



## Whitt Dillard Nottingham

June 5, 1951 - June 16, 2020

Whitt Dillard Nottingham, Jr. affectionately known as “Unks,” “Uncle Whitty,” “Nott,” and most of all “Daddy” was born to the late Edna (Johnson) and Whitt Nottingham on June 5, 1951 in Baltimore Maryland. He departed this life on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 surrounded by his wife Laura and daughter Laurelle. He was a devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, friend and mentor.

Whitt lost his mother at an early age and was lovingly reared by his Dad, Whitt Sr., Grandmothers’ Ethel Smith and Irene Johnson, Sisters, Ethel and Yvonne in two loving Christian homes. The foundation of Christ was instilled by Grandma Ethel

in Sandtown. The love of people and music began in Baltimore with Sister Ethel. While his love of the water and swimming started in Dundalk’s Turner Station with Grandma Irene and Sister Yvonne. Whitt spent spring and summers there to receive continued nurturing from his family.

The Sandtown community played an important role in building his character. Family and neighbors encouraged Whitt’s participation in the swim team, Woodyear Street baseball and football teams. He enjoyed the Boy Scouts and reached the level of Eagle Scout. Families often gathered for cookouts, house parties and harmonizing. Whitt always enjoyed a good song and fun with sisters Ethel and Yvonne and their children: Jackie, Kevin, Nickie and Joe. Everyone had a good old fashioned time.

Whitt was educated in the Baltimore City Public School system and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School (DHS).

It was here his leadership and musical abilities were developed. Whitt had a smooth tenor voice with excellent pitch. He was a member of the Student Council, Hall Monitors, the DHS Glee Club and the traveling musical ensemble, which included the DHS choir, band and the dance club. He also volunteered with the community church choir. On that choir he met a lovely young lady, Laura Johnson. Friends who remained close throughout his life were a part of this DHS family. They continue today as members of the Class of 1971 Alumni Association.

Whitt attended Morgan State University (MSU) in 1971 studying physical therapy. There he formed more friendships which lasted his entire life. He became a life member of the National Society of Pershing Rifles Alumni Association at MSU. This group of men and women mentor collegiate military students and are “serving world wide in support of homeland defense and the global war on terrorism.”

In 1972 Whitt married his soulmate, Laura Nottingham. They were happily married for just shy of 48 years. From this union they were blessed with their only child, a beautiful and caring daughter, Laurelle.

Whitt worked for Greenspring Dairy until 1974 when he joined the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD). Upon graduation from the BCFD Training Academy, Whitt began his life's work in November 1974. He graduated and was assigned to Engine Company 17 where he served his first five years. In 1979 he requested a transfer to Engine Company 36 “the Old School”. There he developed his skills as a highly esteemed and revered firefighter. During his career, he acquired numerous certifications, awards and recognitions.

With a love of athletics and water sports, in 1985 he became a certified diver and traveled worldwide as a recreational diver.

Whitt swam the waters of Micronesia, Fiji, Truk islands, The Caribbean and Mexico, to name a few. He was also member of the Black Divers Association. Whitt and Jimmy Hayes later joined the BCFD Dive Rescue team as the first Black Certified Dive Rescue Technicians. This opened doors for Whitt to

become a volunteer diver at the National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAIB). It also gave him an opportunity for a part-time career as an Emergency Medical Technician. Whitt helped patients and staff with his lively and upbeat attitude. Whenever possible, he would assist the community with career opportunities. Whitt joined and maintained an active membership with the Vulcan Blazers, Inc. a professional Association of African American Firefighters. This is an affiliate of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters. While there,

Whitt served in many capacities: Chairman Board of Directors, Chairman of the Southeast Regional Conference, Co-Chairman of the 25 Year Anniversary Committee and various community outreach projects.

Whitt later renewed his faith in Christ and convinced Laura to join Christian Life Church. He lived his faith outside the church walls by mentoring children and helping families in the community. As recent as four years ago he joined the Sandtown community in supporting fundraisers for back to school and food drives.

He had a huge heart and was always available to provide a helping hand to all in need.

