



## Albert Lee Whitley, Sr.

August 10, 1942 - May 11, 2023

Albert Lee Whitley, Sr., who made his mark in Portsmouth, Virginia, through his entrepreneurial spirit, his futurist thinking, and his love and kindness to all who he encountered, died on Thursday, May 11, 2023, in his beloved home. He was 81.

Born and raised in Middlesex, North Carolina, Albert was a dreamer. In childhood photos of Albert, he can be seen dragging his little wagon behind him with a glint of purpose and determination in his eyes.

Known to those who knew and loved him as “Whit,” Albert set off for college, attending Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. During his time there, Whit pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Lambda Gamma Chapter, in the fall of 1965 and was a part of the Swinging 18 line that crossed on December 11, 1965.

As the first “Omega Man” in the family, his influence inspired six more Omega Men to pledge to his family.

Shortly after graduating from Elizabeth City State University with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Arts. He would later additionally earn his Master of Arts in Education.

Albert met the love of his life, Evelyn Louise Ellis, while attending Elizabeth City State University. Evelyn once said that she fell in love with Whit because he sang beautifully.

Soon after graduation, Albert and Evelyn met and married on August 24, 1968. Two children were born into their union: Albert Lee Whitley, Jr., and Jonelle Leneé Leary. Albert and Evelyn shared a beautiful life of love, laughter, and friendship for 54 years until Evelyn's passing on February 11, 2023.

Both newly minted educators, Whit got a map, discovered the town of Portsmouth, Virginia, and secured a job at Wilson High School teaching trades skills. He also secured a teaching job for Evelyn, which launched her career in education. From that one inspired decision, Whit set out to build a community of family and friends.

As a developer, Whit found a new home community – Carson Crescent – being built around a man-made lake. He secured a small business loan, purchased the land for his home, designed that plot of land, and built that home himself with love, care, workmanship, and precision. He went on to build many of the homes currently within the Carson Crescent community and other developments throughout Portsmouth and the Tidewater area.

Albert's entrepreneurial mind led him to start and grow a plethora of successful businesses throughout his lifetime. Some of those businesses included W.W. Builders, Whitley's Bail

Bonding Agency, Med-Transit, and Country Favorites Restaurant. His business savvy and his love for teaching led him to coach, mentor and employ hundreds of young men throughout Portsmouth. Some of those young men he taught trades to at Wilson High wound up working for him at one of his

companies or becoming entrepreneurs themselves. He inspired many in his family to start and grow their own businesses.

Whit loved opening his and Evelyn's Carson Crescent home to family and friends for summer breaks, Christmas gatherings, family reunions, or spending time with loved ones.

Over the years, he never met a stranger, and he touched the lives of everyone he met.

Albert is preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Louise Ellis Whitley, and his father, Benjamin R. Whitley. His mother, Quilie Barnes, and his sisters, Delores Whitley, Mamie Lee Johnson, and Helen Whitley. He is survived by Albert, Sr. is survived by his son and daughter Albert Lee Whitley, Jr., and Jonelle Leneé Leary; his siblings Benjamin Johnnie Astor Whitley, Jr., and Jesse Whitley; five grandchildren: Antonek Tyquasia Edwards, Jordan Kalis Leary, I'lasia Margaret Cannon, Khari Isaiah Whitley, and Aji Leneé Whitley; and a host of nieces and nephews.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 18. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Service

MAY 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services Chapel  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy  
Chesapeake, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Albert Lee Whitley, Sr.



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - May 23, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Life Celebration Service



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - May 19, 2023 at 02:50 PM

DC

“ My deepest condolences go out to the Whitley family. I've always known Mr. Whitley as a kind and generous man..and later found out that he was a man of Omega, which we have in common!!! Albert & Jonelle, I'm praying that God give you the strength to carry on. I pray that God wrap you in his arms to ease the pain that you may feel.

*Rest on Big Brother Fall '65 ΛΓ*

*Your Lil Brother 9-18-TΛΛ  
FIETTS. RQQ*



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**David Clark** - May 18, 2023 at 02:55 PM

MF

“ Albert, Jr and Jonelle, I was so sorry to hear about your Dad's passing! You and your family are in my prayers! I just finished watching Whit's homegoing service and it was absolutely beautiful!!! Even though I was unable to be with you all today at his service I am certainly with you all in spirit!! If you need anything I am only a phone call away!!!! You will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers!!! Love you much!!  
Marilyn Fitts 💜🌸



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**Marilyn Fitts** - May 18, 2023 at 02:22 PM

HS

“ Helena Smith lit a candle in memory of Albert Lee Whitley, Sr.



