



Marsden Eubanks Rawlings

May 3, 1926 - October 17, 2011

On the third of May 1926 Rosalie J. Garret D. Rawlings were blessed with the arrival of Marsden Eubanks Rawlins, their second son. He was called to the loving arms of God Almighty on October 17, 2011 in Dallas, Texas.

Because of necessity and segregation Marsden and Elwyn were raised and tutored by their great great grandmother until they both attended Baltimore City Public Schools. Marsden, who in his youth was known as “Pickles”, graduated from Fredrick Douglass Senior High School in 1944. While at Douglass his major interests were sports (swimming and football) and mathematics.

After graduation “Pic” Rawlings matriculated to Hampton Institute in Hampton, VA. His time at Hampton was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army. Upon completion of his military service he returned to school and resumed his interest in athletics particularly swimming. In 1950 Marsden graduated with a degree in physical education. Diploma in hand, he returned to Baltimore to begin teaching and coaching in the Baltimore City Public School System. It was at one of those early assignments that a lovely young teacher caught his eye. Using his athletic talent, he initially asked Anabel Mason out by tossing her a ping pong ball and saying “Think Fast”. Despite this sophisticated courtship, on June 7, 1953 Anabel said “I do”, resulting in a 55 year marriage.

As a happy couple, Anabel and Marsden, or as they will forever be known “Bel and Pic”, traveled the world extensively. Numerous cruises, trips to the Caribbean, Alaska, Africa and Europe all pale in comparison to the night they waltzed in the streets of Vienna, Austria.

Marsden would remain with the Baltimore City Public Schools for over 30 years. Between 1962 and 1970, he taught physical education (specializing in swimming) at Douglass. Starting as junior varsity coach under the late Melvin Cade, Marsden also created the first co-ed swimming program at the school, and later became the Head Coach. “Pic” coached swimming, football, baseball and tennis. However, it was in the pool that his talent at encouraging and motivating young men truly manifest. During the 1965 season Coach ‘Piccolo” lead the Douglass Ducks to the “B” Division MSA swimming championship. This feat was particularly noteworthy in that it was the first time an all Black team had ever won a swimming championship in the state of Maryland.

Marsden has been a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church for 46 years, where he has held numerous positions. He served several terms as an ordained Elder, Chair of Trinity Presbyterian Men, and Choir of the Long Range Planning Committee. Marsden was the recipient of the 2000 man of the Year Award at Trinity. He was a member of several organizations including the Phalanks and the Baltimore Mules. He was a proud member of the Hampton University Alumni Association and was recently honored by the Frederick Douglass High School Alumni for his accomplishments.

However, his legacy is best seen not in a plaque or trophy, but rather in the lives of the men that were touched so many years ago. Those students who were the recipients of his encouragement and commitment attribute much of what they have become to the man that they have become to the man that they through the passing years have called coach, dad, mentor and friend.

Though a disciplinarian, he often went the additional distance to reach a student. Whether it was going to the home to find a young man that was not in school, or taking a student to see a college in an effort to show him the possibility of higher education. He concluded his career as the Assistant Principle at the Fairmont Hill High School in 1982. In this way Marsden Rawlings has lived by the guiding principle that his role was not just to succeed on the field, but to be a builder of men.

He life is celebrated by his son Dr. M. Keith Rawlings Two grandchildren Dr. Renata Afi Rawlings and Mr. Michael Jamal Sheffey Rawlings a doctoral Candidate in Engineering and Material science at Northwestern University, and numerous other family members and friends.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT **21**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Wake

OCT **22**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3200 Walbrook Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21217

Service

OCT **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3200 Walbrook Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21217

Tribute Wall

GS

“ I'm just finding out that Pic has passed on. He was my football coach at Douglass High School. I was on the first Freshman football team. I was the 1st string QB.Pic was an outstanding coach. I'll miss him.

Gregory A Hines Sr - October 17, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ Marsden Eubanks Rawlings

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM

MS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 3yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.”— ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!

Ms Springer - October 27, 2011 at 09:31 AM



“ 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 - October 20, 2011 at 05:38 PM



*I am a former student of Mr. Rawlings assuming he is the same physical ed teacher that was at Elementary school, #122 back in the '50's. If so, I remember him as a kind and wonderful teacher who took a personal interest in his students. He was teaching us square dancing and he would always select me to be his partner when he needed to demonstrate a step. I was always embarrassed because I was shy and did not want the attention. However I think Mr Rawlings knew that and was trying to bring me out of my shyness. I have always remembered him as one of my favorite teachers. Rest In Peace Mr. Rawlings.
Ruthie "Kirk" McCormick*

Ruthie McCormick - November 03, 2011 at 02:53 PM