

In Memoriam : Walter A. Foster Jr.

Feb 18, 1948 – Dec 10, 2011



Walter Foster, an active member of the South Middlesex Men's Club (SMMC), died unexpectedly on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011. He was in Boston doing what he did four to five times per year, visiting with his daughter, Janice, her four children, family and friends. He was a quiet man who was deeply affected by the death of his wife Brinkley. He and his deceased wife Brinkley had relocated to Las Vegas, NV, about 4 years ago. While in Las Vegas, Walter attended Victory Missionary Baptist Church. He loved to attend Monday night football with his Las Vegas friends.

Walter was born in North Carolina, attended North Carolina A & T, and worked for the Polaroid Corporation until his retirement.

Over time, as a member of SMMC, Walter held every office within the organization. SMMC was an important organization in Walter's life. He lived the mission of reaching out to newly arrived or relocated Metro-West black men and their families. He enjoyed telling men about the local scene: churches, barbershops, restaurants, hardware stores, etc. He relished inviting them to a Saturday breakfast meeting and educational seminar.

Walter also had a long term commitment to remember, recall and celebrate the history, strength and resilience of black families. He often pondered in SMMC meetings how those of us of a prior generation could "pass on" our knowledge, wisdom and experience to the younger generation. He frequently supported increased mentoring of young people and even a family camp devoted to building and sustaining positive values and expectations in the next generations.

Walter was a military man, The Colonel, some called him. He wanted issues laid out in a clear, unambiguous manner, with little room for compromise. Of course he was a realist that recognized that finding a mid-ground was needed to bring together disparate ideas and points of view. This quality of order was part of his parenting style. He was a "tough love" parent, long before there was a name for it. He was caring and committed, although not overly demonstrative.

We the men of SMMC will miss him, his big laugh, his ability to consume wine and cognac, his friendship, and faithfulness to the group ideals and goals.

**We miss you Walter, and we celebrate
your life of concern and commitment.**