



Dr. Walter G. Amprey

December 13, 1944 - April 22, 2014

WALTER GILES AMPREY was born on December 13, 1944. He was the second of four sons born to Joseph L. Amprey, Sr. and Marion (Jackson) Amprey. His younger brother Melvin died in 1948 when Walter was only 4 years old. This death had a large impact on the young family. It was at this time that Walter's parents decided to have another child.

Growing up on W. Lanvale Street, Walter, who was affectionately known as Bubby by family and friends, was an energetic, prankster who was often the class clown at the James Mosher Elementary School (#144). While very intelligent, Walter did not take school very seriously. However, when he came to the third grade, things seemed to change. He met Mr. Daniel Brewington, the only male teacher at the elementary school, who saw enormous potential in this rambunctious jokester and took Walter under his wing. Walter became his personal project and he challenged Walter academically. Walter served as Mr. Brewington's special assistant, delivering messages to the front office, cleaning chalkboard erasers, and being assigned to the safety patrol. Under Mr. Brewington's guidance and tutelage, Walter excelled and was skipped to the next grade.

Walter had an outgoing personality and was able to relate to people from all walks of life. Early on Walter displayed leadership qualities and was hugely popular among his peers. He graduated from Edmondson High School in

1962 and then attended Morgan State College (now University) where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and secondary education in 1966. He knew one thing for certain at this early juncture in his life. He wanted to be a teacher in Baltimore and have a positive impact on young people the way Mr. Brewington and many teachers had done for him.

He began what would become a lifelong passion and love for the classroom as a social studies teacher at Calverton Middle School (then Junior High). Walter continued his journey of professional educational development in 1971 when he received a Master of Science degree in history & social science from Morgan and accepted an administrative appointment at Walbrook Senior High School.

Focused on positioning himself for continued growth, Walter resigned from Walbrook in 1973 and became as assistant principal at Woodlawn Senior High School in the Baltimore County Public School System. In 1977, he earned a second master's degree – a Master of Science in educational administration and supervision from the Johns Hopkins University.

In 1978, he was appointed principal of Woodlawn Senior High School and served as a trailblazing school leader that caught the attention of educational reformers around the country. Walter loved his time at Woodlawn. He was loved and greatly respected by faculty, staff, and especially the students. He would accept advancement in the Baltimore County System in 1984 and was asked to bring his energy and skills to the directorship of the Office of Staff Relations and was the chief negotiator for the entire system. That same year he completed one of his cherished life goals and earned his doctorate in urban education at Temple University.

In 1989, Dr. Amprey became the associate superintendent for Physical Facilities, and two years later in 1990, he was appointed associate

superintendent for Staff and Community Relations.

In August 1991, Dr. Amprey was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Baltimore City Public Schools by Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke. He would lead Baltimore's public schools with incredible devotion to educators and most importantly, to students for six years and during that period of time was honored as Maryland Superintendent of the Year in 1995 and served as president of the Large City Schools Superintendents of the U.S. And Canada from 1995-96.

Serving as superintendent was a labor of love, which consumed him. Believing that every child can learn, Dr. Amprey introduced the concept of educational efficacy. His tenure at times was very difficult and he endured significant criticism for his decision to advocate for school choice and charter schools, concepts considered immensely controversial at that point of time.

Dr. Amprey distinguished himself as an active member and leader in several professional organizations including the National Education Association, Maryland State Teachers Association, National Association of Black School Executives, National Association of Secondary School Administrators, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Phi Alpha Theta – National Honor Society and the American Association of School Administrators.

In July of 1997, Dr. Amprey resigned from the Baltimore City Public Schools to take a position as National Vice President for Urban Education with the National School Conference Institute. The National School Conference Institute, which was a partner with TCI (the Cable Giant), that endeavored to use technology to provide Comprehensive Professional Development to

school districts nationwide.

Dr. Amprey received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Baltimore in 1994.

In March 1999, Dr. Amprey accepted a position as Senior Vice President-Urban Education with Bingwa Educational Software in Atlanta, Georgia. In May of 2000, Dr. Amprey established his own educational consulting firm, The MimKeli Group (named for his daughters), which traded as Amprey & Associates. The company endeavored to assist school districts around the nation in their efforts to identify greater financial efficiencies and effective instructional programs.

Dr. Amprey was named 2012 Alumnus of the Year by the Johns Hopkins University School of Education. He was a board member and served as chairman of numerous organizations including Associated Black Charities (ABC), Northwest Hospital, LifeBridge Health, The Advisory Council for the Johns Hopkins School of Education, the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and the Wireless Generation.

Dr. Amprey was the president of the Club of Baltimore, an investment club with a history of over 80 years, and was an active member of the Baltimore Mules, an affiliate of the Baltimore Moles and Mules social club.

Very well known for his dedication to philanthropy, each year Dr. Amprey donated thousands of dollars to nearly 30 instructional and charitable organizations, including those most dear to his heart like the College Bound Foundation and LifeBridge Health.

Among Dr. Amprey's most treasured relationships were those he shared with his brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. where he was initiated into

the Pi Chapter at Morgan State College in 1963 along with brother Joe. As an undergraduate, he served as Pi Chapter Keeper of Peace, later matriculating to Pi Omega Graduate Chapter in 1966, and served as Pi Omega Keeper of Record Seal, Vice Basileus and Basileus. He was named Pi Omega Chapter Man of the Year in 1971 and served as 2nd District 1st Vice District Representative and as 2nd District Representative. He was the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal from 1982-1984. Throughout his lifetime he lived and breathed Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, working tirelessly and unselfishly to promote the cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, uplift and perseverance.

He was a member of the New Shiloh Baptist Church in Baltimore, following the footsteps of his mother and father who both served on the church's deacon board.

Dr. Amprey is preceded in death by both parents, and a brother Melvin.

In 1968 he married his college sweetheart, Michelle (Pinn). From this union came two daughter Kimberly (Wife of Willie Flowers) of Ellicott City and Keli of Baltimore. He would marry two additional times before finally meeting his soul-mate and love of his life Andrea (Qualls). In 1999 the two married in a beautiful ceremony in San Juan, Puerto Rico. From this union, a blended family was created, with the addition of Andrea's daughter, Che' of Owings Mills; all of whom survive. Additionally Dr. Amprey is survived by a son-in-law Willie Flowers; two brothers, Joseph Amprey Jr. of Reading, Pa., and Wendell Amprey (Sheila) of Tulsa, Okla.; three grandchildren, Hudson, Harison, and Che' Marie; two brothers-in-law, Kirb Qualls, Jr. (Rachel) and Tyrone Qualls; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Previous Events

Wake

MAY 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New Shiloh Baptist Church
2100 N. Monroe Street
baltimore, MD 21216

Memorial Service

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Shiloh Baptist Church
2100 N. Monroe Street
baltimore, MD 21216

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Walter G. Amprey*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I was a student in his Social Studies class at Calverton Junior High. He was a big man in so many ways. He made a statement that I've always remembered: "History is everything that has ever happened." As the historian at my church, that has had great significance. So sorry to learn of his passing. May the family, his friends and colleagues continue to be comforted.*



Rhonda K. Craven

Rhonda K. Craven - May 26, 2016 at 08:22 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss may God give you comfort during your time of sorrow.*

Rosalind Prince - July 14, 2014 at 08:19 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss, may Jehovah give you comfort in your time of need. 1 Corinthians 1:3,4.*

Carolyn - May 03, 2014 at 06:32 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 5yrs 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 - May 02, 2014 at 08:21 AM

SU

“ As soon as I heard the name on the news, I remembered instantly who he was. He made quite the impression. He was my principal at Woodlawn Senior High in the 80s. For his family and all affected by his passing, may God bless you all and strengthen you as you mourn/grieve.

Susan E, class of 85

Susan - May 01, 2014 at 09:58 AM

CT

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Amprey Family. He will be missed by all that knew him. Especially those who knew him in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship during the early years. God be with you and your family.

