed with those well known and unknown. His musical break spent with the U.S. Postal Service, allowed him to articulate the rhythms of life's daily journeys by performing with Standing Room Only Band & Show; Ban Cribé; Renaissance Band; and D-Lite. Joe was only happy to oblige them all. However, there was one listener who stood out. She had a rhythm of

her own. As a student of jazz, Joe recognized that Faye Bettina Walker could help him compose an entirely new symphony. One rooted in the African ancestral past, a past that really was prologue to both. This new performance debuted on October 23, 1982, and the world rejoiced. For nearly six years, they performed, studied and riffed together. Their finest collaboration debuted on June 6, 1988, and they named her Mayah Olaniyi Walker-Taylor. It was through these two women, where Joe could show the world his reward for all of his hard work in sharing his music with the world. Following a long desired sojourn to Africa, where his African and American spirits were reconciled, Joe was able to prepare for one more performance. Sadly, for all of us who grew to love Joe's symphony, his final performance played on March 19, 2008. It was as beautiful as his debut. We were blessed by him in Richmond, VA. For 63 years, the creator could rest assured in the fact that Joe shared his gift with all he encountered. We celebrate Joe's symphony and his performances in the way that is only natural through music. Those of us left in this physical world are devoted wife Faye B. Walker; loving daughter, Mayah O. Walker-Taylor; brother, Rev. Dr. John O. Taylor, Sr. and his wife, Patricia, all of Richmond, VA; loving mother-in-law, Hazel Walker; sister-in-law, Frances Kenny of Indianapolis, IN and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Special friends who will miss those "philosophical sessions" include Khaliq Akers and Larry Boone. All of Joe's musical and performing families are loved and acknowledged. David Brown, the music collaboration and ventures you shared were Joe's passion.

Tribute Wall



“ Joseph Garfield Taylor

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Please accept my condolences for the loss of your dear loved one. 1 Corinthians 15:26 rightly informs us that death is our enemy however the same verse gives this hope: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death". Also, John 5:28,29 lovingly declares: "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." May you receive much comfort and strength in the days ahead and every time you you remember these wonderful promises found in the Bible.###imported-begin###Mrs. Sharon Hill###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family. Please accept my deepest condolences for the loss of you dear loved one. At this very difficult time may you find comfort in the beautiful promises recorded in God's word the Bible. At John chapter 5, verses 28 and 29, we read of an event that is very soon to take place. It tells us, "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which ALL those in the memorial tombs will hear his (Jesus Christ) voice and come out." What a wondrous time that will be. A time when we will have the opportunity to welcome our loved ones back to life, right here on a paradise earth. (Psalm 37:10, 11) May you draw comfort and find hope in your time of mourning from "the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all of our tribulation." (1 Corinthians 1:3, 4)###imported-begin###Sausha S.###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ In ways big and small Joe touched many with his music and his calm personality. May you find comfort in knowing many people share your sadness.##imported-begin##Walker Bower,National Alliance##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We will not forget Joe's warm smile and his great conversation that made us smile. He was always a pleasure to be around and such a good person. We will miss him, his music, and his personality.##imported-begin##Owen, Wayne, Beverly Weeks##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers to the family of Joe.I will always remember him in the planning of our Armstrong class of 64 reunions.##imported-begin##Dorothy THomas Harvey##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ It was a pleasure and a joy to have known and worked with Mr. Taylor. He always had a kind word and such a pleasant smile. He will be missed. May the Lord bless and sustain you all during your time of bereavement.##imported-begin##Gail Greene##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I extend to the entire family of Joe my sympathy on his passing. I thank God for his life, and I am so thankful the Lord saw fit for me to interact with Joe this past August, where he played at our family reunion. Joe was as caring a person as I remembered him to be during our high school days at Armstrong H.S., Class of 64. My prayer is that God will comfort you at this time of great loss.##imported-begin##Horace Brown, Jr.##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I WORKED WITH JOE AT THE POST OFFICE AND THANKS TO HIM - HE MADE GOING TO WORK A LOT MORE ENJOYABLE. I LOOKED FOWARD TO JOKING WITH HIM ON THE DAYS WE WORKED TOGETHER ... I CONSIDERED JOE A GOOD BUDDY AND I WILL TRULY MISS HIM ... (THANKS JOE FOR ALL THOSE GOOD MEMORIES).....##imported-begin##JOHN FRITTER##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I worked with Joe for the past several years, and it was a pleasure to do that. Joe always had such a positive outlook on everything. He had a great laugh, and sense of humor. We lost a wonderful person who will be sorely missed by his friends, and co-workers.##imported-begin##RAYMOND MORLOCK JR##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I had the opportunity to work with Joe at the Post Office for several years. Joe was the person to always bring calmness to any situation at work. I remember Joe most for his smile and pleasant personality. My last memory of Joe was on Tuesday at work and as always he had that warm smile. To the family I extend my sympathy and prayers of comfort and peace.##imported-begin##Delorse Burton##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ You have my deepest sympathy.##imported-begin##Charlotte Alexander (Newton)##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM