

## Obituaries

## Photographer, Musician and Mentor Remembered

## Nick Christmas III

A funeral for Nick Christmas III, who died Feb. 19, 2011, was held on Saturday, filling Maranatha Church in northeast Portland.

He was born Dec. 25, 1947, in Vanport, the second of six children to loving parents, Nick and Vera M. (Minor) Christmas Jr. He was just five months old when the Vanport flood occurred, and his family was

able to move to Portland.

During his youth, Nick attended John Ball, Portsmouth, Beach, Highland and Sabin Elementary Schools and excelled at playing baseball. He graduated from Grant High School

in 1965 where he was an excellent student and earned all-city honors in wrestling, including a state championship. He also really enjoyed playing in the Grant Marching Band where he discovered his love of drums and began nurturing his musical talents.

After high school, he moved to Seattle to work as a machinist for the Boeing Company. Nick's first goal was to save his paychecks until he purchased his mother's dream gift, a Sterling Silver Punch Bowl. Nick enjoyed his job and his magnetic charisma won him many friends. His ties to family spurred his return to Portland. He worked for the Bonneville Power Administration for 36 years as a cartographer, photographer and historian. He also served his BPA colleagues as an Equal Employment Opportunity specialist. Nick retired in 2009.

His personal passion was photography, videography, historical restorations and preservation of photos for family and friends. He was actively involved as a master photographer for the World Arts Foundation, Inc.; and as a volunteer for community-based initiatives to include improving the conditions of local neighborhoods, and the physical health, well-being, and preservation of Portland's communities and its citizens.

He volunteered countless hours to the annual Martin Luther King Jr.



celebration, and the Vanport, Guiles Lake and New Columbia historical projects, among others. He was a freelance historian for the Portland Observer and Skanner newspapers.

Nick was a consummate drummer, musician and jazz aficionado. He loved music and played a mean set of drums with several bands, and with numerous noted artists throughout the local community and beyond.

He was dedicated to helping people through his gifts and talents, but also as a husband, son, brother, friend and loving father, as well as a faithful member of and drummer for Genesis Community Fellowship Church. "Life begins and ends with the beat of the heart... Keep the beat alive," was Nick's mantra.

Preceding him in death were his father, mother, and sister, Cheryl L. Christmas. He leaves behind his devoted and much loved children, daughters Rachel and Nicole Christmas and Adrena Christmas Franklin; and sons Darryl, Anthony, Centory and Javary; 10 grandchildren, three great grandchildren; siblings Rose M. Christmas (Errol Brown), Velma Christmas Johnson (Franklin B.), Jarvis R. Christmas (Artie), and Noel L. Christmas; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

Arrangements entrusted to Terry Family Funeral Home

## In Loving Memory

## Georgia Tillman

Georgia Tillman was born on Sept. 25, 1918 to Willie and Alice Butler in Hazlehurst, Miss. She married George Byrd. This union brought them two children, Wilma Pauline Byrd and Willie Zeal Byrd.

She met and married Wiley Tillman, and to this union bore two children, Alice Faye and Wiley Ruth Tillman.

Mr. Wiley Tillman passed away on Dec. 3, 1958 in Chicago. Georgia, Alice and Ruth moved to Portland in 1959, where they joined Wilma and family.

Georgia was a homemaker and loved to cook and helped to raise her grandchildren. She played the piano and was a loyal member of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church where she served as Mother.

At the end of her life, she spent her time at Porthaven Care Center in Portland, where she was well loved



and well cared for. She was a special resident to everyone who came in contact with her.

Georgia leaves to mourn her two daughters, Wilma Pauline (Byrd) Graham and Wiley Ruth Tillman as well as a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren,

great great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by first husband George Byrd, her husband Wiley Tillman, her son Willie Zeal Byrd, her daughter Alice Faye Tillman and the Honorable former Grand Master Mason and Deacon Mr. Elijah Graham Sr.

She was and will be loved by all of her family and friends. Thank you to all of those who gave your support and love, especially the loving staff at Porthaven, all her neighborhood friends, the Mothers of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church and her beloved Pastor Rev. Dr. Johnny Pack IV.

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