



James Bernard Brown

August 4, 1939 - June 14, 2021

A Life Well Played

A life Well Played James or Jim Bernard Brown had many names. His Grandmother (Granny), Mother, Aunts Josephine & Bernice and Sisters would all call him "BB". Jim or BB was born in Chicago's Illinois (Westside). Jim was the second of 4 children. Jim was the only male in the home after his father leaving the family at an early age. Jim had the love and protection of his maternal grandmother, his mother, his aunt, Bernice, and his sisters. Jim attended Crane Tech High school a vocational high school in West Chicago. Jim was a stand-out athlete while attending Crane Tech. He was an All-City decorated player in basketball. His ability to jump out of the gym allowed him to play the center position at 6'2". Jim's nickname was "Pea Head" because he jumped so high his head looked like a little "Pea" while in the air his friends would observe. He also played football and participated in track n field. Chicago was, and still is, a very harsh and dangerous place to live. Through the love and guidance of his family and mentors, Jim was able to make the momentous decision to accept an athletic scholarship to Santa Barbara Jr. College in California. It would be Jim's first time to California or really leaving the State of Illinois for that matter. He knew no one and set off on the journey that would shape so many lives. It was a culture shock for a young African American male from the inner city of Chicago. The bright sunshine, Pacific Ocean, and palm trees were all but enough to convince Jim he would never

go back to Chicago to live. His new home would be California.

After completing Santa Barbara Jr College Jim was offered an athletic scholarship to San Francisco State University. It was at this time Jim pledged to the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. Jim was a physical education major (Kinesiology) student. Jim participated in track n' field as well as basketball and football while at S.F. State. Jim's ability to Jump allowed him to set a record of 6'11" at S.F. State breaking Johnny Mathisis's previous Record. This record stood for quite some time and was broken in the late 80's some 20 years later. Jim was also a member of the AAU and participated in many events. Track and Field gave him the opportunity to travel to West Africa. This trip changed Jim's life. It gave him a true view of the power and beauty of his African ancestry. During this time Jim was befriended by many African Americans in the world of sports and entertainment. Ralph McDonald, Harry Belefonte, Nancy Wilson, Willie Hector where some of the people Jim met on his life journey.

While attending San Francisco State Jim met and married his first only wife Joyce Loggins. They soon had 3 children, Pam, Roger, and Alecia. Jim graduated from San Francisco State University in 1966 with a degree in physical education. Jim's first job was for the Job Core in Pleasanton California teaching. While working a Job Core Jim and Joyce moved their family to Milpitas CA. In the late 60's. While working at Job Core Jim learned to ride horses. This fascination with the cowboy life style and horses never left Jim. Cowboys and horses was something Jim never dreamed of while growing up in Chicago. He would later revisit this lifestyle after his retirement. While in Milpitas Jim continued to keep in contact with many of his AAU track and field contemporaries at San Jose State like Tommy Smith, Bob Pointer, Lee Evans, John Carlos and Ph.D. Harry Edwards. The sense of community always seems to be an important part of Jim's life. After Jim's stint at Job Core Jim landed his first official coaching job as an assistant coach at Castlemont High school in Oakland CA. Castlemont High School was and is an awesome school with high-caliber students and athletes. The coaching staff taught Jim

many valuable lessons. Coach Flowers and Coach Dave Shigamatsu taught Jim many of the finer points of coaching high school athletics. Many top athletes came out of the Castlemont program names like Brady Allen (Cal Basketball), Milton Turner (Record Holder).

After His several years coaching at Castlemont Jim had the opportunity to be the head coach at Oakland Technical High School. Jim when on to coach track n field, football and teach in the classroom. He later became an athletic director as well as a coach and teacher. Oakland Tech was full of hard-working students and athletes. Basketball became a focal point for the school as they produced many high-level high school division 1 talent. Names like Wolf Perry, Ricky Henderson (Baseball), Northern "Doc" Shavers, Ricky Hill, Wayne McCally, Robert Martin, Byron Williams, Leon Powe, and so many others. Oakland Tech won the prestigious Tournament Of Champions Basketball Tournament in 1974. This was high water make for the team, the school, and the community.

