



William Isom Banks Jr.

November 15, 1943 - April 2, 2026

William Isom Banks, Jr. transitioned into eternal life on Thursday, April 2, 2026. He was born on November 15, 1943, in Richmond, Virginia, to the late William Isom Banks, Sr. and Willinette Armistead Banks.

A proud product of Richmond Public Schools, William graduated as valedictorian of the Maggie L. Walker High School Class of 1961, where he also enjoyed playing trombone in the school band. He continued his education at Virginia State College (now Virginia State University), earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Science in Microbiology.

William dedicated more than forty years of his life to education. A passionate and committed teacher, he inspired generations of students while teaching science at Chandler Middle School, Albert Hill Middle School, and Huguenot High School. He later served as a Biology professor at Virginia Union University. Known for his care and enthusiasm, William believed deeply in his students' potential. He often encouraged them to participate in science fairs and competitions, taking pride in their growth and achievements. His students loved him, and he loved them in return.

On July 17, 1971, William married the love of his life, Dr. Lelia Foster, in Richmond, Virginia. Their enduring partnership was a source of strength and joy for more than five decades.

William was a lifelong member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Richmond. In the 1980s, he was initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and in the early 2000s, he became a member of the Astoria Beneficial Club.

Outside of his professional and community life, William found his greatest happiness in time spent with family. He cherished his grandchildren, often picking them up from school and treating them to meals or small surprises. He had a deep love for jazz music and enjoyed attending concerts whenever he could. He was also an avid fan of football and basketball and enjoyed dining at seafood restaurants.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife of 55 years, Dr. Lelia Foster Banks; his children, William Isom Banks III, Kimberly Banks, and Carlton Banks; his grandchildren, Jaymal, Joi, Jalen, India, Xavier, Emmanuel, Phoenix, and Kai; his great-grandchildren, Gabriel and KaLayah; and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

William's life was marked by dedication, kindness, and a lasting impact on all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Cemetery Details

Maury Cemetery

2700 Maury Street
Richmond, VA 23224

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes
2110 E Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA 23222-2413
(804) 321-4200

Funeral Ceremony

APR 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
3200 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Tribute Wall



“ *Rest in peace. MLW 1961*



Helene Hinton Lovell - April 17 at 12:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Isom Banks Jr..

April 15 at 06:35 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of William Isom Banks Jr..



April 15 at 06:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Isom Banks Jr..

April 15 at 03:36 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of William Isom Banks Jr..*



April 15 at 03:36 PM



“ *Mr. Banks was my and middle school science teacher. He was a great teacher and I'm glad to have known him. My condolences to the family.*

Donnell Gary - April 14 at 02:38 PM



Dear Lelia & family,

Sending the most sincere & deepest condolences during your time of bereavement.

With Love & friendship,

Whanda & Ak-Meed Boouraca

Whanda Boouraca - April 18 at 02:58 AM



“ *Mr. Banks was a kind, funny, and caring human being who will truly be missed! He was always encouraging me to strive for my best, and his support meant so much to me. Ms. Banks, Kim, Joi, and the entire family will remain in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

Nita Boone - April 13 at 10:43 AM

GS

“ Gerald and Christie Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Isom Banks Jr..

Gerald and Christie Smith - April 07 at 10:18 PM

GS

“ Gerald and Christie Smith purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Isom Banks Jr..



Gerald and Christie Smith - April 07 at 10:18 PM



“ 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 07 at 11:59 AM