

## **An Inspiration to Many!**

*Written by Nieces Schulyer Whitley, Cynthia Turner, & Valerie Parker*

Many students remember Benjamin F. Turner as a man of great faith. Mr. Turner saw great potential in all students that he met or taught. He was an anchor of stability and strength to family, students, parents, colleagues, and friends in the surrounding areas.

B. F. Turner found untapped talents in all students, while grooming them to show respect, loyalty, teamwork, and leadership skills that would carry them into the future. Many remember B. F. Turner's leadership in Isle of Wight Training & Public Schools and Surry County Public Schools. In many of the predominantly black communities B. F. Turner reached out with jobs, financial assistance, and a sense of hope. Turner had a 24-hour open door policy for anyone needing help or a listening ear.

B. F. Turner was born February 12, 1927 to George Turner & Margaret T. Ellis (both deceased) and educated in Hertford County and Isle of Wight Training School. He received a B.S. Degree (Science) from Saint Paul's College. He advised every student to attend Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA. He made sure everything was in order when students embarked upon a four-year journey in college.

He did extensive study at Virginia State College (University), Tuskegee Institute (University), M. A. and certificate of Advanced Studies in Administration from Hampton Institute (University). He served a short period of times in the United States Army.

B. F. Turner's work started as a teacher at Lawnes School (Rushmere) and Westside in Isle of Wight County. Later in the 60's Turner traveled to Surry County Public Schools serving as teacher, administrator, and assistant superintendent. He never lost focus of reaching out to help others. B. F. Turner was always conscious of his professional image and knowledgeable about his field. He stayed abreast on educational and governmental views and quick to impart nuggets from this information to others in the market place, church, and community meetings.

With a spirit of humility, B. F. Turner was the recipient of many honors and accolades. Benjamin Franklin Turner, a true "edu-carer" and devoted brother of Omega Phi Psi Fraternity.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress." ~Frederick Douglass