



## Mr. Jesse Boston

January 28, 1926 - February 24, 2021

Mr. Jesse Boston, age 95, was born on January 28, 1926 and was called to his eternal home on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

Jesse Boston was born in Emporia, Virginia on January 28, 1926 to Annie and Charlie Boston. Jesse was reared by his parents, aunts and uncles and his half-sister Mattie Boston at different stages in his development until age 17. Jesse recounted that these were happy times in life.

Jesse graduated from high school in 1943. While attending the funeral of his father, he was encouraged to apply to St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Immediately after starting his education at St. Augustine College, he was drafted into the United States Army in 1944. He served in the Army until his honorable discharge in June 1946. Jesse then returned to St. Augustine College to complete his college education, graduating in 1950.

Jesse Boston began working at an early age. His first job was as a golf caddie at 14 years of age. His true love, occupation and career was that of educator. Jesse began his career as an educator in the Alamance County School System and was employed with the Durham City School System until 1991 when he retired after 41 years of employment. Jesse began his career with Durham City Schools as a teacher at Whitted Junior High School. Prior to retirement, he worked as Assistant Principal at Holton Junior High School. Jesse was always a strong advocate for education and served as mentor for

many of his students.

Jesse married Naomi Edgecombe soon after graduating from St. Augustine College. Their Son, Bryson Boston was born in 1954. Jesse married Mary Minor in October 1971 and remained married until the time of her death in 2013. He became Father to Claude Toombs through this marriage.

Jesse was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Mary Boston, and his son Claude Toombs. He is survived by Son Bryson Norris Boston, Grandchildren Brianna and Nicholas Toombs, Daughters Juanita Boston and Lisa Toombs, Cousins-Darlene, Greg, Jason and Gerald Brown, Virginia Williams, Joan and Perry Correa, Rosa Byrd, Fannie Costello, and Frank and Jimmy Williams, many nieces and nephews and Family Friends Theodora Lynne Peaks Griffin and her daughter Brandi Moore and Mrs. Sheila Lee.

Jesse was always active and served his community and church until the decline in his health in recent months. He was a long-time member of St. Joseph's African Methodist Episcopal Church. He served as Steward, Steward Emeritus, as an Usher and member of the Berean Men's Class in Sunday School. He attended Sunday School and especially enjoyed Vacation Bible School.

Jesse always said that he started playing golf in the cow pastures in Virginia. Golf and tennis were truly his passions. He spent many days on the golf courses with friends. He spent many special days teaching Bryson the techniques as a child and playing rounds of golf with him as an adult. Jesse and Bryson attended the Volvo Open Tennis Tournaments in Charleston, South Carolina and the U. S. Open Tournaments in Queens, New York. He would be up at all times of the night watching golf and tennis tournaments.

Jesse and Mary loved to travel and traveled to Italy, England, the Caribbean

Islands and many states within the United States. He always joked that he could get all his travel possessions in one bag and Mary had so many bags that it looked as if she tried to carry everything from the house.

Jesse, Naomi Edgecombe Boston, Russell Blount and five other alumni of St. Augustine College were the charter members of the Durham Chapter of the St. Augustine Alumni Association. Jesse was an active member of the Durham Chapter until the time of his passing. He served as the President of the Chapter and held many other offices over the years. Jesse combined his love for St. Augustine College, the Durham Chapter and golf when the Chapter started the Jesse Boston Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament in 2010. He worked tirelessly recruiting and working the tournament which was held each year at the Hillandale Golf Course in Durham, NC. Hillandale Golf Course made sure that he had a red golf cart at his disposal during the tournaments. Jesse recruited golfing friends from many states to join him at the tournament and in supporting the scholarship effort. Jesse loved St. Augustine College and the Durham Chapter.

Jesse was an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Late in the evening on February 24, 2021, a band of Angels arrived to take Jesse Boston-our Dad to be with the Lord. "His Master said to him-well done, good and faithful servant..." Matthew 25:23

A private family service of celebration has been scheduled to celebrate the life of Mr. Jesse Boston on Saturday, March 13, 2021, at 12:00 noon at St. Joseph AME Church, 2521 Fayetteville Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707.

The service of celebration will be streamed live at <https://www.stjosephame.or>

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Please keep his son, Bryson Boston, daughters-in-law, Juanita Boston and Lisa Toombs, grandchildren Brianna Toombs and Nicholas Toombs, and the entire family in your thoughts and in your prayers.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Jesse Boston Scholarship Fund through the Saint Augustine's University giving page.

[http://saintaugustinesuniversity.formstack.com/forms/giving\\_form](http://saintaugustinesuniversity.formstack.com/forms/giving_form)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph AME Church  
2521 Fayetteville St  
Durham, NC 27707  
(919) 683-1379

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Jesse Boston*

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October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *I was a student at Whitted Jr. High when Mr. Boston was a instructor there. He was always positive and left a good impression to all. At the time I was a student at Whitted there were several diverse students there from one ethnicity from a overall urban working class setting. Mr. Boston never made no one feel second class, to the contrary we all were treated with dignity with him even when we were undisciplined. Truely, a positive representative for all the students.*

*Joseph Fleming*

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**Joseph Fleming** - March 25, 2021 at 04:13 AM



“ *Mr. Boston was my 7th grade Homeroom teacher at Whitted Jr. High during the 67-68 school session. That was a time when we had Black Educators that carried deeply about their students receiving an education. And male educators were more prevalent in the classroom. Even if I didn't always listen. He left a good impression in my mind from him being apart of my education. My sincere condolences to his family.*

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**Wayne Bostick** - March 24, 2021 at 02:54 PM

CB

“ I was a student at Whitted Junior High in the late 60's, graduating in 1970. I remember Mr. Boston fondly as an educator at Whitted Junior High. I was saddened to hear of his passing. My sincere condolences to his family.

