



## Deacon Major Nelson Jr.

April 19, 1939 - December 17, 2023

Mr. Major Nelson, Jr. oldest child of eight to Major Nelson, Sr. and Katie Lee Nelson, was born in Catherine, AL. he was a graduate of carver high school in Gadsden, AL. Major graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. He pledged Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was roommates with Dr. David Satcher (former Surgeon General of the United States). He then obtained a Master's degree from the University of Georgia.

Major began his teaching career in Gainesville, GA and was a contributor to school integration. He was given multiple Teacher of the Year awards. After retiring from a productive career with Gainesville City Schools, he began working at the University of North Georgia as a counselor. his career in education spanned over one half of a century.

As a member of First Baptist Church in Gainesville, GA, he embodied service in every sense. he steadfastly gave his time, talents, and financial gifts to the church in service of God. he was a Deacon and Trustee for many years.

His impactful life will forever be cherished by the thousands of people he touched. Major joins his wife, Gwendolyn, and daughter, Angela Jones, as eternal saints of God. Major's daughter, Bonita Jones (Michael), son, Benjamin Nelson (Lindsey), sisters Corean Bryson, Linda Jones (Harvey), and Margaret Nelson, brother, James Nelson, and eight grandchildren, Marie Jones, Michael Jones ii, Kari Jones, Noah Nelson, Andrew Nelson, Benjamin "Max" Nelson, Lily Nelson, and Logan Nelson, and a host of other relatives and close friends, including his companion, Diane Bryant, will carry on his legacy.



# Cemetery Details

## Alta Vista Cemetery

521 Jones Street  
Gainesville, GA 30501

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **21**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wimberly Funeral Home  
325 Summitt St SE  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
(770) 536-3251  
[info@wimberlyjackson.com](mailto:info@wimberlyjackson.com)  
<https://www.wimberlyjacksonfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church  
1810 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Gainesville, GA 30501

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Juanita Cheeks lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Juanita Cheeks** - January 30, 2024 at 01:24 PM

JC

*so sorry to read about Mr. Nelson's passing. He was indeed a great man. RIP Sir*

---

**Juanita Cheeks** - January 30, 2024 at 01:25 PM

DS

“ *I regret to hear that my good friend Major Nelson, Jr. has passed. He was my close friend and roommate during my early years at Morehouse. Over the years we unfortunately lost contact with one another. He's someone I will always remember and respect. He is certainly one who made my early years at Morehouse rich and pleasant. I will always appreciate our years together at Morehouse. I express my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. Rest in Peace, Major. - Dr. David Satcher*



---

**David Satcher** - January 11, 2024 at 02:12 PM

JR

“ Jennifer Robinson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Jennifer Robinson - January 10, 2024 at 05:57 AM



“ Audrey Haskin lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Audrey Haskin - December 25, 2023 at 03:12 AM

DC

“ Deborah Collins lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Deborah Collins - December 23, 2023 at 04:19 PM

DC

My Deepest Condolences...Praying for the family 🙏❤️

Deborah Collins - December 23, 2023 at 04:23 PM

JM

“Joyce Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



---

**Joyce Mitchell** - December 23, 2023 at 12:49 PM

MF

“Myrtle Figueras lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



---

**Myrtle Figueras** - December 22, 2023 at 07:16 PM

BS

“To: Major's family, my sincerest sympathy to you. I had the pleasure of working with Major at Gainesville College in the Career Counselling Office. I also was born and raised in Gadsden, Alabama. What a sincere pleasure it was to work along side him daily for five years. He was dedicated to helping students discover their paths forward and whatever it took to get them there, he was willing to do it. He worked long hours and was willing to stay late if he was needed. I truly loved him as a role model for the students and as an example of a Christian. I missed him after I retired. He was a joy to work with and I will never forget him. Becky Box Smith

---

**Becky Smith** - December 22, 2023 at 06:57 PM

JM

Condolence To the family of Deacon, major Nelson praying the God will give you all strength.  
Peace and comfort you all doing your time of Sorrow

---

**Janice Fair mills** - December 22, 2023 at 08:20 PM

PM

*On behalf of the Smith Family from Green Pasture, East Gadsden, Alabama:  
We grew up with the Nelson children. Our sincere condolences go out to the family during this difficult time. May God comfort and give you peace, the peace that surpassed all understanding.  
Amen*

Pat McGee - December 24, 2023 at 09:49 AM

SH

“ James, Margaret and the Nelson family, you have our deepest condolences. May His peace rest with you today. Gregory & Shirley Hall



Shirley Hall - December 22, 2023 at 02:04 PM

CB

“ Christine Burrows sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Christine Burrows - December 21, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ Shelia Williams lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Shelia Williams - December 21, 2023 at 06:36 PM

SJ

“ Major Nelson was an inspiration to me and I greatly appreciated his guidance, support, and knowledge. Whenever I faced a challenging situation, he was there with calm insight and understanding. I trusted him because he was a man of true integrity. My deepest condolences to his family.

Susan M. Johnson - December 21, 2023 at 09:16 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Major Nelson Jr..



