



Thomas Taylor, Jr. a native of Durham, NC was the only child born to the late Mary Boulware Taylor and Thomas Taylor Sr. Thomas Jr. passed away unexpectedly Saturday morning, October 21, 2017.

Thomas completed his public school education at the original Hillside High School in Durham, which later became Whitted Junior High School. Thomas played on “the famous” 43 Hornet Football Team which went undefeated, untied and unscored upon. He was one of four surviving members recently honored by the Durham City Council and was presented a certificate of honor by Mayor William Bell.

Thomas earned his B.S. degree at A & T College, now NC A & T State University, in Greensboro, NC where he continued his interest in football. His education was interrupted when he was called to service during WWII, where he served as a medic in the US Air Force Medical Corp. Following his service he returned to complete his education. He began his career at the Library of Congress, in Washington DC and became a supervisor during his four year tenure there.

His next career opportunity led him back to Durham where he taught at Whitted Junior High School under principal James Schooler, Sr. While teaching he spent his summers at Columbia University in NY and earned a Master of Arts degree in Elementary and Junior High School Administration. Following Mr. Schooler to Shepard Junior High School, he taught and later became assistant principal there.

Taylor’s career continued to advance when he became principal of the North Durham Elementary School, which became an education resource center. He was then transferred as principal to RN Harris Elementary School, where he remained principal for four years. Because of his special leadership skills and the identifiable needs at Holloway Street School, the Board of

Education selected Thomas as principal of Holloway Street School, where he remained 14 years, until his retirement.

During his career, Thomas was a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and earned the respect of many as a firm, but fair leader, in his pursuit to further an educational environment conducive to learning and teaching.

In addition to his stellar career, Thomas was an active in many community and civic organizations. He was an active member of St. Titus Episcopal Church for over 50 years, until his health began to decline, serving on the Vestry, the Every Member Canvas, the Men's Club, and regularly serving as Epistoler.

Thomas served 12 years as treasurer of the Durham Chapter of the John Avery Boys and Girls Club of America and nine years as a volunteer for the American Red Cross, for which he received many recognitions and awards. He was a Master Mason (Prince Hall Affiliation), belonging to Doris Lodge #28, Durham Consistory (32nd degree) and Zafa Shrine Temple.

For many years Thomas enjoyed the activities and comradery of the James E. Shepard Sertoma Club. As a member, he was awarded special plaques for his annual fundraising from the sale of fruitcakes to raise money for the hearing impaired.

His love of sports, especially football, made him an active and dedicated member of the Aggie Club, contributing generously to its scholarship fund. After his retirement, one of "Tom's" greatest enjoyments was traveling throughout the country with his Aggie Club buddies to football games, especially games of his Alma Mater.

In addition to his community and civic organizations, Thomas enjoyed going to concerts, listening to music, working on his computer, and traveling with his wife, her sister and brother-in-law throughout the United States, three of the US Virgin Islands, Mexico, the Bahamas, Brazil, and four of the Hawaiian Islands.

Thomas is survived by his wife of 68 years, the former Juanita Wharton of Durham; one son, Thomas "Kenny" Taylor, III, MD (Eve), one granddaughter, Alexandria Quiada Taylor, all of Atlanta, GA; one sister-in-law, Anne Bridges of Durham, NC; like a blood brother, Herbert Eugene Tatum, Sr. of Durham, NC; three nieces, Carolyn Privette, Sheila Bridges-Bond, PhD (King), all of Durham, NC, and Annita Bridges, Esq (Robert Alexander); Oklahoma City, OK; one god-sister, Betsy Rhodes-Baten of Charlottesville, VA; three nephews, F.D. "Chuckie" Wharton of Cary NC, Tam Wharton of San Francisco, CA, and Marc Wharton of Del Rey Beach, FL; two great nieces, Blayne Alexander Bailey (James) of Atlanta, GA, and Blake Bridges-Vandewalker (Amy) of Norman, OK; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Throughout his life, and even with declining health, Thomas enjoyed his life. He traveled, appreciated family, and would light up when surrounded by his son and his family, his sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, and his traveling buddies.

The family, relatives, and friends will forever appreciate the loving and skillful care provided by his health aides: Angela Holman and Kenya Brittan of Durham.

Thomas Taylor, Jr. will be remembered professionally as a sensitive, patient, kind, cooperative, innovative, and gifted leader. He kept abreast of new trends, loved children, and believed in strong families and a stable community. Society will view Thomas as having contributed greatly to mankind.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to Saint Titus Episcopal Church, James E. Shepard Sertoma Club or the N.C. A&T State University Alumni Association.