

LIFE CELEBRATION SERVICE REMEMBERING

# NATHANIEL ALSTON

MAY 25, 1939 - JUNE 29, 2022

# THE LIFE STORY

**Nathaniel Alston**, was born to the late Cora Lee Alston and John Alston on May 25, 1939, in Warrenton, N.C. At the age of nine, he relocated to Coatesville, PA with his mother and two sisters, Inez and Fairfax. There was a profound love and closeness among them.

He grew up at 123 Carvers Court and graduated from James Adams School in 1954 and S. Horace Scott Senior High School in 1957. He was an Honor Roll student and played on the basketball teams. While at James Adams, a group of friends was formed that remained lifelong friends of Nate. Growing up, he was also known as Peewee and Bird. In later years only the nickname Bird remained.

Nate loved music, loved to sing, and play his bass guitar. 123 Carvers Court was often the practice place for the singing group and people would gather out front to hear them practice. Sometimes his favorite uncle Cleacy, would try to sing along. The singing group became "Little Tommy and the Elgins". He also played the bass guitar with "Teddy Rich and the Richmen".

He was a paratrooper in the U. S. Army and served in Korea and Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in 1969.

Nate was employed by the V.A. Hospital in Coatesville before becoming a Physician's Assistant.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science and Associate of Science degree from Hahnemann. He completed the Physician Assistant Program in 1974.

Nate was a member of the faculty of MCP Hahnemann University and was the PA Program's Director of Clinical Education. In 1993, he became the first Physician's Assistant ever elected to the Pennsylvania Medical Board,

and in 1995 earned the profession's highest honor when he was named the "Physician's Assistant of the Year".

At least part of everyday, he used his professional training to manage an employee health clinic at the geriatric center. The rest of the day was taken up by his role as an educator. He developed and evaluated clinical sites around the state for students in the PA Program.

Nate has received numerous awards, honors and recognition. At Drexel University, Nate was the head of the Physical Diagnosis and Preceptorship Department. He retired from Drexel in February 2005.

After retiring, he enjoyed working with children. He did volunteer work in the Coatesville Public Schools and lots of community work.

He travelled often, liked to go fishing and spent many of the summer weeks in Florida with his longtime friend and companion, Evelyn Jones. In Florida he was able to do a lot of fishing. During his illness, Eve travelled to Coatesville to spend some good and caring times with him.



Nate loved being with family and spent much of his time with his sister, Fair and the family in Maryland. Many good times were had, and many holidays were spent with Fair, her husband André, his niece Andrea, her husband George and his great niece Kendall. Of course, when he travelled to Maryland, he always took his dog that had his own special place in Nate's life.

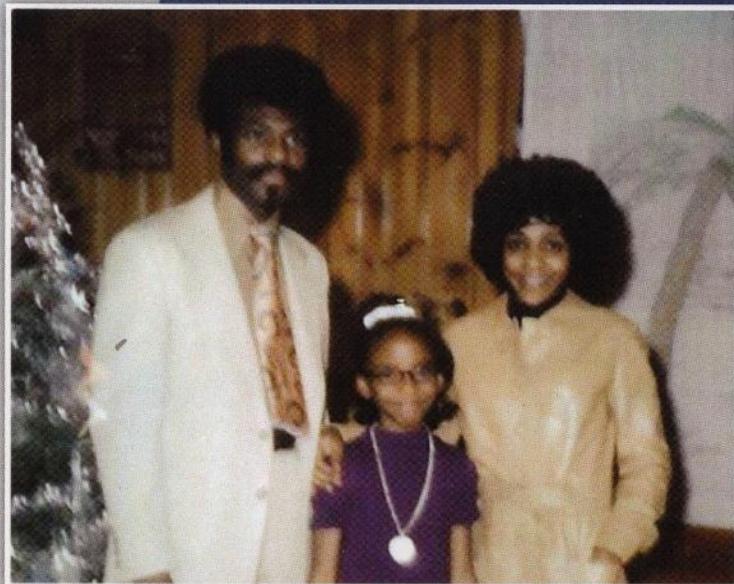
Nate had a very close relationship with his nephew Ronald Jennings that continued throughout his illness. After Ronald's marriage to Crystal in 2020, the three of them continued to have a close relationship, and Nate became "Uncle Bird" to Crystal as well. A team was formed, and Crystal played a major role to ensure that "Uncle Bird" was getting the proper care during his stay in the healthcare facility.

Nate wrote what he wanted his loved ones to know as part of his 5 Wishes on June 3, 2016:

*"I wish for my family and friends to think about what I was like before I became ill. I want them to remember me in that way after my death."*

*"And if anyone asks how I want to be remembered, please say the following about me...I lived a good life."*

Nate leaves his legacy of love, caring and sharing to his daughter, Natalie Taylor of Washington, D.C.; sister, Fairfax A. Davis and her husband André of Temple Hills, MD; one nephew, Ronald D. Jennings and his wife Crystal of Coatesville, PA; one niece, Andrea N. Wicks and her husband George of Brandywine, MD; one great niece, Kendall N. Wicks of Brandywine, MD; one great nephew, Ronald Jennings of Yeadon, PA; two aunts, Elizabeth Alston and Veronica Jahfrey both of New Jersey; his longtime friend and companion, Evelyn Jones of Amelia Island, FL; and many cousins, other relatives and friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Inez Strayhorn.



**Sorrowfully Submitted, The Family**



# Memorial Service

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022

SERVICE 11:00 AM

## NEW LIFE IN CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

ONE SOUTH FIFTH AVENUE • COATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 19320

DR. DAN K. WILLIAMS, PASTOR



### Order of Service

**PROCESSIONAL** ..... Clergy & Family

*Overseer Gradis M. Eggleston III, Musician*

**MILITARY TRIBUTE**

*Evangelist Charlotte Parr, Officiating*

**OPENING HYMN** - "The Solid Rock"

**SCRIPTURE READING** ..... Pastor Jeannette McNeil

*Old Testament - Psalm 24*

*New Testament - John 14:16*

**PRAYER OF COMFORT** ..... Pastor Dan Williams

**SOLO** - "It Is Well" ..... Bro. Irvin Taylor

**READING OF THE CARDS, RESOLUTIONS**

**& OBITUARY** ..... Pastor Crystal Jennings

**REMARKS** (2 Minutes) ..... Clergy

**REFLECTIONS** ..... Kendall Wicks

John Robinson

Gerald McGibboney

Wesley Eggleston

Ronnie Jennings

**SOLO** - "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" ..... Sis. Cherie Coleman

**EULOGY** ..... Rev. Dr. Gradis M. Eggleston Jr.

**REMARKS** ..... Ventnor T. Wright – Funeral Director

**BENEDICTION**

**RECESSIONAL**



## *Stand*

*I am a soldier in the army of my God.  
The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer.*

*The Holy Scripture is my code of conduct.  
Faith, prayer and the Word are my weapons of warfare.*