His travels during retirement as an avid jazz and sports fan took the family on great trips to North America, Europe and Northern Africa. He attended and loved the Montreal, Cancun, Mediterranean and Hampton VA jazz festivals. Whitt officially retired on August 9, 2006. He adjusted well to retirement living and would not let "Sweet Laura" give him any "honey do" projects. He became a member of the BCFD Retirees Fire Fighter and Officers Breakfast Club.

While there, he enjoyed lively conversation and sumptuous meals.

Whitt enjoyed life as a retiree and would fill the house with music from jazz to gospel to oldies. He also enjoyed cheering for the Ravens, the Orioles and the MSU Bears football teams.

He lived by one of his favorite scriptures Nehemiah 8:20 "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Whitt fought a good fight and kept the faith. He loved

meeting and talking to people. He believed in helping his family and others succeed. He will live on in our hearts forever.

The family sincerely thanks Chief Roman Clark, The Baltimore City Fire Department, The Vulcan Blazers, Inc., The Retired Baltimore City Fire Fighters and Officers Breakfast Club, The National Society of Pershing Rifles Alumni, Morgan State University and March Funeral Home for assisting in the coordination of these services.

Whitt's legacy and love will continue to live in the hearts of his devoted wife, Laura; daughter Laurelle; sisters Yvonne Wesson (Joseph Sr.); Leta Smith (Harry); Loveeda Carter; Brother-in-law Louis Johnson (Linda); loving niece Jacqueline Washington (Eric); nephews Kevin Barber (Shelly); Joseph Wesson Jr.;

Roy Letterlough and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and unforgettable colleges and friends. The Care Team Dr. Eric Fisher, Carmen RN, Billy Weakland, PT, Elaine Wanjohi and Pili Wood. Devoted close friends, Harry Smith, Deputy Chief Arlen Doles, Lt. Vernese Hilton, Charles Brown, Herb Chambers and Mabel Westley.

The family has requested a donation in honor of Whitt D. Nottigham to be made to:

Langston Hughes Business and Community Resource Ctr.

Please make checks payable to:

Youth Educational Services

5011 Arbutus Avenue

Baltimore MD 21215

Thank you

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Cemetery

2130 Woodlawn Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21207

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUN 23. 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD

## Wake

JUN 24. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD

## Service

JUN 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD



# Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Whitt Dillard Nottingham, Please Click the Link below.*



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**March Life Tribute Centers** - June 23, 2020 at 09:57 PM

KB

“ *Dear Laura I can imagine your great loss. Whit was a very dedicated husband to you and always shared your presence when attending MCEA Union business and activities. My sincere condolences are with you and your family, Former President MCEA, Chapter 45.*

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**Ken Beach** - August 11, 2020 at 04:01 PM

 Chuck  
Morris Jr.

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Chuck Morris Jr.** - June 24, 2020 at 11:04 PM

VH

“ *Velma Holmes purchased the Thoughts & Prayers for the family of Whitt Dillard Nottingham.*



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**Velma Holmes** - June 24, 2020 at 10:04 PM

CS

“ *Whitt thank you for being there for my son, Spence, when he joined the Fire Department and was there at Engine 36. I was very proud of him but afraid for him at the same time. You made me less fearful and fretful by knowing that you were there to guide him along the way. God and you helped to keep him safe and for that I will always be grateful. Both of you managed to retire from the Fire Department in one piece and I'm grateful for that too. Now, you've retired from life's long journey and return to your eternal abode. May you forever rest in peace dear sir.*

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**Cherring A. Spence** - June 24, 2020 at 09:53 PM

VB

“ *Vivian Ballard lit a candle in memory of Whitt Dillard Nottingham*



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**Vivian Ballard** - June 24, 2020 at 11:12 AM

TQ

“ *Rest in heaven Uncle Whitty, you will surely be missed!* 🙏❤️❤️❤️

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**Tilisha Queen** - June 24, 2020 at 11:08 AM

MK

“ *May the power of the Holy Spirit give you strength and comfort for today, tomorrow and the days to come. God bless Laura, Laurelle and your family. Love Harvey and Rita*

