



Mr. Frederick Bertrand Adams

March 27, 1947 - December 7, 2023

Frederick Bertrand Adams, known affectionately by his family and friends as Bertrand/Tronnie, departed this life on December 7, 2023, in Bluefield, West Virginia, at the age of 76. He was born on March 27, 1947, in Bluefield, Virginia to the late Frederick J. Adams and Jackie L. Bratton. Bertrand was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle.

Bertrand graduated as Valedictorian from Tazewell County High School in 1965, the last senior class to graduate from that institution. He then pursued his higher education at Norfolk State University before graduating from Bluefield State College (now Bluefield State University) in 1969 with a B.S. degree in Math and Science. Upon graduating from college, he enrolled in the Navy, proudly and honorably serving his country as a Naval pilot.

After returning from the Navy, Bertrand first worked as an inmate hearing advisor at Bland Correctional Center and later transitioned into teaching Math and Science at Elkhorn Junior High School. Following his brief teaching career, Bertrand worked as a locomotive engineer for Norfolk Southern Railroad until his health began declining, forcing him into early retirement.

Bertrand was also a faithful member of Bethel United Methodist Church, serving over the years as an usher, Sunday School teacher, church photographer, choir pianist and Sunday School superintendent. Bertrand also served on the inaugural board of the Saunders House. He also enjoyed capturing moments with his camera, fishing, playing the piano, advocating for the rights of Black people within his community, and listening to Motown

music.

In addition to his parents, Bertrand was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Brady and Emmaline Adams, and his maternal grandparents, George (Jack) and Ruth Bratton, with whom he primarily resided during his childhood and often referred to as “Daddy” and “Mother”. He was also preceded in death by two siblings, Brady Adams and Stephanie Adams.

Bertrand leaves to cherish his special memories, his caretaker and devoted and loving wife of 49 years, Doris Overton Adams, whom he often referred to as “Babe”, and with whom he would have celebrated 50 years of marriage on December 22, 2023. He is also survived by his children, Frederick Adams, II (April) and Bianca Adams; his grandchildren, Frederick Adams, III, Avary Adams, and Irene Brown; his siblings, Gail Wilson, Candace Adams, Marion Smith (Jeffery), Dianne Webber (Barry), and Kim Adams; special “brothers”, Gilbert Bratton and Jimmy Boyd (Stephenia); four nieces who he raised like his daughters: Latasha Buchanan (Tasha), Kaneisha (Javon) Buchanan-Paige, Keysonna Buchanan, and Shenella Buchanan; a special “niece” Stefanie Bratton, as well as a host of relatives, godchildren, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, December 15, 2023, at Mercer Funeral Home located at 1231 W. Cumberland Road, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Visitation with the family will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by the funeral service at 11:00 a.m., with the Reverend Michael Bratton officiating. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a monetary donation to Bethel United Methodist Church, Attention: Debra Neal (Church Treasurer), 130 Russell Street, Bluefield, Virginia 24605. The family wishes to thank everyone for their love, support, gifts, and prayers during this difficult time. The family also sends a special thank you to our MSA Hospice angels, Gail and Dreama, for making the past few years full of love and compassion.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory

1231 West Cumberland Road

Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6155

mercerc@mercercfuneralhome.com

<https://www.mercercfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

DC

“ To Doris, Fred & Sissy...
When I heard the news, my mind immediately went to 109 Depot Street. So many memories of you guys living above us, the men hanging out on the corner and Christmas when we actually had snow! Nothing like our childhood growing up “across the tracks”. Our families were forever knitted close together. We love you and pray that the days to come will bring stories of fond memories, smiles & laughter and the peace in knowing he is resting well.

Love always,
Dawn Carey

Dawn Carey - December 16, 2023 at 06:23 AM

PJ

“ Blessing to MY Family for my heart hurts with you but thank God for his Grace and Mercy to see you through this time of sorrow.
Sending you Love Pat and John Jones/ Family

Patricia L Jones - December 15, 2023 at 08:09 AM

PJ

“ Patricia L Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Frederick Bertrand Adams



Patricia L Jones - December 15, 2023 at 08:05 AM

RS

“ Reverend- Minister Larry Middlebrooks Sr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Frederick Bertrand Adams



Reverend- Minister Larry Middlebrooks Sr - December 14, 2023 at 12:51 PM

RS

Condolences for a great man & pioneer when Black pioneer s of his Caliber couldn't exist..rest well. With love . New Jerusalem Baptist Church: Pastor Reverend Doctor C.L. Gray & church family.

Reverend- Minister Larry Middlebrooks Sr - December 14, 2023 at 12:56 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mr. Frederick Bertrand Adams.



December 14, 2023 at 10:30 AM

DF

“ So sorry for the loss of such a nice gentleman. He will be missed by family and friends. May God's blessings continue to be with you as you mourn the loss of such a loving, patient and respected friend.
Love, Deloris French and Family

Deloris French - December 14, 2023 at 07:35 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of Frederick Bertrand Adams, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Navy Veteran, Frederick Bertrand Adams, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - December 13, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Mr. Frederick Bertrand Adams.*



December 13, 2023 at 09:35 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Frederick Bertrand Adams.*



December 12, 2023 at 09:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Frederick Bertrand Adams.*



December 12, 2023 at 08:17 PM



“ *Dear Doris, Fred, Bianca and Family
I was so sorry to read of the passing of Mr. Adams. Your family is in my prayers, God Bless you all and give you peace.
Michele Carinell Barnett*

Michele Carinelli Barnett - December 12, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ *Dear Fred and April, I am saddened to hear of the homegoing and celebration of Life for your noble Father. Blessings to your Mother and may God continue to bless and keep you all. What a beautiful legacy of a life well lived! A good and faithful servant of God. Pat Ford*



Patricia Ford - December 12, 2023 at 06:12 PM

BW

Doris so sorry for your loss, I remember you when we use to go to Consolidated Baptist Church in Elbert WVa, and when you all moved to Bishop, hope everything is Well with you. Beverly Penn Wolfe, Richmond, Va

Beverly Penn Wolfe - December 19, 2023 at 10:37 AM

MM

To Doris and family, I was deeply sorry to hear of the passing of Fred. He used to come visit me at the visitor center at the Sanders house. He was so much fun and told great stories; his visits were the highlight of my time there. He was a wealth of historic knowledge and so much fun. Fred was one in a million, and the world was a better place for having him in it.

Mark Milford - January 11, 2024 at 12:10 PM