*I have been taught by the Holy Spirit,*

*Trained by experience,*

*Tried by adversity and tested by fire.*

*I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity.*

*I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or pushed out.*

*I am faithful, reliable, capable, and dependable.*

*If my God needs me, I am there. I am a soldier.*

*I will always triumph for I can do all things through Christ.*

*The devil cannot defeat me.*

*People cannot disillusion me.*

*Weather cannot weary me.*

*Sickness cannot stop me.*

*Battles cannot beat me.*

*Money cannot buy me.*

*I am a soldier in the army of my Lord.*

*Even death cannot destroy me.*

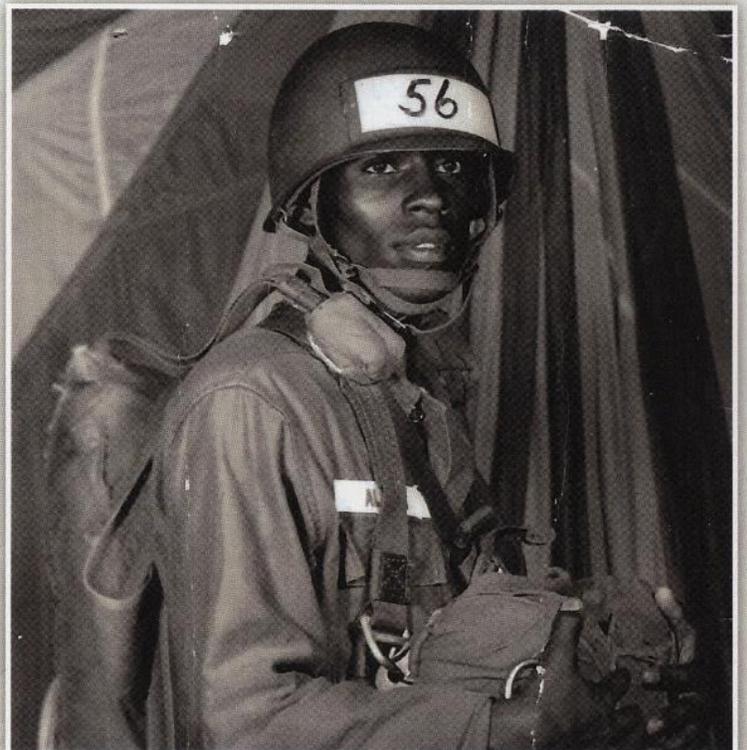
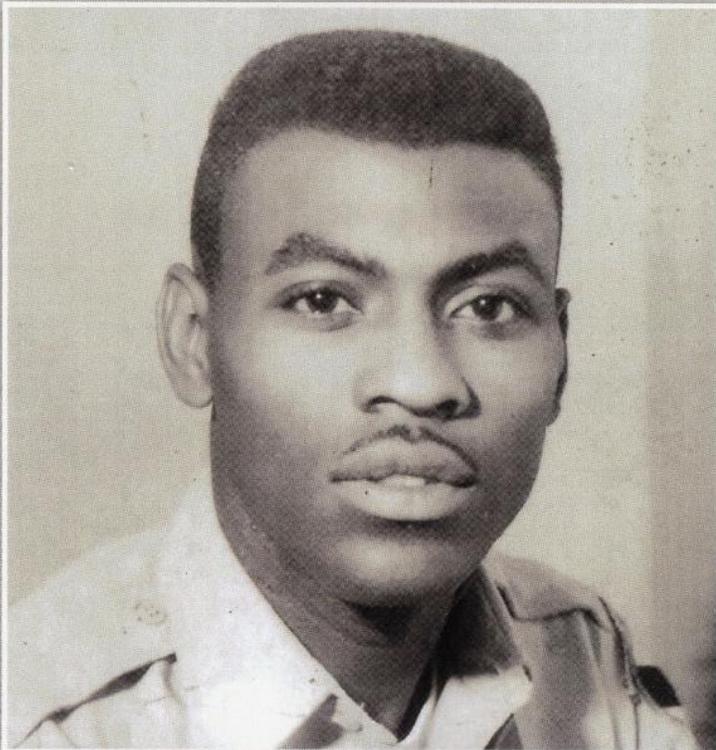
*For when my Commander calls me for His battlefield,*

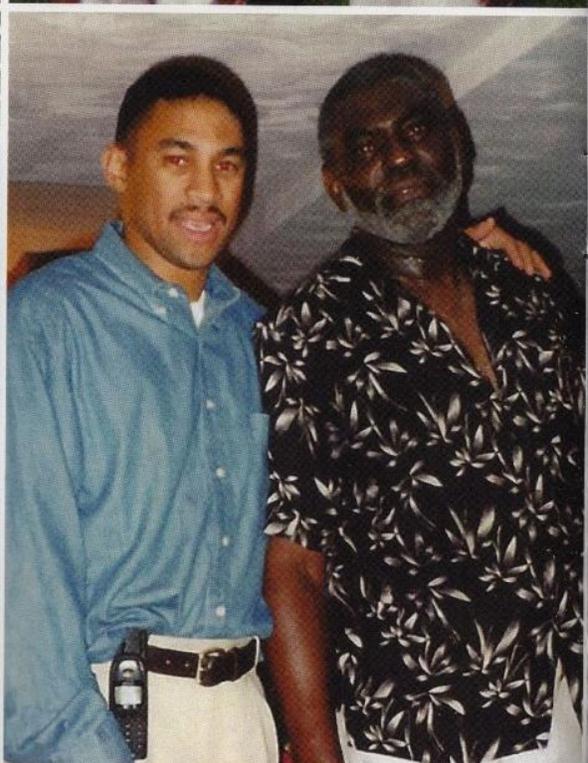
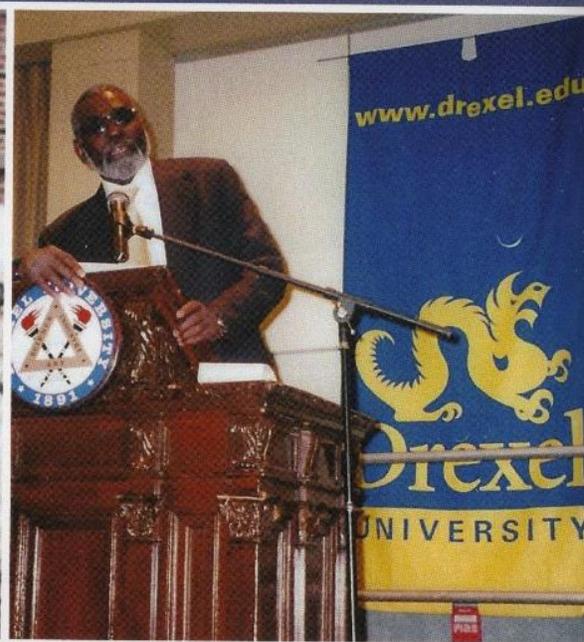
*He will promote me.*