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**Marguerite (Rita) Keys** - June 24, 2020 at 10:55 AM

YW

“ *My prayers are for my family that God will Comfort you all in this hour of Bereavement. Much Love Yolanda and family*

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**Yolanda Womack** - June 24, 2020 at 10:14 AM

CT

“ *Laura and Laurelle, so sorry to hear of your loss. Praying God's comfort and peace for you at this time. I will always remember Whitt for his laugh and great sense of humor.*

*Sincerely,  
Carol Tolbert*

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**Carol Tolbert** - June 24, 2020 at 01:21 AM

JT

“ *Uncle Whitty was a mentor to firefighters young and old. But more importantly he was a friend. Rest eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven. John Thursby and your fellow firefighters from Engine Company 36.*



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**John Thursby** - June 23, 2020 at 02:16 PM

JB

“ Dearest Laura and Laurelle,  
We are very sorry for your loss. May the sweet memory of Whitt bring you both solace during this time. Extending our most heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Love Joyce & Robert.

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joyce Battle - June 23, 2020 at 02:02 PM

MS

“ Dear Laura and Laurelle I was instantly saddened when I received the call that Uncle Whitt passed. I remember when I first met him we all were in Florida for Jackie and my brother Eric wedding and he and I kept crossing paths on the cruise ship. We would joke each other cause our paths kept crossing. I had no idea he was my future Sister n Law uncle until we all came together and I asked him what he was doing here and he said he was Jackie's uncle and I said to him she is marrying my brother. We burst into laughter cause now we found out why we kept running into each other. I knew from before we found this out that he was Good People. I always liked him and enjoyed his and your company when we go together over Eric and Jackie. I can sincerely say I will miss him. May God wrap his loving arms around you both and carry you through the days ahead and during your quiet moments when no one else is around. Cry alot and find time to laugh alot about the many memories you have of Whitt. Death can separate but never take away sustaining power of memories. Much deep heartfelt sympathy. Love Marsha.

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Marsha Gibson Eric sister - June 23, 2020 at 10:45 AM

VM

“ Victoria Meile lit a candle in memory of Whitt  
Dillard Nottingham



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Victoria Meile - June 23, 2020 at 08:19 AM

VM

“ *Laura & Laurelle,*

*Sending condolences on the loss of your husband/father. Whitt was a wonderful man, caring, loving, funny (he had the best laugh and always had a story t tell) and he would do anything for anyone. He was a true gentleman, and an amazing firefighter. He was a great friend to me and I loved him dearly. He will be missed by all those that loved him.*

*Rest in Peace, My Friend. With Deepest Sympathy,  
Vicki & Howard Meile*

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**Victoria Meile** - June 23, 2020 at 08:19 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Whitt Dillard Nottingham.*



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June 23, 2020 at 07:44 AM

MJ

“ *Dear Laura, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My condolences to you and your family. God Bless you greatly. Sincerely, Marilyn Johnson*

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**Marilyn Johnson** - June 22, 2020 at 06:26 PM

DB

“ *Denise Bagwell lit a candle in memory of Whitt Dillard Nottingham*



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**Denise Bagwell** - June 21, 2020 at 07:16 PM

GW

“ *Gregory Ward lit a candle in memory of Whitt Dillard Nottingham*



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**gregory ward** - June 20, 2020 at 10:21 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gray lit a candle in memory of Whitt Dillard Nottingham*



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**Pauline Gray** - June 20, 2020 at 09:45 PM

PG

*Dear Laura & Laurelle,  
Thank you for sharing your husband and father with us.*

*Whitt was a Honorary Associate Member of Mcea Chapter #75 and Area#1.*

*His service and input helped to make better rules and regulations for State Workers.*

*Whitt Loved his music, Hampton Jazz Festival, and the Ravens. RIP My Dear Friend .*

*Be one with God.*



*God Bless the Family and keep them Strong. It was an honor to have met Whitt.*

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**Pauline Gray** - June 20, 2020 at 11:16 PM

