



Mr. John Mason

August 20, 1924 - October 6, 2016

John Mason, 92, of Durham, North Carolina, passed away on Thursday, October 6, 2016, in Charlotte, NC. John was born on August 20, 1924, to the late Lettie Hogans Mason and John Luther Mason.

He attended Durham City Schools and graduated from Hillside High School in 1942. He enlisted in the United States Navy in May 1942 and was commissioned as a member of the B-1 Navy Band, Musician Second Class. After an honorable discharge in July 1944, he began employment with the Durham County Department of Social Services and ultimately became the first African-American Purchasing Agent for the Department. He retired after more than 35 years of service to the Department.

John was involved with a number of community service, civic and charitable organizations including the NAACP and The American Red Cross. He was a member of Kyles Temple AME Zion Church and served as Chairman of the Stewards Board, a member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Lossie McNair Mason, and his daughter Lemuria St. James-Benham. He is survived by his son, Fred N. (Freddy) Mason, Sylmar, CA, and his daughters Gail L. Mason, Charlotte, NC, and S. Y. (Sharyl) Mason-Watson (George Watson), Charlotte, NC; three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Graveside services will be held at Beechwood Cemetery in Durham, NC, on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at 11:00 AM. Scarborough and Hargett Funeral Home, Inc., is serving the family.

Previous Events

Graveside

OCT 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Beechwood Cemetery
3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John Mason*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *To the Mason Family*

When I came to work in Durham County in 1976 as the General Services Director John was one of my biggest mentors, coach and supporter. He was always full of life, enjoyed his job in DSS and the folks he worked with every single day. I never saw him with a smile on his face. Please know that you are all in my prayers in the days and weeks ahead.

*Mike Turner
Former General Services Director (1972-2010)*

Mike Turner - November 11, 2016 at 07:42 AM



I never saw him without a smile on his face.

Mike Turner - November 11, 2016 at 08:03 PM



“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with you Mason, Gail and the rest of the family. We are happy to have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Mason. The Watson Family*



Janice Watson - October 12, 2016 at 05:33 AM



“ *To Freddy and family. May you all be tightly wrapped in the loving arms of God and the many memories that you hold dear. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Mr. Mason is forever a part of the legacy of the B-1 Band. We treasure his memory.*



Chapelle Morgan Davis - October 11, 2016 at 08:21 PM

GB

“ *God Bless, B-1 U. S. Navy Band purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. John Mason.*



God Bless, B-1 U. S. Navy Band - October 11, 2016 at 01:11 PM

JD

“ *On behalf of the bandmates, family members and supporters of the B-1 U.S. Navy Band, I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. John Mason. We will forever be grateful for all Mr. Mason did for the B-1 Navy Band and the Nation. He was a pioneer in the efforts put forth to integrate the Navy during the time of turmoil and challenge. We salute you Mr. John Mason. Thank you for a job well done.*

*James V. Davis, Ph.D
B-1 U. S. Navy Band, President*

James V. Davis - October 11, 2016 at 12:32 PM

EL

“ *God continues to speak. We often don't understand, but His Will has been done. Thank you Mr. Mason for your service to our Nation through the B-1 U.S. Navy Band. The work you've done has spoken for you. Rest on now in the Master's loving arms. We will miss and always love you.*



*Evetta Lawrence-Davis, Ed.D.
B-1 U.S. Navy Band, Vice President*

evetta lawrence-davis - October 11, 2016 at 12:22 PM