*Respectfully,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Ross Thompson*



Catherine B. Thompson - April 30, 2014 at 05:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Walter G. Amprey.*



April 30, 2014 at 02:24 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss. As a student at Woodlawn in the early 80's Mr. Amprey was one of two administrators that kept me on the right path while attending Woodlawn. For those that were at Woodlawn when Mr. Amprey was there were should be grateful that he was our leader, for the example that he set for all of us to follow. For that we all should be grateful.*

Greg Rebar class of 1984

Greg Rebar - April 30, 2014 at 08:18 AM



“ *I am sending my prayers and deepest sympathy to the Amprey family. I am a Woodlawn Sr High Alumni and I have to share this story. In the early '80s, Woodlawn experienced a cross burning. Fear was an all time high for County Execs and Parents. Mr. Amprey made an announcement that Woodlawn was a place to learn, and said "We", not "He", would not tolerate this incident to affect "Our"School. The next day, Woodlawn Sr. High had a unity one could not explain. Everybody got along, problems ceased, and we were a very Proud school! Thank you Dr. Amprey for being our "John Carter" of Woodlawn Sr. High! Many good memories! God selects the very best to be in his garden.*



Karen Norris - April 29, 2014 at 06:11 PM

EW

“ Eugene and Jetties White purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Walter G. Amprey.



Eugene and Jetties White - April 29, 2014 at 11:11 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Walter G. Amprey.



April 29, 2014 at 07:18 AM

FB

“ I believe that there are schools in Heaven. And I believe that there are poor children there. Broken children who have arrived for healing. Children who don't yet feel that they belong. Children who need someone to tell them, “Yes, you belong. And we love you here.”. And I believe that God needed someone to run those schools and asked Walter to come help. I am proud to have called Walter a friend and mentor and I am crushed that he is gone.

Fred Bentsen - April 29, 2014 at 07:11 AM

OS

“ To the family of Dr. Walter Amprey: I don't have the words to express the sadness that I know you must be feeling at this time. Please know there are many others who are also experiencing grief and sorrow over the passing of Dr. Amprey. He was a wonderful man and a great educator who inspired and motivated all those whom he supervised. He will be truly missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. I served as one of his principals when was Superintendent with Baltimore City Public Public Schools. Please accept my sincerest condolences. Orrester Shaw

Orrester Shaw - April 28, 2014 at 10:27 AM

SL

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. The death of a loved one is the most difficult thing we deal with. We can always find comfort from God's word the Bible at (Revelation 21:4) " And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes and death will be no more neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." Tears of sorrow will vanish. Death will be removed from all the earth (Isaiah 25:8). No one will die from natural causes or weep. May Jehovah God of all comfort be with you and your family (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

For more encouragement please visit www.Jw.org.

sherries lee - April 27, 2014 at 10:17 AM

CS

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Walter Amprey, When my family and I relocated to Baltimore County we encountered a matter that would have adversely affected our daughter's enrollment in High School. Thanks to the assistance of Dr. Amprey, the matter was addressed and our daughter had a successful High School experience.
He was truly an advocate for our children!*

Charles. T. Sembly - April 27, 2014 at 07:09 AM

KM

“ *A tribute to Dr. Walter G. Amprey*
By Keith D. Milligan
Woodlawn Senior High School – Class of 1977

*This poem is a recreation of and borrows liberally from:
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening. By Robert Frost*

*Whose school is this? You had better know.
He's rarely in his office though.
Patrolling the hallways as he does.
He'll try to bust us just because.*

*No real worries though I got no fear.
Mr. Amprey's really a Teddy Bear.
That stern face and words the same.
I'll just relax – I'm onto his game.*

*If he starts with "you're late for class."
I'll say to him "hey where's YOUR pass."
Around that corner he came so fast.
And now his foot is up my.....*

*I know he cared, that's why he was tough.
To teach that life sometimes is rough.
When you face a challenge, don't run and hide.
Take Amprey's advice and fight back with pride.*

*High School can be fun, hard and deep.
But your promise you did keep.
You traveled miles to educate both strong and meek.
And now it's time for you to sleep.
For at Heaven's gate we'll next meet.*

Keith D. Milligan - April 26, 2014 at 11:58 PM



“ To the family of Mr. Walter Amprey I would like to send my condolences. He was my principal at Woodlawn Sr. High School in the 80's and he was a wonderful man and he will be truly missed.