PS

“ *Paula Sutton lit a candle in memory of Whitt Dillard Nottingham*



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**Paula Sutton** - June 20, 2020 at 01:24 PM

SS

“ *Sharon Smith And Charles Smith lit a candle in memory of Whitt Dillard Nottingham*



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**Sharon Smith and Charles Smith** - June 20, 2020 at 12:44 PM

SS

“ PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO JACKIE & ERIC. WASHINGTON..AND ALSO THE FAMILY. SHARON AND. CHARLES SMITH

Sharon Smith and Charles Smith - June 20, 2020 at 12:42 PM

JG

“ Witt and I were friends both at work and away. He was the one that always found a way to make what ever you were during fun and interesting. When you saw Witt on the fire ground you knew that he had your back. Witt was a member of the Vulcan Blazes softball team with me for many years and we sometimes did not win much but boy did we have a great time. RIP my friend.

Joe Graham - June 20, 2020 at 06:06 AM

MJ

“ Whitt will always be 1 Pershing Rifleman from the 1973 line of P/R Company H-15/J-8 Morgan State University. Loved by all and sorely missed. However he will always live in our hearts and memories. A Great fireman for many years in the city of Baltimore

MARTIN T. JOHNSON - June 19, 2020 at 09:41 PM

TD

“ Dear Laura & Laurelle,  
The Deshields family loves you! Being a FD family, I will always remember Whitt laughing, joking and making those around him happy and comfortable. He was like my big Brother, watching out for me at the Vulcan Blazes or wherever I ran into him. He was a true friend and gentleman. I will miss that award winning smile. RIP Whitt❤️❤️💋

Tanya Deshields - June 19, 2020 at 09:28 PM

MW

“ Dear Laura & Laurelle,

*May God comfort you in your time of bereavment in the loss of your husband, Laura and Laurelle, your father. Know that God has will always be there for you. Whitt lived a good life and God called him home to receive his reward. God Bless the two of you.*

*Be Blessed.*

*Mabel Westley*

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**MABEL WESTLEY** - June 19, 2020 at 04:53 PM

WB

“ To Laura and the Nottingham Family,

*Condolences from Charles and William Brewer. Whitt was a good Friend. Know that He is in our Father's hands now, taking his rest in the Lord.*

*Be Blessed*

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**William Brewer** - June 19, 2020 at 03:31 PM

RT

“ To Laura and your entire family; you all have my my deepest condolences.  
*Ms Roslyn Tyson*



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**Roslyn Tyson** - June 19, 2020 at 08:57 AM

JO

*To my family we love uncle whitt and to laurelle and aunt Laura well done continue your journey in unity much love Wesson family.*

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**Joseph** - June 19, 2020 at 10:41 AM

ST

*Sister Laura,*

*I am sending you my condolences to you and your family.*

*May GOD continue to comfort you during this time. You are in Prayers.*

*LOVE,*

*Shirley Turner*

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**Shirley Turner** - June 24, 2020 at 11:03 AM

BM

“ *Whitt was a staff and visitor favorite at the National Aquarium. His concern for people was unmatched. He had a unique way of lifting everyone's spirits and I loved to be in his presence.*

*Everyday was Christmas with Whitt! I miss him.*

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**Bill Minarik** - June 18, 2020 at 09:38 PM

RS

“ *Notty was always fun to work with at E36. I can still hear that one of a kind voice and laugh. Well we all remember the dog story. RIP Nott.*

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**Randy Schmidt** - June 18, 2020 at 09:13 PM

TP

“ *Mr. Nottingham is a true pillar of the National Aquarium in Baltimore, a friendly person who always had a kind word and smile for everyone. One day while working at the Aquarium, I was struck with kidney stones and Mr. Nottingham was the EMT on duty. I got sick on his shoes and felt so bad because he was my friend. He showed genuine concern for my wellbeing and went above and beyond to make sure I was okay. Diving with Mr. Nottingham in Florida with manatees was a trip of a lifetime. I enjoyed his friendship above and below the water. Thank you my friend for teaching me selflessness, commitment to the community, and inspiring me to be a better person. Rest in peace.*

