



Dad was born October 1, 1937 (not that long ago) to Rev. Joseph Armstrong and Mattie Belton DeLaine. We know this because the only living witness to his birth, Joseph Armstrong DeLaine, Jr, his big brother, was hiding in the closet at the time and told us so. Dad was named Brumit Belton DeLaine after his Uncle Brumit Belton, but was affectionately called B.B.

Obituary

The demands of life affected B.B. early because he started school at the age of 4. This was not something that he wanted, but it had a big impact on how he viewed education and development of children. He was educated where ever his parents taught, but was more than happy to graduate from Carver High School somewhere in SC. His goal at the time of high school graduation was to attend Allen University. He did for a short time and was whisked away due to some major events that rendered his matriculation there unsafe. He attended Howard University for one semester and transferred to Johnson C. Smith University in 1956. He said that was when he finally got with his class and was comfortable for the first time in school.

Dad really enjoyed his matriculation at Johnson C. Smith. He made lifelong friends. He pledged Omega Psi Phi; many people may not have known that. He met and married Edith Strickland.

Dad and Mom were married and lived in New York City. They started a family very soon after marriage. Boris was born in 1962, Brenna was born 1963 and Buane was born in 1965. That was not the best idea financially, but they worked together and Dad did not give up or neglect his family. They relocated to Charlotte in 1965 after Buane was born. Dad had gotten his Masters Degree in Drivers Safety education while in New York. He got a job teaching at Garinger High School in Charlotte. He was the first Black teacher to be hired there.

Dad was promoted to Director of Drivers Education for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools in 1967. That worked for Brenna because she knew the name and number of the Superintendent for the schools and worked it to her advantage. It worked for Boris and Buane because Dad did drive bys at the schools. Dad loved his Job and was very knowledgeable.

Dad liked to travel and took us on family trips. This was before the dawn of GPS'. It was amazing how he could plan and execute a trip in a car. We did not fly! We took a family trip that lasted 1 month from North Carolina to California. That was amazing trip that most found hard to believe we had done at that time.

Dad had no problem going to school to learn more. He knew how to work on cars. He took wood working courses and made cabinets and furniture. He used his skills to build the house in Homewood Acres and Habitat homes. He took sewing and made shirts for himself and two dresses for Brenna, one being her wedding dress. He took a photography course and enjoyed being photographer for friends and family when asked. He became proficient with the computer.

Mom and Dad were married for 40 years. They raised their three children and helped raise other family members. Michael Strickland, Laura McClettie and Sandra Hill, Mom's siblings lived with us in the mansion on Senior Dr and finished high school. Dad was always kind to all who lived there and is held in high regard by them. Even after we were grown Mom and Dad temporarily took in people in need.

Dad retired from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools in 1996, but he did not retire from life. He got busy with Habitat, Briggs-DeLaine-Pearson foundation, speaking about the historical events of his life at the local high schools, ushering at church, trustee board at church, making ice cream when Suzanne came to town, being an official photographer when asked and babysitting in Columbia.

It was most fitting that the only living witness to Dad's sunrise was present at his sunset, Uncle Jay, his big brother.

He leaves to cherish his memory three children, Boris, Brenna and Buane (Pam); a brother Joseph DeLaine, Jr.; two sisters Ophelia DeLaine Gona and Fannie Olivet Delaine Driscoll; five grandchildren-Bre-Onna DeLaine, Brittany DeLaine, Jai Brenay McQuilla, Belton DeLaine-Facey and Matthew Brenna McQuilla; Faithful and dependable friends and neighbors especially, Frankie Barnes, Diane Wyche and Joan Siler; and a host of loving relatives and friends.





