



## Otis Cannon Jr.

August 21, 1950 - August 16, 2015

In a small rural community of Carrollton, Virginia, Otis Columbus Cannon, Jr. was the youngest of 3 children born to the late Otis and Nellie Cannon. Young Otis helped his parents on their farm and graduated from Westside High School in Smithfield, Virginia; where he participated in ROTC and had several roles in school plays.

After graduating from Westside High School he enrolled in Norfolk State University, and earned a B.S. degree in Psychology. He continued his education and earned an MSW in Social Work at NSU as well. He took a Social Work Class on Marriage and the Family" and that's when his life really became exciting. A young lady (Brenda), from beautiful Portsmouth, caught his eye. While attending NSU, Otis worked as a counselor at Norfolk Psychiatric Center. Brenda submitted an application for employment there, but instead of being interviewed and hired by Otis, he called and asked her out on a date. Eighteen months later, they were married on October 14, 1978 at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, with an elegant candlelight wedding. All were in awe, when he walked down the aisle to the song "Inseparable". Yes, inseparable was what they were for 37 years. Otis often bragged that he upgraded Brenda from a rabbit jacket to a mink coat. (smile)

Otis later became an EAP Coordinator with Maryview Bon Secours; counseling clients, providing guidance and training to various companies in

the community- this he absolutely loved! And, as an Adjunct Professor at NSU, he was known for his, "tell it like it is" style of communicating. He loved teaching! Both afforded him the opportunity to look good every day.

In 1985, he became the proud dad of a baby girl, Lauren. He worked evenings when Lauren was a baby and the two of them spent days together going to the beach, shopping, doing arts and crafts and neglecting to do anything on his honey do list. Their bond was very strong. Otis was the best cheerleading dad, pageant dad, math tutor, cab driver and seamstress. He gracefully accepted the role of surrogate father to his niece, Jessica and bravely taught her to drive as well as coached her through college.

Otis was an extraordinary caregiver. He cared for his father, Otis Cannon, Sr. and his mother-in-law, Mary A. Williams.

He was preceded in death by his three siblings, Gloria, Ernestine and Nathaniel Cannon.

He will be truly missed by his wife, daughter, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives, colleagues, students, friends, his granddog "Bayla", neighbors and church members - T.J Maxx and Home Depot will greatly miss him too.

The image of him cruising in his convertible around town, looking oh-so-good, every hair in place, with the style of an impeccably-dressed gentlemen, loving husband, gentle dad, faithful Christian, awesome cook, entertainer, horticulturist, interior decorator and the creator of Christmas magic for us were just a few things that assisted Otis C. Cannon in living a life "well lived".

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 20.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 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

**AUG 21.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Grove Church  
5910 West Norfolk Road  
Portsmouth, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - August 20, 2015 at 04:19 PM

LH

*Thinking of you Brenda Cannon and family. My thoughts are with you today, when 65 years ago Mr. Cannon was brought into this world and today is a celebration of his legacy. God bless and may you find comfort in your heart through our Lord's strength.*

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**Laurie Huresky** - August 21, 2015 at 08:10 AM

VG

*What a lovely tribute! It fully expresses beautiful, gifted, princely Otis Cannon. The world is a poorer place without his presence but a richer place with his memory. The court will lack his Christmas beauty but we remember him with great affection and respect. He brought dignity to all that he did. Vicki Gicz*

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**Vicki Gicz** - November 16, 2015 at 04:47 PM

FW

*That was really a wonderful tribute to Otis.*

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**Floyd Williams** - August 16, 2016 at 08:58 AM

LW

*Beautiful tribute to Otis.*

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**LaRonda White** - August 15, 2017 at 06:31 PM



Tina Harmon

*Beautiful Tribute to Otis!!*

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**Tina Harmon** - August 15, 2017 at 07:50 PM

KC

“ Hello Brenda I am so sorry for your lost. GOD is in control and we are still family of the OLD MT CALVARY I love you so much and may GOD continue to BLESS YOU AND THE GIRLS  
*Kathleen Gambrell*

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**Kathleen Gambrell Copeland** - August 31, 2015 at 12:20 AM

DN

“ I had the privilege of taking 2 classes with Professor Cannon. I loved his style of teaching and his awesome personality! I learned a lot from him to prepare me for the Social Work World! I looked forward to seeing him in class every week to see what stylish outfit he would have on. He was a smooth man :o)! NSU's Social Work dept. will truly miss him. My condolences and prayers are with family.

