

James Banks Brown Jr.

SMITHFIELD - On Saturday morning, January 17, 2015, James Banks Brown Jr. passed away peacefully at Riverside Convalescent Center in Smithfield, VA. Affectionately known as "Jimmie", he was born on June 19, 1938 to the late Gladys Dillard and the late James Banks Brown, Sr. and was a native of Carrollton, VA. He was a member of Main Street Baptist Church. He graduated from Isle of Wight Training School and went onto attend Howard University, where he graduated with a BS degree in Civil Engineering in 1962. Jimmie began his professional career in 1962 with the Norfolk Naval Shipyard Design Division in Portsmouth, VA as a Naval Architect. In 1969 he joined the Naval Surface Warfare Center Combatant Craft Department in what would become a distinguished 40 year career. During his career Jimmie recruited minority engineers from several HBCU's, authored five scientific papers, and achieved numerous promotions before retiring in 2001. Jimmie strongly believed in serving his community. He was a member of the Isle of Wight County School Board for over 30 years. He was the first Black chairman and served in this role for three terms. He also served as the Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors. He was named the Outstanding Citizen of his County for his Public Service and Citizenship (the only Black ever to be accorded this honor). He was a member of the Dochiki Civic Club in Newport News, VA. He was a brother of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., initiated by Alpha Chapter in 1957 and was a member of Alpha Alpha Chapter in Newport News, VA and was awarded the Citizen of the Year and Omega Man of the Year. Jimmie was predeceased by his parents and sister, Janice B. Clay. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Kaye H. Brown; daughter, Monica Brown Lipscomb (Vernon); son, James Banks Brown III (Milagros); grandson, Dylan J. Lipscomb, sister, Marcia Williams (Frank), sister-in-law, Shirley H. Smith (Travis), three nephews, Eric O. Clay, Jansen D. Williams, and Steven Smith; niece Suzanne Andrews, and numerous cousins and God children. A Wake will be held Friday Jan. 23rd from 6p - 8p and a Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday Jan. 24th at 12pm with Internment immediately afterwards at Hickory Grove Cemetery in Surry, VA . Both services will be held at Main Street Baptist Church, 516 Main ST, Smithfield, VA. Funeral arrangements (flowers and memorials) are in the care of Pretlow & Chapman Funeral Home, 658 Main ST, Smithfield, VA 23430.

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