Charles E. Bright  
Washington, D.C.

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**Charles E. Bright** - March 24, 2021 at 01:33 PM

DJ

“ Mr. Boston and I met as co-workers at Durham High School. It was my first year of teaching and he was already a seasoned pro. Since I lived in an apartment near his home, but had no transportation, he drove me to work while I saved up a down payment for a car. It took the whole school year. I cannot tell you how extraordinary his kindness was to me. I never forgot and when we would come across each other in the years following, at the post office, at the grocery store, wherever, it was always a joyous reunion. In recent years, we bonded over food and DPAC. Mr. Boston, I will always be grateful for the wonderful conversations, the considerate rides, the wonderful food and the wisdom you shared with me through the years. I will miss you.

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**Diane Judge** - March 24, 2021 at 11:46 AM

DC

“ Heartfelt condolences to Bryson and family on the passing of their family patriarch, Mr. Boston. So grateful I called him on January 28 to say Happy Birthday. He was a blessing to many and his life will continue to be an inspiration to all of us. Prayers of comfort lifted for the Boston Family.

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**Deborah Peaks Coleman** - March 14, 2021 at 12:08 AM



“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc. - March 12, 2021 at 07:55 PM

RF

I am a former Plum Street neighbor. My family sends greetings to you for sharing your dad and mom. Continue your life with Blessings. The Fields

Ronald A Fields - March 13, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc. - March 12, 2021 at 07:55 PM

JC

“ Bryson - From my family, we would like to say how sorry we are for your loss. May God continue to guide and bless you. Jackie "Bailey" Coleman

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**Jackie Coleman** - March 03, 2021 at 05:29 PM

NC

“ My sincerest condolences to the family of my colleague and mentor Mr. Jesse Boston. I worked with Mr. Boston, as a new administrator, at Holton Middle School. His patient temperament and sage advice were invaluable. His understanding of how a school's demographics affected its culture and subsequently its program of instruction were helpful beyond measure. I am thankful to God that I met and worked with him because of all he did for me and the many students at Holton Middle. Rest well as you exchange labor for reward. You have certainly earned your reward. Many blessings and thanks again. Nathan B. Curry

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**Nathan Curry** - March 02, 2021 at 02:21 PM

CB

“ Bryson, sorry for the loss of you father. May you and your family find strength in God during this time.

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**Chester Bobo** - February 26, 2021 at 05:39 PM

KD

*I extend my deepest condolences to Bryson and the entire family of Mr. Jesse Boston. It was a pleasure to have served as Assistant Principal along with Mr. Boston at Holton Middle School. He was a kind and compassionate administrator who was respected and loved by everyone. The positive impact that he had on the students and staff of Holton will forever be in our hearts. I pray that God will surround you with His love, peace, and comfort during this difficult time. Katherine W. Dubose*

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**Katherine W. Dubose** - March 03, 2021 at 09:06 PM

MH

*Bryson, sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I will always remember the larger than life man he was. I am going to miss him calling me saying, look here, look here girl. He was a lifetime member of the Durham Alumni Chapter of Saint Augustine's University. He loved the University and supported it with his time, talents and resources. I remember the smile on his face when he represented our Chapter as Alumni King. His legacy will live on in our hearts. Praying for you, your family and the community. 🙏🙏🙏*

*Mildred Harris-Foster*

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**Mildred Harris-Foster** - March 03, 2021 at 11:07 PM

ED

*I want to thank Mr. Boston for the insightful historical conversations that we shared on each of our encounters. He had a wonderful way of recalling the names of former students and colleagues. Please rest in peace and power, Mr. Boston.*

*Eddie Davis  
Durham, NC*

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**Eddie Davis** - March 04, 2021 at 10:58 AM

MF

*Jesse Boston was a great neighbor on Plum Street for many years. My sincere sympathy to Bryson and the family.*

*Minerva Fields and family*

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**Minerva Fields** - March 07, 2021 at 07:09 PM

DM

*Condolences to the family. He was my excellent 7th. grade teacher. Had a chance to see him 50 years later. Left him a message with caregiver my appreciation of something he taught me.*

*Dennis Mathews*

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**Dennis Mathews** - March 08, 2021 at 06:28 PM

WT

*I extend my sincere condolences to the Boston Family. Mr. Boston was a staunch supporter of the Hillside High School Drama Program. He always wanted to know where the students would be traveling and supported them. He was a great mentor, friend and fraternity brother. I will always value and cherish our long conversations about education and life. Rest in Peace my dear friend.*

*Wendell Tabb  
Director of Theatre  
Hillside High School*

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**Wendell Tabb** - March 11, 2021 at 04:42 AM

MC

*The CRISS Family extends our condolences to the Boston Family. The Boston Family will always be remembered as the very best neighbors a family can have. God Bless You all. Mr. Ostella Criss and Family*

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**Michael Criss** - March 11, 2021 at 10:37 AM

PB

*MY CONDOLENCES TO BRYSON AND THE BOSTON FAMILY  
PATRICIA BINGHAM*

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**Patricia B Bingham** - March 11, 2021 at 05:28 PM

PW

*Deepest condolences to the Boston family. I was one of his students at Whitted Jr high as the last 8th grade class. He was a wonderful teacher. He will always be appreciated as a very kind & supportive gentleman. Preston Weaver Atlanta, Ga*

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**preston d weaver** - March 28, 2021 at 08:56 PM