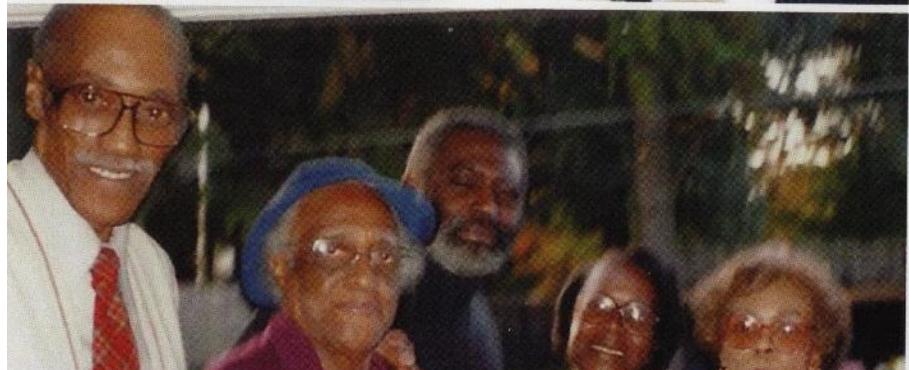
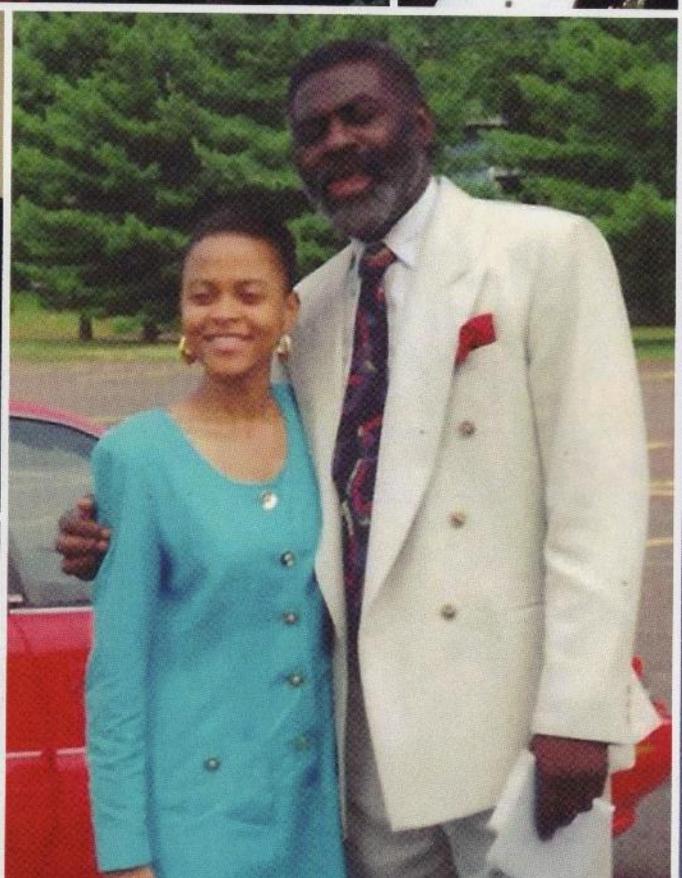
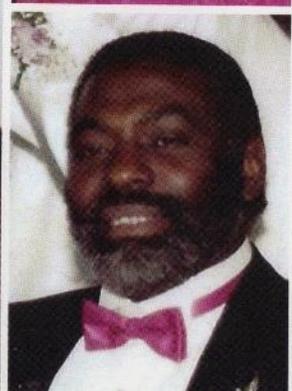
*I am a soldier in the army, and I'm marching claiming victory.*

*I will not give up.*

*I will not turn around for I am a soldier, marching heaven-bound.*









## *My Brother's Life*

*My brother's life speaks for itself.  
The accomplishments, awards and accolades tell a lot.  
There is still more about the person he was.  
He was a kind and humble man  
And a man for all seasons.  
He was a good, loving, caring and devoted son,  
A loving, caring and giving father  
And a loving, caring brother, uncle, nephew and cousin.  
He valued his friendships.  
Some words are used repeatedly  
Because that's what he was.  
My brother was an inspiration to me,  
And I am thankful for him  
And the journey we had together.  
He was also my friend.  
My dear Brother Bird, rest on and in peace.  
As you and our sister Inez would say  
When we were together and parted,  
"Love you and see you later."*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family sincerely appreciates the special kindness,  
support and caring you gave during his illness:  
Carla Dixon, Wesley Eggleston, Gerald McGibboney,  
John Robinson, and Gwendolyn Dickinson.  
We also appreciate the many acts of kindness and  
expressions extended during this time,  
and your presence today.*

*Thank you.*



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