*Desiree' Nazareth*

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**Desiree Nazareth** - August 27, 2015 at 06:49 AM

JO

“ Dear Brenda,

*How sad to read that Otis had passed away. I'm so glad I was able to attend the Visitation and to let you know in person how much you will be in my thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks and months. I've known you for many years and I'm confident you will slowly adapt to this new reality in your life. These are very challenging times but you're a strong lady who will "get through" what is ahead. If I can do anything at all for you, please don't hesitate to get in touch (539-6175).*

*With sincere sympathy,*

*Jim Oliver*

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**James Oliver** - August 22, 2015 at 09:59 AM

NW

“ *I just had Mr. Cannon as a professor over the summer for a class and it saddens me to hear of this devastating news. He was very professional and filled with knowledge. I truly learned a lot from him. I pray for strength and peace for his family as they go through this difficult time. RIP Professor Cannon!*

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**Natasha Whidbee** - August 21, 2015 at 11:37 AM

OW

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Cannon family. May the love that Otis gave to you and the caring he shared with the entire community comfort you at this time. You are in our hearts and prayers. Otha & Bertha Wright*

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**Otha & Bertha Wright** - August 20, 2015 at 08:11 PM

TB

“ *Tonya Blow lit a candle in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.*



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**tonya Blow** - August 20, 2015 at 05:24 PM

TP

“ *Mr. Cannon was my Introduction to Social Work. He was a wonderful professor. He taught me the importance of being a Social Worker. RIH Mr. Cannon you will always be remembered. NSU*

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**Tinya Prayer** - August 20, 2015 at 04:11 PM

LB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Cannon's Wife and Family. May the Lord comfort, strengthen and keep you. Sincerely, Ronnie Ratliff and Staff of Holiday House of Portsmouth*

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**Linda Bartlett** - August 20, 2015 at 02:13 PM

FC

“ *Brenda, My deepest sympathy for your loss. I pray you and your family feel the love of God and are comforted by those around you.*

*Florence cooke*

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**florence cooke** - August 20, 2015 at 01:13 PM

DJ

“ *He was loved. He helped us all. He will missed by many.*

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**Donna Jones-elliott** - August 20, 2015 at 12:21 PM

LW

“ *Mr.Cannon was my Introduction to Social Work Professor. I was looking forward to take another SW class that he was teaching. I am sadden by this news and will truly miss him.*

**Lieshia Williams** - August 20, 2015 at 11:26 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to Professor Cannon's family. I will miss Professor Cannon because he was truly an angle and care about his students well-being in the classroom and also outside the classroom. Love you, Melissa Haley Reid*



**Melissa Reid** - August 20, 2015 at 10:36 AM

RT

“ *Dr. Cannon was a kind , professional person who pushed us to think rationally. I enjoyed being his student over the past three summers. I will miss his mentoring. My condolences on the lost of such a wonderful person.*

**Rhonda Tucker** - August 20, 2015 at 08:49 AM

CH

“ *Professor Cannon you were the first professor I had to priviledge of gaining knowledge in the Intro of Social work profession. You had a humurous personality in class and a great impact on my decision to pursue this noble profession. RIP professor Cannon*

**Charmein Harris** - August 20, 2015 at 08:44 AM

FW

“ Sending condolences to your family, Brenda. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I will keep you and your family in my prayers. Take care. *Fay Ward - DHS, Virginia Beach*

**Fay Ward** - August 20, 2015 at 08:11 AM

JS

“ *Mr. Cannon was not only a great teacher but also a great person. He taught me how to know myself and to be a better person. My prayers go out to his beautiful family and friends.*



**Jasmine S** - August 19, 2015 at 11:12 PM

DF

“ *Professor Cannon was a devoted and caring person to those who knew him. He loved NSU and believed in the seriousness of the social work profession. May he rest eternally in the bosom of our Lord and Savior.*

**Dr. Colita Fairfax** - August 19, 2015 at 10:11 PM



Christina Copeland

“ *R.I.P Otis.*



**Christina Copeland** - August 19, 2015 at 09:30 PM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and loved ones. Mr. Cannon was my professor at NSU. He was a wonderful professor. I truly enjoyed his sessions at NSU because our class spoke of real issues. May God wrap His loving arms around all of you, during this difficult time. Rest Peacefully Professor Cannon & I thank you for providing me with great knowledge and moral support.



