Dr. William Edward Spriggs

April 8, 1955 - June 6, 2023

SPRIGGS, Dr. William Edward - Age 68, passed away Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in Grant Falls, VA. Family hour 10:00 AM Saturday, June 17, 2023, from Bethel United Methodist Church, 1309 N Ballenger Hwy, Flint, MI 48504. with funeral service commencing at 11:00 am. Interment, Sunset Hills Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00 AM Saturday, June 17, 2023. Dr. Spriggs will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Friday, June 16, 2023. William Edward Spriggs “Bill” was born in Washington, D.C. on April 8, 1955. He was the son of Dr. Thurman E. Spriggs and Julienne (Henderson) Spriggs. Bill’s father was a Tuskegee Airman who later became a physics professor who taught at Howard University and Norfolk State University. Bill’s mother was a schoolteacher. He met Jennifer Dover at the University of Wisconsin where they were both graduate students. They married in 1985 and have one son, William Thurman.
Bill graduated in 1977 from Williams College in Massachusetts with a Bachelor Degree in Economics and Political Science. In 1984, he received a PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin. Bill was a Professor of Economics at Howard University and served as the Chair of Howard’s Economics Department for many years. Since 2012, He has also served as the Chief Economist for the AFL-CIO. In 2009, Bill was nominated by President Barak Obama to become Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor. He has also worked at the Economic Policy

Institute and served as the Executive Director of the National Urban League's Institute for Opportunity and Equality. Bill was a Senior Adviser to the Office of Government Contracting and Minority Business Development at the U.S. Small Business Administration and served as Senior Adviser and Economist to the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Joint Economic Committee for the U.S. Congress. Bill also served as the Director of the National Commission for Employment Policy. He began his teaching career as an Assistant Professor at North Carolina A & T State University and he also taught at Norfolk State University. Bill was committed to employing his talents at historically Black institutions. As noted by the New York Times, a topic that Bill "came back to most frequently, and spoke most passionately about, was that of racial disparities in the labor market." He fought tirelessly for racial and economic justice.

Over the years, Bill received many awards including the Robert M. Ball Award by the National Academy of Social Insurance, the Benjamin L. Hooks "Keeper of the Flame" Award by the NAACP, the Bicentennial Award from Williams College, the Chairman's Award by the Congressional Black Caucus, and he received a National Economics Association Dissertation Award.

In his free time, Bill loved to cook, travel, and listen to old-time radio shows. Bill was a skilled genealogist and was proud of the family trees he was able to prepare. He was pleased that through genealogy, he (and his mother's family), were able to reconnect with long lost relatives from Madagascar (the country of his maternal grandfather's birth).

Bill leaves to cherish his memory: wife, Jennifer Dover Spriggs; son, William Thurman Spriggs of Great Falls, Virginia; 2 sisters, Patricia Spriggs of Southfield, Michigan and Karen (Michael) Baldwin of Angleton, Texas; mother-in-law, Dorothy Flippen; brother-in-law, Donald (May) Dover of Flint, Michigan; sister-in-law, Lillie Dover of Grand Blanc, Michigan; 2 nephews, Elliott (Marian) Dover of Prosper, Texas and Joseph L. Baldwin of Angleton, Texas; 3 nieces, Angela (Anthony) Nunn of Sterling Heights, Michigan, Taryn (Jimmie) Dover-Kaufmann of Frazier, Michigan and Rosezetta P. Baldwin of Houston,

Texas; a host of cousins, other relatives, and friends.
Bill was preceded in death by his father, Thurman E. Spriggs; mother, Julienne (Henderson) Spriggs; grandparents, William E. Spriggs and Ruth (Maxfield) Spriggs, Joseph P. Henderson and Clara (Hendricks) Henderson; aunts and uncles, Henry W. Spriggs, Garland M. Spriggs, Ruth E. Turner, Lacey D. Spriggs, Edith L. Roberson, Joseph Henderson Jr, Helen H. McMurray, Nero Henderson, Felicia Henderson, Clara H. Andrews and Ivana H. Terry; fathers-in law, James T. Dover, Jr. and William S. Flippen; brother-in-law, James T. Dover III; and nephew, Donald Halford Dover.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hills Cemetery

G-4413 Flushing Rd.
Flint, MI 48504

Previous Events

Public Visitation

JUN **16**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com

Family hour

JUN **17**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church
1309 N. Ballenger Hwy.
Flint, MI

Funeral Service

JUN **17**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church
1309 N. Ballenger Hwy.
Flint, MI

Tribute Wall

Dr. William Edward Spriggs

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM

CO

Chris ONeill lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Edward Spriggs

Chris ONeill - July 04, 2023 at 02:29 PM

JW

I will miss Bill's inspiring and warm presence dearly.

