



William L. Whiteside

July 12, 1942 - December 16, 2023

William Lewis Whiteside, “Bill” as he was generally known, was born in the back bedroom of his family home in Morristown, TN on July 12, 1942. Those who knew Bill know he loved to tell a good story. He loved to talk of his early education experiences in a one-room schoolhouse, and the time he spent working on his grandparents’ farm in Bean Station, TN as a boy. There was no high school for Blacks at that time, so he took his high school courses on the campus of Morristown College, right up the hill from the family home. He was taught by those same professors when he completed his first two years of higher education at Morristown College.

Needing to earn money for school, Bill spent his summers working in NY and Detroit. He loved to tell the tales of those jobs that helped to shape his resolve to build a different career for himself in education. He spent the next two years at Tennessee State University where he earned his bachelor’s degree in education, then went on to earn a master’s degree in counseling from Wayne State University.

During his tenure with the Detroit Public Schools, he worked at several schools including: Ellis Elementary and Clippert Middle as a teacher, Priest Elementary as a counselor, Maybury Elementary as staff coordinator, Wilkins Elementary as assistant principal and Coolidge Elementary as principal. He retired from the Detroit Public Schools in 1997 after thirty-two years of service.

Bill had an extraordinary personality, amazing memory and a wonderful wit. He never met a stranger and never made an enemy. After an auspicious first date to the Pink Ice Ball given by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority brought them together, he married Janet Martin on April 6, 1968. They had two daughters, Veronica Lynn and Stefani Loraine whom he taught to love music as much as he did. He and Janet loved to travel and also instilled that wanderlust in their daughters. Bill always had the desire to become a Kappa man and this dream was finally realized when his line, Situation #9, was initiated August 15, 1987, into the Detroit Alumni chapter. He was active in the local chapter through the years and became a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

During their careers, the Whitesides were able to travel to warmer climates, but the Detroit winters finally got to them and they moved to Apopka, Florida in 2003. Bill enjoyed 20 years on his lanai and occasionally splashing in his “get wet” pool. Throughout their marriage, the love of travel took the Whitesides around the world, but Cancun, Mexico had a special place in his heart.

Bill liked to keep busy and, throughout most of his life, remained active. He bowled in a league in Detroit for many years and was an avid golfer. In Apopka, he joined a group of like-minded golfers known as the Thursday Swingers. This group, their spouses and family members spent time together on, and off, the green. The monthly Thursday Swingers dinners were a “can’t miss” for the Whitesides.

Bill became our Christmas Angel on December 16, 2023 at the age of 81. He was preceded in death by his father, William Finley Whiteside; his mother, Emma Lucille (Lewis) Whiteside; his brother, Jerry Wayne Whiteside; his sister, Brenda Kaye Whiteside; his nephew Cedric Turu Whiteside.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Janet Leona and daughters, Veronica Lynn and Stefani Loraine Whiteside-Antoine (Gerald); niece Kimberly Renee; great-nephew Skyler (Nacole) and great-nieces Jasmine and Cierra along with their families and a host of great-great nieces and nephews.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 16. 4:30 PM (ET)

Hilton Garden Inn
580 E. Main St.
Apopka, FL 32703

Tribute Wall

LA

“ My dear friend Stef, I hope Ronnie and your mom find comfort in the wonderful and loving memories of your dad. Just know that you are supported and much loved... Lavinia

Lavinia - March 19, 2024 at 04:16 PM

DF

“ I am a very close friend of Veronica's. As a kid, teenager and young adult growing up in Detroit, I distinctly remember Mr. Whiteside's smile and great energy!

Dara (Ward) Fairman - March 17, 2024 at 09:21 AM

BC

“ I have known bill since our early days in Detroit, and always admired the warmth and camaraderie of our relationship. I remember the great times we spent together. He was generous of spirit, in all things. Fran and I shell miss him dearly.

Bob Cunningham - March 16, 2024 at 12:43 PM

BC

“ 2 files added to the album TSGCM and Lunch Bunch



Bob Cunningham - March 16, 2024 at 12:27 PM

KW

“ As a Detroit neighbor of Mr. Whiteside, I appreciate the wisdom and guidance he provided, the commitment to family he showed, and he was always good with a story related to his life experiences. I am thankful Mr. Whiteside through his action and words, lived the concept of “It takes a village to raise a child”.

Ken Washington - March 16, 2024 at 09:18 AM

BJ

“ My husband Edward and I moved from Detroit to Apopka FL in 2012 without knowing anyone there. I met Janet in Parking lot at Public and we talked for over an hour. We met Bill and they instantly became friends and after a short time they became family. We spent countless hours together at dinners, and other social engagements. As a nurse I am familiar with lengthy illnesses and the emotional effects on most people. Bill amazed me with his attitude toward his conditions. Often when we were going out, I knew he was feeling well. And when we asked how he was, he said “I feel like Xxxx, but I’m going to enjoy myself, and he did. His attitude toward life greatly impressed us and made us look a little differently at some things. We miss him terribly, but I know the pain and discomfort he experienced is no more. To us he was like a bright star and his glow is gone from our lives. Greatly missed!💔💔💔
Beatrice and Edward Johnson

Beatrice and Edward Johnson - March 09, 2024 at 10:34 AM

DB

“ Bill will always hold a special place in our hearts. Because of him, my husband, Donald, took his first cruise (after Bill shamed him 😊) and we've been cruising ever-since.

Jan & Bill have been our travel companions for years, until Bill's health curtailed things.

We will miss his wit, charm, and companionship so much.

Jan, just know that we will "always" be here for you.

We love you ❤️

Donald & Dorisel Boggs

Northville, Michigan

Dorisel Boggs - March 06, 2024 at 01:30 PM

SM

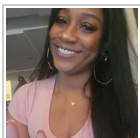
“ Bill and I worked together in Detroit Public Schools as counselors. I became a Guidance Dept. Head and he became a Principal. It was great working with him. He was a dedicated worker and always put children first. I will always remember his warm smile. Shirley Tolbert (Smith) Madden

Shirley Tolbert (Smith) Madden - March 01, 2024 at 07:19 AM

BW

“ When Bill and me talked about our golf games, Bill would always say “ I'm taking two weeks off and quit"! I'll truly miss my golf buddy.

Barbara Ann Washington - February 24, 2024 at 01:05 PM



“ I will always love and miss Mr Whiteside ❤️ he always made me feel welcomed in their home and they had such a big beautiful home at the time when Stef & I were in hs, I thought I was coming into a mansion lol but always embraced me with love and friendliness and I will never forget that, such a great dad!

Talea Hill - February 23, 2024 at 10:45 AM

GJ

“ Such a lovely nice man who clearly loved his family. I am so happy I had the opportunity to meet him and he leaves a beautiful legacy with his wonderful wife and beautiful daughters. What a blessing to transition with all that love around you. He will be missed.

Gordon James - February 23, 2024 at 03:14 AM

CW

“ The loving, supportive, and kind father of my friend Stefani and her sister Ronnie will be missed. Charisse

c woodall - February 22, 2024 at 09:22 PM