



## Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.

February 14, 1948 - February 5, 2021

Robert Aaron Massey, Jr. was born on February 14, 1948 in High Point NC. As a child Robert was always known as a jokester and always kept his family full of laughter. There was a story where he used to sneak behind his brother Wilbur and take his ice water that he had that he purposely made before washing dishes so that once the dishes were complete, the water would be just right and ready for consumption. Robert did this on many occasions, so Wilbur decided to switch out the water for vinegar and Robert, being Robert, drank the vinegar, a chase ensued thereafter. Robert got the point and Wilbur was able to drink his ice water from that moment on in peace.

Robert attended E.E. Smith High School in Fayetteville, NC and then became a golden bull alumni in 1966. He would then attend Fayetteville State University with a major in United States History and a minor in Political Science which he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970. Robert focused much on the issues that were being faced by African Americans at this time up until the end of his life. In 1971, Robert matriculated at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. where he completed his Master of Arts degree in Secondary Education in 1972. While doing student teaching at Fayetteville State University, Robert met Barbara Jean Harris from Henderson, NC and the two would soon marry and remained as such until her death on February 25, 1993.

Robert would continue his quest for education as he did further study at NC A&T State University in Greensboro, NC, the University of North Carolina at

Greensboro, NC and North Carolina State University in Raleigh NC.

As a part of additional studies, Robert engaged in numerous projects that chronicled the setting up of campaigns and running for public office in Fayetteville, NC. The focus on these projects were elements of campaigning without winning the race, in other words how do I get the people involved? How do I get them motivated? How do I get them to know that their voices matter, whether I win or not?

As we all know, GOD has a fantastic sense of humor and on June 2, 1992, Robert was elected to serve the citizens of District #3 in the City of Fayetteville, NC. Robert served in this capacity for 24 years and even served as Mayor Pro Temp at one particular point. His accomplishments while serving as city council include: a revitalized downtown; improved drinking water in western Fayetteville; Hope VI (a revitalization project); Bronco Square Shopping Center; transit expansion; the city's official song; recycling and the Airborne & Special Operations Museum. His only regret according to Robert was "The turnout for municipal elections has always been low, often below 25%" Robert was all about getting us all out to vote, no matter what. He would get off the phone with his children this past election and after they would say I love you daddy, He'd say "I love you too, but did you vote?"

While serving on the city council, Robert also worked at Fayetteville Technical Community College as the Director of the High School Diploma program which he had daily stories about the job and the many successes that he witnessed and actually had a hand in. People have given reports to the family that he helped them in this capacity and even got them on track to further their own education outside of having a high school diploma. Robert retired from FTCC in 2002 and with the City Council in 2014.

After these retirements, Robert became more involved with his church and his family. He was an active Elder with College Heights Presbyterian Church, sang in the church choir and served on several committees for the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

Robert was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People, The Black Presbyterian Caucus, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a charter member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity of Cumberland County.

Robert was not one-dimensional at all; he was not only cheerful company when entertaining family and friends but was also a great teacher, wonderful parent that often taught us lessons without us knowing that the lesson was even being taught. He was blessed with the talent to use his energy astutely and effectively, thus achieving many things in his long life on a broad front.

Robert used his close relationships to express his life and dreams. He leaves behind his three children, Stacey Monique of Greensboro, NC, Robert Aaron, III of Fayetteville, NC and Christopher Alexander of Fayetteville, NC. Also, a grandson, Robert Aaron, IV who is currently in Laurel, Maryland who is currently age 14. He also leaves behind his siblings, Barbara Lee Massey of Pickens, South Carolina, Wilbur Alexander Massey of High Point, NC and Avys Laverne Massey also of High Point, NC. He also leaves behind a niece, Ms. Courtney Massey of Charlotte, NC as well as an abundance of cousins, additional family members and friends.

Robert Massey ,Jr. left us a rich and brilliantly lit path and example. He took hold of life and shared his journey with us all. Thank you, sir. Job well done. You will forever be loved and will forever hold a piece of our hearts.

Robert Massey, Jr. transitioned on February 5, 2021.

# Cemetery Details

## Cumberland Memorial Gardens

4509 Raeford Rd  
Fayetteville, NC 28304

# Previous Events

## Viewing

FEB 14. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel  
2010 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

## Funeral

FEB 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel  
2010 Murchison Road  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

## Livestreaming

FEB 15. 1:00 PM.