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**SELENA HINES** - August 19, 2015 at 08:00 PM



“ Justin Copeland lit a candle in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.



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**Justin Copeland** - August 19, 2015 at 06:29 PM

EO

“ I am deeply sadden by the death of Mr. Cannon. Such a wonderful person and teacher. He will be truly missed. prior social work student.  
Elsie O'Bryant

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**Elsie O'Bryant** - August 19, 2015 at 06:07 PM

EO

“ Elsie O'Bryant lit a candle in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.



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**Elsie O'Bryant** - August 19, 2015 at 06:01 PM

LC

“ *Mr.Cannon was my professor at NSU for two semesters. Notice I said two , I just couldn't stay away he had a spirit that would light up a room and made memories within the classroom setting that you will never forget. Tomorrow is never promise but I'm thankful for the time that I had with him as a professor, he uplifted me to be the best student that I can with his helpful guidance . To the family I pray that you all get the comfort that you need during this time. He was a great man ! You will be missed Mr. Cannon #BEHOLD*

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**Latisha Cunningham** - August 19, 2015 at 05:59 PM

CH

*Well said*

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**Charmein Harris** - August 20, 2015 at 08:46 AM

LA

*I had the privilege to have Mr. Cannon as one of my professors at Norfolk State. Also, had the privilege to have Mrs. Cannon as a professor and work with her during my internship. Grateful to have meet and learned from such an awesome man! Behold the GREEN & GOLD!!!*

*Latricia Chavis*

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**Latricia** - August 20, 2015 at 04:30 PM



“ 58 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - August 19, 2015 at 03:08 PM



“ Sandra Binns Whitaker lit a candle in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.



Sandra Binns Whitaker - August 19, 2015 at 02:49 PM



“ My prayers go to the family of Mr. Otis Cannon. He was my professor at Norfolk State University and he will truly be missed. He brought laughter and comfort to the classroom every meeting. He made our challenging educational journey a little lighter to bare and I really appreciated that. May God continue to touch and comfort you all during this time of loss.



Wendy Whittaker - August 19, 2015 at 02:07 PM

CW

“ We were saddened to hear of the passing of your beloved Otis. Brenda and Lauren, you are in our prayers and have our sympathy. If we can do anything to help you or ease your pain, please let us now.  
*Junius and Costella Williams*



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**Costella B. Williams** - August 19, 2015 at 01:51 PM

GG

“ Extending prayers of comfort and strength to Brenda, Lauren, Jessica and family!



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**Gloria Govan** - August 19, 2015 at 11:43 AM

DG

“ Diann Gray lit a candle in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.



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**Diann Gray** - August 19, 2015 at 09:07 AM

BN

“ Brenda Newberry lit a candle in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.



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**Brenda Newberry** - August 19, 2015 at 08:29 AM

RS

“ *Ramona Silver lit a candle in memory of Otis Cannon Jr.*



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**Ramona Silver** - August 19, 2015 at 07:25 AM

FC

*Please know that you are in my prayers. You and Mr. Otis have always been a special couple to me. You have shown many of us what a marriage is truly made of when God is first. I love you both. Felicia Coker*

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**Felicia Coker** - August 19, 2015 at 09:41 AM

MR

*My deepest prayers goes out to Professor Cannon and his family. In addition, Professor Cannon was a great teacher and his always spoke on morals and values as a social work professional. He was funny, smart, and love to make his students feel comfortable in his classroom. I will miss Mr. Otis Cannon Jr. and my professor Mr. Cannon. Lastly, I can hear him say in our classroom, when it was time to turn-in assignments, "I will know if I have check your work at the end of the semester because you all that have turn-in work on time I will know because it will have my signature OC" Love you, Melissa Haley Reid.*

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**Melissa Haley Reid** - August 20, 2015 at 10:29 AM



*I just found out, and I am truly sorry for your loss. Professor Cannon was among my favorite professors, along with Mrs. Cannon. My earnest prayers are with Mrs. Cannon and the entire family and may Jesus Christ comfort you all.*

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**Kandis Barrow** - August 20, 2015 at 03:33 PM

BJ

*We were saddened to hear that Otis had passed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family for comfort and courage during this difficult time.*

*Bill and Barbara Jackson*

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**Barbara Jackson** - August 21, 2015 at 09:55 PM