Jim decided to further his education and attended the University of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. While attending Cal Poly Jim obtained his master's degree in education. This degree would allow him to further his career and teach as well as coach at the college level. Jim became an assistant coach to Eddie Hart at Alameda Junior College. Jim coached both men's and women's track n field. Jim would go on to teach at Laney College in Oakland as well. All during this time Jim would spend time on the Panhellenic Council and serve in the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. He and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity would host an annual Christmas Toy Drive at DeFremery Park community in Oakland. Jim was always keen to lend a helping hand to his fellow neighbors and community. Jim kept right on working even after his retirement from Oakland Unified Public Schools. In his retirement, he would substitute teach and mentor at juvenile hall. He always mentors the youth in Jenvinule during the summers while the public school system was out on summer break.

Jim loved to travel and stay active. His many hobbies included cars, music,

dancing, horses, golf. This is but a brief glimpse into a remarkable life. A life he could have not imagined as a young African American youth growing up in West Chicago. He left his mark on all those who knew and loved him. You will be missed but never forgotten as your spirit lives on in all those you've touched.

Preceded in death grandma, Alice Watkins, mother, Emma Jean Brown, aunt Bernice, aunt Josephine and aunt Katie May, and sisters, JoAnn, Louis, and Ann Sylvia.

And he leaves behind, Pam, Roger, Alecia, and Tonya, nephew, Anthony Jenkins, grandchildren, Jihane and Jamel Rose Sr., wife, Mary, and great grandchildren, Jamel, Jr. and Jru.

Thank You & I Love You, Dad
Your Son Roger Brown

Previous Events

Kappa Alpha Psi Service

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center
1331 San Pablo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 525-1331
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomelegacycenter.com>

Service

JUL **2**. 10:30 AM (PT)

All Saints Church
22824 2nd St
Hayward, CA 94541

Tribute Wall

IM

“ My condolences to the family! All of this time I never knew Coach Brown was from Chicago! I came to California from Chicago in 1969 and I played for Coach Brown in 1972! He will be missed! May his soul rest in peace!

Imani Martin - July 07, 2021 at 01:56 AM

HT

“ My heart is heavy for Jim and family,I Hodari Mcgavock was his assistant coach at Tech, I learned so much from him He will forever be apart of my life.God bless the family

Hodar Mcgavock Jims assistant coach at T - July 06, 2021 at 05:03 PM

GS

“ I send my sincere, heartfelt condolences to Coach Brown's family and friends. I did not play on Coach Brown's basketball teams during my 3 years at Oakland Tech High School; however, I was Coach Brown's official basketball score keeper during the 1971, 1972, and 1973 school years. I got to know Coach Brown well at Tech and played a lot of full-court basketball with him and other P.E. teachers in the gym instead of eating lunch. May he continue to rest in paradise. My name is Gerald Smith, Oakland Tech, Class of 1973.

Gerald Smith - July 03, 2021 at 03:58 PM

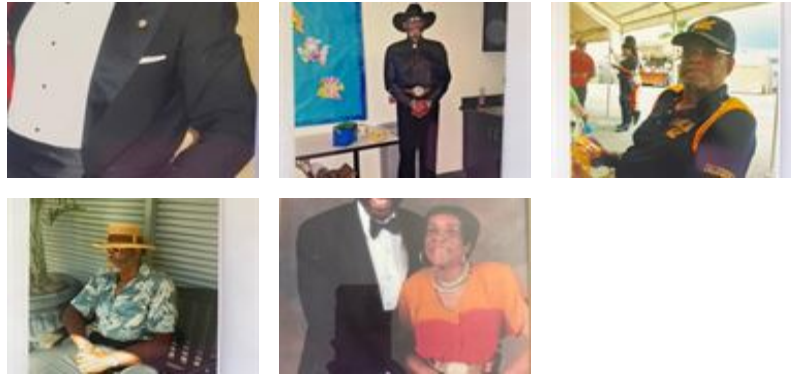
JD

“ I want to send condolences to the Brown family and say that coach Brown was my coach in the early 70s and as a youngster from Los Angeles, he welcomed me to the team and I blossomed into an awesome basketball player and his lessons will stay with me forever, RIP Coach , my name is James Day

James Day - July 03, 2021 at 03:09 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harris Funeral Home - June 25, 2021 at 01:46 PM