Facebook: Colvin Funeral Home and Crematory-Fayetteville & Lumberton  
<https://www.facebook.com/ColvinFuneralHomeCORP/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - February 13, 2021 at 03:41 PM

ME

“ Condolences to the family of a loss that Fayetteville will miss.RIP Mr.Massey.



Marion Breedlove Evans - April 21, 2021 at 09:40 AM

D.

“ Mr. Massey was one of the best teachers I've known! Even though I graduated in 2011 I still remember him after all of these years. Very positive, funny and smart. Sending my condolences to the family.

D.Simmons - March 07, 2021 at 10:33 AM

AC

“ Keeping all lifted in prayers.  
God is with you all



A Sister in Christ - February 25, 2021 at 03:16 PM

SS

“ *Sandra A. Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.*



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**Sandra A. Smith** - February 23, 2021 at 05:28 PM

BR

“ *I just discovered his obituary! It's beyond comprehension that he, Mr. Massey, my teacher, my employer, my friend dead. It seems that the two together Massey-dead. I suppose its good that I did not attend his funeral nor view his remains. For I only remember his passion for life and people, his people that wonderful laughter and dicussing "Manifest Destiny." (FSU-Social Institutions)*



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**Brenda Richardson** - February 19, 2021 at 12:41 PM

JH

“ *Sincere condolences to Robert Massey III and family. You carry your dad's attributes with the students of Cumberland County. May God hold you and your family during this time.*

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**June Hoffler** - February 18, 2021 at 06:27 PM

CK

“ I had the honor of singing with Mr Massey in the male choir at College Heights Presbyterian Church. Mr Massey had a sense of humor. He would always make me feel comfortable. I will never forget what he told me when I became a member of College Heights Presbyterian Church. " Young man, you are blessed in more ways that you can imagine".



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**Charles Kinslow** - February 16, 2021 at 09:27 PM

SS

“ Sandra A. Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.



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**Sandra A. Smith** - February 15, 2021 at 02:57 PM

MJ

“ I had the distinct pleasure of serving with Robert on the Fayetteville City Council for six years. He was intelligent, articulate, and unafraid to voice his opinions, no matter who was on the other side of the issue. We all knew that when Robert got wound up and started to talk fast, somebody was in trouble! His tremendous “voice of the community” will be sorely missed in Fayetteville, North Carolina. May his soul have rest, and may his family find encouragement and inspiration from the life he led to help so many.

*Marshall B. Pitts, Jr.*

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**Marshall B. Pitts, Jr.** - February 15, 2021 at 12:29 PM

JD

“ My memories go back to my Kindergarten days at College Heights Presbyterian Church. My bestie was Avys, Robert's sister. I probably spent more time at their house than anyone else's. (smile) I always looked up to him because he took care of me and Avys by trying to keep us out of trouble. FB has its benefits and we became friends again through that venue. I thank God for the Massey family and the friendship we treasured all of these years. All of you have my love and condolences. A life well-lived in service.

*Jewyl Edwards Dunn*

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**Jewyl E Dunn** - February 15, 2021 at 11:57 AM

SW

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Mr. Robert Massey Jr. during this most difficult time. I pray that Gods caring and comforting presence will be bestowed upon you and may his presence help ease the pain of your loss.  
*Sincerely*

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**Sheriff Burnis Wilkins** - February 15, 2021 at 11:11 AM

SB

“ Sarah Dixon Blue lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.



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**Sarah Dixon Blue** - February 15, 2021 at 07:28 AM

MH

“ Sorry for your loss, praying for you and your family. Mary Haigler - former 71st High School Family



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**Mary Haigler** - February 14, 2021 at 04:31 PM

RN

“ Roger And Edna McKoy, Fayetteville NC lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.



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**Roger and Edna McKoy, Fayetteville NC** - February 14, 2021 at 07:13 AM

MG

“ Praying God continues to comfort and strengthen the family.



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**Michael Gibson** - February 13, 2021 at 11:18 PM

BB

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family of Robert Massey, Jr. Words do not fully measure a person, but if there were one word to describe him it would be “True”! If he was your friend he was a true friend, to be counted on. As a representative of the city he was true! Thank you Robert for having been a part of my life in a small measure, my history class was Excellent A out that class Graduate 3.84



*Graduate student Lady Venus*

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**Brenda Brown** - February 13, 2021 at 06:06 PM

CN

“ Charnell Green and Marisa Nieves purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr..