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Helena Smith - May 18, 2023 at 02:06 PM

SR

“ Uncle Albert you will be truly missed. Although, I didn't keep in touch with you like I should had but I loved you. I always asked about you. Your journey on earth has ended but now you with your eternal Father. Sheila Ruffin, Ocean, New Jersey.

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Sheila Ruffin - May 18, 2023 at 12:11 PM

ES

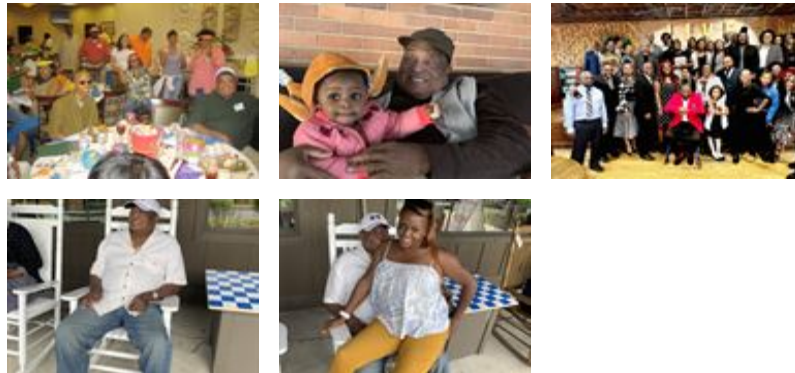
“ On behalf of the Fortson Family we extend our heartfelt sympathy. May the Lord comfort you in the time of your loss and you find comfort in knowing that others care. He would often say that we were related and called me 'cuz.' We have friends and relatives in both Wilson and Stantonsburg, NC. May the many happy memories sustain you now and in the days to come.  
Edward E. Fortson, Sr. & Family  
Former owner, Fortson's Economy Market

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Edward Earl Fortson, Sr. - May 18, 2023 at 05:03 AM



“ 29 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - May 17, 2023 at 04:42 PM



“ My condolences to the Whitley family! You're in my prayers.

Olivia G. Gilmore - May 17, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ My condolences to the family. He was my uncle's line brother. I remember his brother in law Steve wearing his Lambda Gamma 65 sweater one day in Winston-Salem NC when I had my uncle's Lambda Gamma 65 sweater on. We laughed that someone from Weldon and someone from Garysburg would be on campus of Wake Forest University with Elizabeth City State Omega sweaters on. Praying for the family and prayers from my uncle Ralph Ransom Sr. , who won't be able to attend his line brother's home going due to health obligations of dialysis Thursday morning. GOD bless you all.

Thomas Alston  
Spring 79 Lambda Eta Chapter  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated  
Wake Forest University

Thomas Alston - May 17, 2023 at 01:07 PM

AE

“*Heaven's arms are open, as they welcome yet another family member. Your time here on earth Whit has been a blessing to all who loved and adored you. That love and adoration will be forever present.*

*James Jr. & Alvin Ellis*

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**Alvin Ellis** - May 17, 2023 at 08:34 AM

AF

“*I had the pleasure of caring for Evelyn and Albert in their last days. Both taught me patience. I thank Albert and Jonelle for allowing me to take care of them both. Until we meet again. Will miss both of you.*

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**Antoinette M Franklin** - May 16, 2023 at 10:26 PM

TE

“*Industrial Arts - Elizabeth City State College - Class of 1968*



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**Tyron TAZ Eason** - May 16, 2023 at 10:12 PM



“*Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Albert Lee Whitley, Sr..*



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May 16, 2023 at 09:53 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Albert Lee Whitley, Sr..

May 16, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Albert Lee Whitley, Sr..



May 16, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ *Rest In Peace Cousin Whit! As Frat Brothers and cousins you were the first Omega Man in the family that led to 6 more Omega Men pledging in the family is a testimony to following a great example. You have rejoined your Sweetheart and I can only imagine that reunion.*

*Jonelle, Albert Jr. and all our family, may you be consoled in knowing that God needed him more and with that knowledge, everything is in order and alright.*

*Much Love,*

*David , Maxine  and David Jr.*

*FIETTS*

David Fitts - May 16, 2023 at 01:19 PM

AM

“ *Arlene Mattai lit a candle in memory of Albert Lee Whitley, Sr.*



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**Arlene Ann Mattai** - May 16, 2023 at 08:52 AM

TE

“ *Brother Albert Whitley Fall 1965 Lambda Gamma chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.  
Your name and deeds will live on in Lambda Gamma chapter history. Rest well my Big Brother.*

*Tyron TAZ Eason*

*1 Spring 1984*

*Lambda Gamma Chapter.*



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**Tyron TAZ Eason** - May 15, 2023 at 09:51 PM