Vera Dill - April 26, 2014 at 09:50 PM

SR

“ To the Amprey family: I want to share my condolences. Dr Amprey was loved and will be missed by all. I enjoyed and appreciated his leadership while at Woodlawn during the early 80s. I especially extend my heart out to his wife. May you find comfort and peace during this difficult time for you. Sabra Dorsey Robinson. Class of 1984.

Sabra Dorsey Robinson - April 26, 2014 at 09:29 PM

JF

“ Condolences to the Amprey family, He was well like when he was the principal at Woodlawn Sr.High He will never be forgotten
RIP

Joann Fuller class of 1981

Joann Fuller - April 26, 2014 at 06:22 PM



KE

“ Condolences to the Amprey family. Dr. Amprey was my principal at Woodlawn in the mid 80s. He kept our school in line, but was fair, always had a smile and cared the students. He made an incredible impact on many people's education. He will never be forgotten.

Kelly Ewing - April 26, 2014 at 01:16 PM

TP

“ My condolences and prayers to the family of Dr. Amprey. I remember Dr. Amprey as being a fair man and he would have a kind and encouraging word for me everyday. He was a special man and principle who was loved and respect by all.

Troy Palmer, Woodlawn Sr. High School, Class of 1982

Troy Palmer - April 26, 2014 at 01:02 PM

EH

“ My condolences to the family of Dr. Amprey. He was my principal at Woodlawn Sr.High in the early 80's. He was always there to welcome you and taught you a lesson when needed. The best thing I remember it's that he always called me by my fist name. The only time he called me by my last name was when I was in trouble. Rest in piece Dr. Amprey, you will be sorely missed.

Eric W. Hoobler. WHS class of 84

Eric W. Hoobler - April 26, 2014 at 12:44 PM

JC

“ The world has lost a great man. He was my principle at Woodlawn sr high. I remover him as a giant walking those halls but a giant with a smile that would always ask how your day was going. Such an influence he was, a friend of mine text me from Virginia at midnight to ask if I heard of his passing. He touched so many lives and taught so many boys how to be men. God bless him and his family.

RIP Mr A

jack carver - April 25, 2014 at 09:16 PM

CI

“ My condolences to the family of Dr. Amprey. Remember the good times and the many stories he told. May the God of comfort be with you all.

Cindi - April 25, 2014 at 11:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Walter G. Amprey.



April 25, 2014 at 09:13 AM

MK

“ On behalf of the Howard County Economic Development Authority, please accept our condolences to Kim Flowers and family on the lost of your loved one. May your hearts and minds find peace during this time of sorrow.

Marilyn Kimmie - April 25, 2014 at 09:08 AM



“ Dr. Amprey was an amazing example of how one person can positively affect hundreds of lives. That one person can truly make a difference to so many. He surely has a special place in God's Kingdom, just as he does in the hearts of all who knew him. Wishing peace and all of God's blessings to Dr.Amprey's family. He will be missed.

Laura Fisher WHS Class of '83

Laura Fisher - April 25, 2014 at 07:42 AM

MF

“ So sorry for your loss. Walter, or Mr. Amprey as we all knew him at Woodlawn, could relate to anyone of any sex, race, or socio-economic group. As our principal, he taught us so much about being kind, making a difference, and working together. He had a profound affect on my life, and his passing is a great loss. The Lord didn't make many finer people than Dr. Walter Amprey.

Mike Frainie, Woodlawn Class of 1983

Mike Frainie - April 24, 2014 at 09:29 PM

TR

“ Kimberly and the rest of your family. I was really saddened to read of your dad's untimely death. He was a terrific man whom I always admired. I worked closely with him on several projects. It was a pleasure to know him. My deepest condolences to you and your entire family.

*Respectfully,
Terry M. Rubenstein*

terry rubenstein - April 24, 2014 at 10:50 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 - April 24, 2014 at 08:16 AM