

Obituary for Alex M. Taylor

Alex Maurice Taylor (also known as “Billy” by his family and friends in Alabama) passed away unexpectedly at the age of 81 years old on December 28, 2023, at Baltimore Washington Medical Center with his daughters by his side.

Alex was born in Fairfield, AL to Ethel M. Taylor and Jesse Taylor on June 21, 1942. He was the youngest of three boys. Alex was educated in the Fairfield City School system. He attended Howard University briefly and then was drafted into the U.S. Army for approximately 2 years. After an honorable discharge from the army, he enrolled at the University of Maryland at College Park. It was at the University of Maryland that he made the decision to pursue a career in pharmacy. Alex was admitted to the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 1973. He was very active in extracurricular activities while in pharmacy school and was a founding member of the Maryland chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) and served as the chapter’s first president. While serving as president, he hosted the National Convention of SNPhA in Baltimore, MD. He graduated from pharmacy school in 1976 and received the first ever SLAMA award (which is presented to graduating seniors with outstanding achievement in extracurricular activities).

He began his career as a pharmacy manager with Read’s Pharmacy and then left Read’s to become pharmacy manager at Rite Aid Pharmacy (1976-1984). From 1984-1998, Alex was pharmacy director at Park West Medical Center in Baltimore, MD. After Park West, he became a pharmacist consultant with First Health Services Corporation until 2004. Alex ended his career in June 2014 as Division Chief of Clinical Services at Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy program. Throughout his career, he was very active in multiple professional memberships and sat on the board of multiple organizations (Maryland Pharmaceutical Society – president and board member, National Pharmaceutical Association – speaker of the house and president, Maryland Pharmacist Association, Fairfield Industrial High School Alumni – board member, Board of Visitors at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy). Alex was inducted into his high school’s Hall of Fame in 2008 and was also awarded the “Key to the School of Pharmacy” by the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. He was a volunteer speaker/presenter at Edgewood Elementary in Baltimore for 30 years and has received multiple awards from the City of Baltimore and several other schools and organizations.

Alex was married for 40 years, has three daughters (one from a previous marriage) and one son. He loved to travel, take pictures, listen to music, watch the Redskins play (while eating popcorn and drinking cola), learn about and teach others black history, and attend HBCU sporting events. Alex had so much pride in his family and the city where he grew up; and was instrumental in the development and planning of his family’s annual family reunions as well as his high school reunions. He also took pride in showing his children the amazing beauties that the United States has to offer and planned cross country trips to visit every state in the United States (except Alaska and Hawaii). Alex enjoyed engaging with youth and would insist that his son and any of his son’s friends (that slept over on Saturday nights) would accompany him to church --- regardless of how late they stayed up the night before. He was proud to be a black man and ensured that he lived a life that would make his ancestors proud.

Alex is survived by his 4 children: Michelle Anne, Jennifer Dionne, Alexis Renee, and Christopher Maurice; his grandchildren: Jaiden Danielle, Xavier Maurice, Nasir Jerrell, Sydney Renee, Corey Darnell, Amir Maurice and Cam Maurice; his older brother, Robert, and a host of family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ethel and Jesse, and his older brother, Jesse.