December 21, 2023 at 08:38 AM

NT

“ Nikiya Few Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Nikiya Few Thompson - December 21, 2023 at 05:50 AM

NT

*Rest in Heaven Deacon Nelson!*

Nikiya Few Thompson - December 21, 2023 at 05:51 AM

SG

“ *Sandra Gordon lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



Sandra Gordon - December 21, 2023 at 01:45 AM

SG

*Deacon Nelson was one of my teachers.and we went to the same church R.I.H ! Dea.Nelson*

Sandra Gordon - December 21, 2023 at 01:52 AM

MM

“ *Mary Moore lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



Mary Moore - December 20, 2023 at 11:02 PM

GB

“ *Gwenell Brown lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



Gwenell Brown - December 20, 2023 at 09:26 PM

GB

*He was a great educator and will be missed. ❤️*

Gwenell Brown - December 20, 2023 at 09:27 PM

ML

“ Marion Lott sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Marion Lott - December 20, 2023 at 09:25 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Major Nelson Jr..



December 20, 2023 at 08:34 PM

CH

“ Cornell Hendrix lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Cornell Hendrix - December 20, 2023 at 08:10 PM

EB

“ Elisa Bonds-Ratliff sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Elisa Bonds-Ratliff - December 20, 2023 at 08:01 PM

CA

“ I pray 🙏 the family of Deacon Nelson will find peace , comfort and healing during this difficult time. He will be missed.



-----  
**Carolyn Ates** - December 20, 2023 at 06:09 PM

PG

“ Mr. Nelson was one of my teachers. He was a very nice man no matter where you saw him, even after I graduated. RIP Me. Nelson



-----  
**Phyllis J Gardner** - December 20, 2023 at 04:57 PM

BW

“ Beverly Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



-----  
**Beverly Wilson** - December 20, 2023 at 04:32 PM

CH

“ Candace Hudson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



-----  
**Candace Hudson** - December 20, 2023 at 01:22 PM

TJ

“ Toni Johnson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Toni Johnson - December 20, 2023 at 10:57 AM

DB

“ Deanna Burris-Rucker sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Deanna Burris-Rucker - December 20, 2023 at 10:43 AM

AC

“ I loved Maj he was such a sweet man and teacher. Mom enjoyed working with Maj at Gainesville high school.

angela frazier callahan - December 20, 2023 at 10:34 AM

CA

“ CatheySingleton sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



CatheySingleton - December 20, 2023 at 09:32 AM

RH

“ Sending Prayers 🙏 Out To The Nelson Family!!  
🙏❤❤



Regina Harris - December 20, 2023 at 09:26 AM

DM

“ A man I held in very high esteem, who earned my support through his lifetime examples of high integrity and character and service to others. David Mercer

David G Mercer - December 20, 2023 at 09:23 AM

MS

“ May his memory be a blessing.



Malinda Sund - December 20, 2023 at 09:06 AM

TH

“ Terry Hollis sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.



Terry Hollis - December 20, 2023 at 08:21 AM

GM

“ *Gloria K Maddox sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Gloria K Maddox** - December 20, 2023 at 08:06 AM

GM

*My favorite math teacher and Deacon Major Nelson, what a time what a time.*

---

**Gloria K Maddox** - December 20, 2023 at 08:08 AM

SB

“ *Shirley Barnes lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Shirley Barnes** - December 20, 2023 at 07:04 AM

SJ

“ *Star Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Star Johnson** - December 20, 2023 at 06:32 AM

SJ

“ *Star Johnson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Star Johnson** - December 20, 2023 at 06:32 AM

HS

“ *I shared a boat trailer with Major Nelson many years ago. We became good friends, but time separated us. Always a fine and honest gentleman. My life was made better by knowing him.*  
*Harmon Smith*

---

**Harmon Smith** - December 20, 2023 at 12:01 AM

MM

“ *Mattie Mathis lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Mattie Mathis** - December 19, 2023 at 10:54 PM

DW

“ *I will miss seeing Major at church on Sundays. My condolences to his family and friends*



---

**David Williams** - December 19, 2023 at 10:42 PM

JM

“ *Juanita Muckle lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Juanita Muckle** - December 19, 2023 at 10:38 PM

KB

“ *Kimberly Bryant lit a candle in memory of Deacon Major Nelson Jr.*



---

**Kimberly Bryant** - December 19, 2023 at 10:09 PM

KB

“ *Prayers of comfort and condolences to the family. Well done thy good and faithful servant.*

---

**Kimberly Bryant** - December 19, 2023 at 10:08 PM

ST

“ *Me. Nelson was onenifnthebfinestbpeoplemin Gainesville. I loved having him as my math teacher and later as a counselor at Gainesville High School. He was kind, wise, and so perceptive. I am praying for his family. Make you all find peace and joy in your memories of him.*

---

**Susan Thompson** - December 19, 2023 at 08:36 PM

JS

“ *He was such a special man and a kind gentleman always. Sincere condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time. May your memories of him be a blessing 🙏🙏🙏❤️*

---

**Judi Mauldin White Saylor** - December 19, 2023 at 06:55 PM