



Mr. Nathaniel J. Sutton

May 24, 1941 - February 25, 2022

Nathaniel J. Sutton, age 80, passed on Friday, February 25, 2022. He was born in Durham, North Carolina on May 24, 1941, to his parents Nathaniel and Pursell Sutton.

Nat was predeceased by his loving parents, Nathaniel and Pursell Sutton, his brother and sister-in-law, John and Clare Sutton, his brother, Charles Sutton, his sister, Blanche Samuels, his brother Calvin Sutton, and his close friend, Carl Mosbacher. Nat leaves to cherish his memory his brother and sister-in-law, Victor and Thelma Sutton, his brother and sister-in-law, Samuel and Loren Sutton, many adoring nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, godchildren, many dear friends, and his beloved dog, MacIntosh.

Nat was an avid art collector and supporter of the arts who loved attending Broadway shows, dance, and visiting museums in New York and throughout the world. A superb amateur chef, he delighted in entertaining and often prepared delicious meals for friends and family, ranging from Southern to French cuisine. Nat was world traveled and enjoyed practicing his French when and wherever he could.

He earned a BA from City College of New York and a diploma in International Public Affairs from the Centre d'Etudes Industrielles in Lausanne, Switzerland.

He graduated from Harvard Business School's AMP '81 Program. Nat began his career in Europe as a freelance journalist for the International Herald Tribune. Returning to New York, he worked in public relations and corporate communications with the famed director, Dr. Howard Rusk, at New York University Medical Center. He was then recruited to Citibank, where he oversaw the corporation's internal and external communications, investor communications, digital media, and creative services. Retiring after 33 years as head of corporate communications for Citibank, Nat immediately started a new career in executive search and became Vice Chairman of Heidrick and Struggles. Most recently Nat was partner and Managing Director at ZRG.

Nat has worked for leading corporations as well as a broad variety of major education, arts, cultural, and philanthropic organizations serving clients including Jazz at Lincoln Center, Volunteers of America of Greater New York, Howard University, The Dalton School, The Charles D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation, Hershey Trust Company, Ford Motor Company, National Geographic Society, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Dartmouth College, Columbia University, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the National Aquarium Foundation, and The International Center for Photography.

He has served on the boards of CADCA, Houston Jazz, and the New York Harvard Business School Club and previously served on the boards of the League of American Orchestras, the American Folk Art Museum, and the Metropolitan Opera Guild. He was also the former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Opus 118 Harlem School of Music. Nat's charming demeanor, beautiful smile, and generous spirit will be greatly missed.

The Graveside Homegoing Celebration will take place on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at one o'clock, at Beechwood Cemetery, 3300 Fayetteville Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707, with a reception immediately following at The Graham Mill, 205 W. Harden Street, Graham, NC 27253.

A memorial service will also be held in New York City in April. For further information please contact Samuel Sutton atsamuelsutton@sbcglobal.net. In lieu of flowers please consider supporting the Diabetes Research Institute or the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Graveside

MAR 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

AB

“*Sorry to hear Nat is gone, what dear man. Will be missed. Best Ann and Paul.*”

Ann Lurie Berlin - January 11, 2025 at 11:27 PM



“*Mr. Nathaniel J. Sutton*”

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM

PT

“*Nat was a wonderful boss who inspired his staff not just to work hard, but to work smart! He was always busy, but always found time for us as individuals.*”

My thank you is an announced Mass said for him on Wednesday, August 31st at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Astoria, Queens. He and his beautiful family are remembered with great fondness. Rest in His peace, dear Nat.

Patricia Tabone

Patricia Tabone - August 29, 2022 at 10:25 AM

MR

“*So sorry to hear of the passing of Nat. Our heartfelt condolences. Nat was a dear friend and such a beautiful, remarkable soul. We will forever cherish the delicious home-cooked dinners and stimulating conversations we shared. We will miss you, Toi and Marleen*”

Marleen van der Ree - April 03, 2022 at 03:13 AM

MK

“ One of the most gracious, intelligent people I have ever met. My heart and prayers are with his family on this loss. With deepest sympathy, Missy Knight, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Missy Knight - March 31, 2022 at 09:00 PM

RF

“ Nat you were a dear friend, and mentor. I learned so much from you and you were such an amazing human being. I will miss you. 💕💕

Robert French - March 31, 2022 at 08:57 PM

CR

“ Dear Nat, friends and family, I am so sorry to just find out Nat passed away. We met in the early 90 and Nat & NY are for ever connected for me. I loved our southern comfort food dinners, our strolls with Malcom and exploring the city. I still use the tie you let me borrow and I will keep on using the Nat tie on special occasions. Rest In Peace my good friend!

Coen van der Ree - March 31, 2022 at 02:22 AM

BH

“ Will miss you.. the years of indelible memories will always give me comfort..so glad we had the gift of a great conversation the week before God called you home.. it was a blessing to be your Friend..



Beverly Hemmings - March 12, 2022 at 04:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Nathaniel J. Sutton.*



March 12, 2022 at 09:30 AM



“ *I am going to miss talking to you. Love you Polly*

polly - March 11, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Nathaniel J. Sutton.*



March 10, 2022 at 09:41 PM



“ *Greta, Rhoda, Kaisha and Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mr. Nathaniel J. Sutton.*



Greta, Rhoda, Kaisha and Family - March 09, 2022 at 09:56 PM