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**Charnell Green and Marisa Nieves** - February 13, 2021 at 12:13 PM

DC

“ Dennis And Freda Cromartie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.



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**Dennis and Freda Cromartie** - February 12, 2021 at 11:36 PM

CB

“ I remember Mr. Massey from my time as a student at Fayetteville tech. He was a wonderful African history instructor. His class made me want to learn more in the subject. I eventually earned my BS concentrating in history because of him.

Christina Bonnett - February 12, 2021 at 10:41 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr..



February 12, 2021 at 10:00 PM

JS

“ Robert Aaron Massey, Jr., an Alpha Man.



Julian Stackhaus - February 12, 2021 at 02:07 PM

AV

“ Angela Vann lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.



Angela Vann - February 12, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr..*



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February 12, 2021 at 09:57 AM



“ *Sylvia Smith Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.*



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**Sylvia Smith Williams** - February 11, 2021 at 11:26 PM



“ *Angela Vann lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.*



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**Angela Vann** - February 11, 2021 at 12:20 PM



“ *LULU ROZIER lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.*



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**LULU ROZIER** - February 10, 2021 at 10:41 PM

SW

“ Thank you for your friendship and your tireless service to our beloved city. Rest in Peace!

Sylvia Smith Williams - February 10, 2021 at 08:16 PM

RJ

“ Ruby Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Aaron Massey Jr.



Ruby Jones - February 10, 2021 at 06:03 PM

PS

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family of Robert Massey, Jr. Words do not fully measure a person, but if there were one word to describe him it would be “True”! If he was your friend he was a true friend, to be counted on. As a representative of the city he was true! Thank you Robert for having been a part of my life in a small measure, and may God continue to bless his children and his siblings, Barbara, Wilbur, and Avys 🙏

Patrick Smith - February 09, 2021 at 06:13 PM

DF

“ Robert was a classmate and a friend. He will truly be missed. My prayers are with all of you. You made him proud. Keep the memories in your heart, and may they bring comfort to you as you journey on. May God comfort each of you.



Dr. Barbara C. Feemster - February 09, 2021 at 05:13 PM

AM

*My condolences to the family of Mr. Robert Massey*

**Ann Mathis** - February 09, 2021 at 06:08 PM

PM

*Robert was the patient big brother to Avys and I who always softly scolded us when we were up to our normal shenanigans during and after church. He provided a great example for us growing up and continued to represent us well during his many years of public service. His smile was always engaging and his kindness quickly forthcoming. Condolences and love to Avys and family. May the Lord give you strength and peace during these trying times. Priscilla and the Robinson Family*

**Priscilla R. Meadows** - February 10, 2021 at 10:47 AM

DK

*To my beloved ❤️ brother whom I had chance of being part of his life and his family 🥺 life for over 47 years you will be miss but you have fought a good fight you won the race now victory belongs to you my family and I will always love you and miss you give my sister Barbara a kiss for me SIH.*

**Doris Kirby** - February 10, 2021 at 12:17 PM

RJ

*My deepest condolences to the Family of Robert Massey. He was an excellent leader in our community. I worked under his leadership as an Instructor with the Adult High School Program from 1983 to the 1990's. He was a very supportive and wise man. He was an excellent boss, and became a good friend. I will always remember his kind words and joyful laughter we shared during those years. R.I.P my friend. With deepest sympathy, Ricky Jones*

**Ricky Jones** - February 10, 2021 at 08:37 PM

BW

*My deepest sympathies to Mr. Massey's children and family.*

*Over 32 years ago I met him for my interview at FTCC, which became more of a conversation between kindred spirits. After about an hour, he offered me a teaching position "on the spot" in AHS. I will always be indebted to his wisdom, guidance, and, most important, to our meaningful conversations: we both shared a deep love of US history. I am a better man for having known and worked with him. Brian Wagoner*

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**Brian Wagoner** - February 12, 2021 at 09:30 AM

LM

*My deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Robert Massey. I had the pleasure of being one of his students. I so enjoyed his class and his lessons where he taught with much zeal and excitement which caused me to be more eager to learn. He served the City of Fayetteville with distinction and was a great asset to the this community. Knowing he was a man of Faith, I take solace in knowing he is resting peacefully with our Lord and Savior. My prayers are with the family in the days to come.*

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**LaDonna Raeford McNeill** - February 13, 2021 at 03:01 PM