

# Obituaries

## Departed Was Honored in His Community

### Nathan Nickerson, 1921 - 2007

Funeral services were held March 3, 2007 at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church in Portland for Nathan Welcom Nickerson, who died Feb. 25 at age 85.

Nickerson was born to Ezekiel Watson Nickerson and Isabel Lankford Nickerson in Denver, Colorado on May 25, 1921.

He graduated from Bishop College in Marshall, Texas with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

Nickerson married Myrtle Louise Johnson in 1944. He then taught chemistry and coached basketball in Ruston, La. The two moved to Portland in 1946. To this union, five children were born.

During his career Nickerson had many jobs, including recreation director at the Knott Street Community Center for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, deputy director and interim director for the Urban League

and executive director of the Center for Community Mental Health.

The "Nathan Nickerson Treatment Center" in North Portland was named in his honor, as well as many other awards received for his community service.

His passion was tennis, tennis and tennis, which he competed in



Nathan Nickerson

into his sixties. He also enjoyed reading, public speaking and card playing.

Nickerson loved mentoring young people, and as an employment specialist, he helped many people secure success through good jobs.

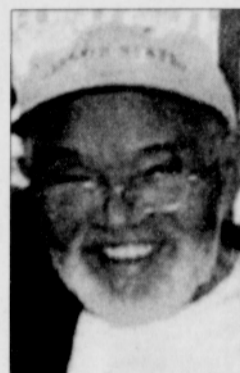
Arrangements are entrusted by Cox & Cox Funeral Home.

## He Lived Life to the Fullest

### Larn D. Mathis 1912 - 2007

Larn D. Mathis was the only son of four children, born Aug. 2, 1912. On March 7, 2007 he departed this life.

Mathis was born to Delbert and Georgia Mae Mathis in Gonzales, Texas. Two sisters preceded him in death, Parthina Green and Clarence Mae McIver. He was a member of the Community Church and received his education in the community schools in



Portland, Ore. by Southern Pacific Railroad. That is where he made his home. He had many friends and church family members and was also a Deacon at his church. He

loved to travel and would visit his mom in Gonzales, relatives in San Antonio, his sisters in Cleveland, Ohio and his nieces and nephews often in California.

Mathis loved life and he pursued it to the fullest. He leaves to cherish his memory one sister, Annie Mae Byrd of

Cleveland, Ohio; two children, Cheryl Sylla and Fredrick Mathis of Portland; seven grandchildren, Darryl Frison, Lillian (Shawnice) Thirdgill, Duray Thirdgill, Ya Sylla and Karesha Cummings; seven great grandchildren, Vaughn, Delaun, Malik, Tamaia, Nevaeh, Silina and Tiarra; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and loved ones.



## Friend, Teacher, Colleague Remembered

### Clynton A. Fox

Clynton A. Fox was born July 11, 1932 in Harper, Kan., the third child of Ira O. and Mary Fox. He died March 9, 2007 at Adventist Medical Center in Portland after suffering an intra cerebral hemorrhage. He was 74.

Mr. Fox was educated in Harper until after his freshman year of high school when his family moved to

Canby. He graduated from Canby Union High School in 1950, serving as class valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society. He was also active in school plays, the Photography Club and played trombone in band.

He graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Portland in 1955 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany. He returned to Lewis & Clark after completing his military service, earning a Masters of Education degree in 1963. He obtained a Masters of Library Sciences degree in 1971 from the Uni-

versity of Portland.

He was an elementary school teacher in Washington and Oregon for many years, retiring from the David Douglas School District in Portland in 1990. After retirement he worked at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham where he taught GED classes until 1998.

Clynt was a great friend, teacher and colleague. He bonded with people of all ages and walks of life, especially children. He was very supportive and helped many people lead productive lives.

He loved to visit the library, read biographies and had a keen interest

in the lives and backgrounds of the people he met. His outgoing personality was infectious. Many of his closest acquaintances credit him for turning their lives around with his positive influence.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Carroll. Survivors include his sister, Catherine S. Bean of Clackamas, Ore.; three nephews, Gayland Brown of Gladstone, Ore., and Morris Brown and Ron Brown of Baytown, Texas; two nieces, Carolyn Haun of Magnolia, Texas and Janice Green of Portland; several other family members and many friends.

## A Mother Who Lived Simply and Graciously

### Jessie B. Davis, 1923 - 2001

Jessie B. Davis was born to Carrie and Ben Hendricks in Phlugerville, Texas on Oct. 18, 1923. She grew up in Austin, Texas with her family of seven boys and three girls. In 1945 she married Elmer L. Davis and they had two children, Audrey and Lee. The family migrated west to Portland, Ore., where they settled permanently in the Pacific Northwest, where along came two more children, Chris and Linda. Jessie was devoted to homemaking. Early on, the Davises became friends of the founders of Berean Baptist Church. They became members of Berean, and Jessie



remained a faithful member for most of her adult life.