As is the case for so many young (and not-so-young!) economists, Bill served as an inspiration and mentor to me. The sheer number of us who count him as an important mentor speaks volumes about how generously Bill offered support to the next generation of economists. For reasons I could never make sense of, whenever Bill and I crossed paths, he made a point to talk with me, at length, about what I was working on, what he was working on, and anything in between. It is especially because of Bill that I have felt like I belonged in this usually-alienating field of economics.

My heart goes out to his family and to all who were lucky enough to know him.

Jeannette Wicks-Lim

Jeannette Wicks-Lim - July 04, 2023 at 11:00 AM

DB

I had the pleasure of working as Dr. Sprigg's assistant at the Department of Labor for three years. I appreciate all of the wisdom that he shared with me and loved his kind, gentle spirit. He was one of the kindest men that I had the pleasure of working with. You will be missed. Sending prayers to Jennifer and Will. May God comfort you during your time of loss. God Bless, Djuna Brizzi

Djuna Brizzi - June 23, 2023 at 09:44 AM

MH

I met Bill at the University of Wisconsin as we both were a part of the newly formed African American Student Association. We worked closely on making demands of the University to increase its percent of Black students. We insisted that they respond to our demands at a face to face meeting. If they didn't, then we walk out. When they didn't respond, we walked out. Bill did not back down. That's the one thing that stood out about my brother Bill.

We reconnected in DC and were both active with the DC Economic Club for several years. May he rest in power!

Marc Humphries

Marc Humphries - June 20, 2023 at 01:21 PM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. William Edward Spriggs.

June 15, 2023 at 09:24 PM

MR

Michelle Turner Robinson lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Edward Spriggs

Michelle Turner Robinson - June 15, 2023 at 12:58 PM

AM

Dr. Spriggs, we will cherish the knowledge, time and friendship we shared. I pray for peace and comfort for Jennifer, Little Will and the rest of your family. Rest In Paradise

Andre, Carla, Winfrey McManus - June 15, 2023 at 12:53 PM

Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. William Edward Spriggs.

June 15, 2023 at 10:45 AM

Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. William Edward Spriggs.

June 14, 2023 at 09:38 AM

SN

Sharon Combs-His D.C. childhood neighbor purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. William Edward Spriggs.

Sharon Combs-His D.C. childhood neighbor - June 13, 2023 at 03:11 PM

A Memorial Tree was planted in honor of Mr. William Edward Spriggs.

June 13, 2023 at 09:59 AM

Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. William Edward Spriggs.

June 12, 2023 at 01:26 PM

A Memorial Tree was planted in honor of Mr. William Edward Spriggs.

June 12, 2023 at 12:36 PM

Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. William Edward Spriggs.

June 12, 2023 at 12:36 PM

SH

I didn't know Dr. Spriggs had a Flint connection. Thank you Dr. Spriggs for all your work as a world renowned economist and professor and more. My deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, students.

Shani Harris - June 11, 2023 at 12:22 PM

BB

Belinda Bulaker lit a candle in memory of William Spriggs

Belinda Bulaker - June 11, 2023 at 12:10 AM

LM

Thank you Mr. Spriggs for fighting with all of your might to help ALL African Americans!!

Lori McBrayer - June 10, 2023 at 05:42 PM

PR

To the Spriggs Family:

I was sorry to hear about the passing of your loved one. Death is liken to a thief that comes and takes away our love ones. Or due to old age and sickness we lose that precious quality of life that leads to death.

However, have you ever asked: Is death the end of it all? Or is there something else after death? The bible clears up any question we may have about death. It also shows that there is a real hope for persons who have faith.

Yours truly,
Patricia

Patricia A Rison - June 10, 2023 at 11:00 AM

NB

Neysa Burns lit a candle in memory of William Spriggs

Neysa Burns - June 10, 2023 at 05:20 AM

RK

Russell & Diane Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Edward Spriggs

Russell & Diane Kirksey - June 09, 2023 at 04:54 PM