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**Terry papavasilis** - June 18, 2020 at 09:06 PM

JH

*We had some great time s together. Fighting fires together and diving. His biggest joy was going to Aruba and Cosumel and earning 4 different certifications in 1 week. He was a good friend, and a great dive buddy. May you rest in peace old pal.*

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**Jimmie I Hayes** - June 18, 2020 at 09:34 PM

GN

“ On November 11, 1974, fifty-five young men began their careers in the Baltimore City Fire Department. We lined up alphabetically in the auditorium of the Fire Academy, and standing right next to me was Whitt Nottingham. Whitt and I became friends over our 14 weeks there, and we worked together many times during our careers.

*Do you remember the advertising slogan "Nobody doesn't like Sara Lee"? Well, nobody didn't like Whitt Nottingham. He was always friendly, open, warm, gracious, hardworking, helpful, and relentlessly cheerful. I never saw Whitt without a smile on his face, and I never once heard him an unkind word about another person...he was a true gentleman.*

*Whitt spent the vast majority of his career at Engine Co. 36 in West Baltimore, where he served the community honorably, with courage and dedication. Those us who called him our friend consider it a privilege to have known him, and we hope his memory will always be a blessing to his family.*

*Rest in peace, my brother...God bless you.*

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**Giff Nickol** - June 18, 2020 at 06:46 PM

DF

“ My prayers for you the family of my friend and fellow Firefighter Whitt Nottingham. I remember him as a wonderful and courageous man. May he Rest In Peace.

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**Donald Fletcher** - June 18, 2020 at 06:15 PM



“ Whitt become my brother and confident when i worked at the fire department. We would last for hours and hours and hours and hours. I loved me some whitt and Laura. Laura I am praying for you and your daughter that God will give you the strength you need to make it through this difficult time. Funny thing, I was just talking about whitt day before yesterday. I had no idea i would hear this news. Rest in heaven my friend. You certainly have left an impact on my life

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**Linda Brown** - June 18, 2020 at 05:49 PM



Oh my Lord. We would laugh for hours. My phone is crazy. JESUS lol. Hes laughing with me now. (And i proofread) smh

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**Linda Brown** - June 18, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ Whitt always called my Father his buddy. I connected with Whitt at Engine 36. He always looked out for me in those burning buildings. I can hear him yelling thru the fires, "Johnny, where you at". I will also remember him as a fun loving man. RIP Whitt.

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**John Johnson, Jr** - June 18, 2020 at 04:37 PM

AR

“ My first memory of Whitt was in the 1100 Block of Appleton Street. My first day at Engine 14 1pm in the Afternoon, my first fire. Scared rookie 20 years old in a house full of fire moving along with Capt. Feeley on my back bumped helmet to helmet with Whitt. He looked at me and said "Who the hell are you" punched me in helmet laughed at me and said" Just kidding young blood" laughing the whole time. Made me relax and the rest is history. He had a knack for making people relax and feel at home around him. I will always cherish our talks at Engine 36 and never forget what you told me. I lived my career by it. ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR THE YOUNG BLOODS! Rest In Peace my good friend!  
Antoyn Redditt

Antoyn Redditt - June 18, 2020 at 04:20 PM

GC

“ My first memory of Whitt was at my family church on Calhoun st. St Paul's. I was about 6-7yrs old and he had that same kool-aid smile as he sang with my older cousins from Cherry hill. I later ran into him in 1981 down the Blazers I being a rookie at 34 Eng. He still had that smile and the assurance that he was your brother. I never saw him without that smile when you needed it. Rest in peace Brother.

Granger Chapman - June 18, 2020 at 04:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Whitt Dillard Nottingham.



June 18, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Whitt Dillard Nottingham.*



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June 18, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ *The family has requested a donation in honor of Whitt D. Nottingham to be made to:*

*Langston Hughes Business and Community Resource Ctr.*

*Please make checks payable to:*

*Youth Educational Services*

*5011 Arbutus Avenue*

*Baltimore MD 21215*

*Thank you*

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**March Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - June 18, 2020 at 01:15 PM**