Anyone who spent time around Jessie discovered that she had a giving spirit. Visitors always left bearing a gift, a plant she cultivated with her green thumb, a painting she painted, or an article of clothing she had made. This was her gift from God, and his supply is never-ending.

Jessie didn't get bogged down in controversy or politics, but rather lived her life with a simplicity that had a wonderful degree of purity. She would not get sidetracked, rather she stayed with what was important: family and especially her

children. Her focus on family was amazing. She wrote her own autobiography, and produced a pictorial genealogy with her niece Bobbie Campbell, that traces her family line all the way back to Ann Townsend, her great-great grandmother who was born a slave. Jessie was the glue that held her family together.

Jessie's career was dedicated to children. She served in the Portland Public Schools for many years. She wrote and published a book that was used in the school system and in the area to acquaint people with various interesting attractions in and around Portland.

You couldn't leave Jessie's house or attend a potluck she was a part of without enjoying a piece of

her buttermilk pie, a creamy lemon pie or her tasty southern fried chicken.

She was truly a blessing to those who knew here and she will be greatly missed.

## Departed Led Through Love and Movement

### Theodore G. Warren, 1946 - 2007

Theodore Gerode Warren was born June 21, 1946 to Leon "Snooks" James Holiday and Bonnie Holiday. Born in Portland, Ore. Teddy attended Highland Elementary School and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1964. He was ambitious and a very hard worker. Anything he set his sights on he gave more than 100 percent. That attitude allowed him to become the first African-American Pacific Northwest Regional Sales Representative for Bluebell Potato Chip Company.



His children are a true testament to his own inherent nature. He was a deep thinker and was very spiritual, especially in his later years of life. He believed in God with a passion and up to the last

moment accepted that Heaven was his next destination. Teddy loved his family and never strayed from the flock. He knew that his family was his strength. He never failed to mention the words spoken by his father, Snooks, or the wisdom of his mother, Bonnie. What both his parents emphasized was the importance of sticking together.

Like all of us, Teddy sometimes lived in the confines of his own mind but never lost sight of the importance of family, love, and good friends. We must realize that the essence of who Teddy really was can be framed in the following: He expressed himself through style -

the way he dressed, through music - the lyrics of songs, and through movement - the way he moved on the dance floor.

He could say more through movement than most people said in an entire manuscript. He could tell you how much he loved you with his feet. His face symbolized his acceptance of his humanity. And lastly, Teddy enjoyed the competition of athletics and the art of movement through sports.

We will miss him. Preceding him in death are his parents Leon and Bonnie Holiday.

Teddy is survived by his daughter, Tanesha Warren; sons, Ruben and Teddy D. Warren; sisters, Ruth Holiday, Aisha Lincoln, Theresa Warren, Lynda Holiday-Lewis, Edna Kimmons (Pastor Charles), Gwendolyn Holiday, Leon G. Holiday, Billy R. Holiday and James A. Holiday; six grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Services entrusted by Cox & Cox Funeral Home.

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Up coming events as well.

## A New Worship Experience In Northeast Portland

### Northwest Voice For Christ Community Church

"The Faithful Church" Rev. 3: 7-12 "Keeping It Real Jesus' Way"

84 NE Killingsworth Street, Portland, Oregon

Worship Service -- Sundays 1:30 P.M.

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## Working for Heaven In 2007

The Bethesda Christian Church has been under new leadership for the last 7 years, Pastor Melvin Bailey took on his pastoral duties in 2000 and since that time our church has experienced some major changes.

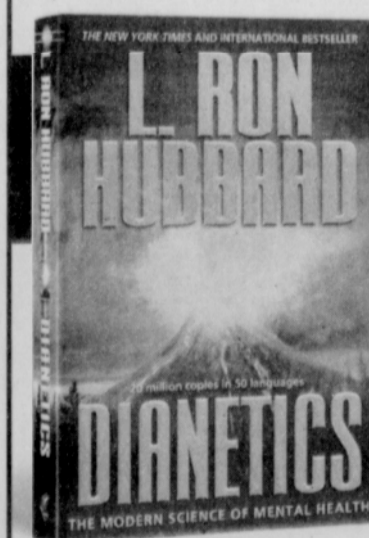


We first did a \$300,000 remodeling project; the entire building was renovated, inside and out. On the inside, some of our additions included the purchasing of a new conference table & chairs for our new conference room as well as a new Baptismal pool in our upstairs Sanctuary. While on the outside, a new underground sprinkler system was installed.

With the Lords' help, our leaders are guiding the church in a new direction; Bethesda continues to connect itself with such positive organizations as The Albina Ministerial Alliance here in Portland, Oregon.

We have an effective outreach ministry that continues to touch people's lives; we conduct regular services at Unthank Plaza, The Portland Rescue Mission, and the Oregon State Prison. We also operate a community food program as well as, host a free Thanksgiving Dinner program every year here at the church.

This year of 2007, we are starting a brand new staff; we now have 5 Associate Pastors, 3 new Deacons, and new Auxiliary leaders. There is a new spirit of co-operation and unity here in our church and we give God all the honor & Glory.



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