

Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr.

July 1, 1936 - August 11, 2021

Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor, Jr.
(1936-2021)

Addis Cordell Taylor was born on July 1, 1936, in Mount Kisco, New York. His parents, Addis Cordell Taylor, Sr., and Katherine Evelyn Taylor (nee Mills) had recently moved north from Georgia during the “Great Migration.” He departed from this life on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Addis began kindergarten in Mount Kisco, but in 1942, at the age of 6, he and his parents moved to Buffalo, New York, and Addis entered first grade at P.S. 32. In 1945 he transferred to P.S. 31, where he graduated from the eighth grade in 1950. From there he entered Buffalo Technical High School (now called “Hutch-Tech”) and graduated in 1954. Addis began his collegiate studies at the University of Buffalo, but he received his Bachelor of Science degree from Empire State College. He went on to receive his Master of Education from Florida A and M University, and a Ph.D. from Florida State University.

In 1956 Addis married the former Jeanne Legge (1936-2009). From that union came two children: Natalie Taylor Cross and Dr. Steven Jeffrey Taylor, and a son-in-law, Melvin Charles Cross, Sr. Addis and Jeanne had two grandchildren: Melvin Charles Cross, Jr. and Dr. Tamika Katherine Cross. They also had two great-grandchildren: Melvin Charles Cross

III and Maddox Tristan Cross.

During his life, Addis had an illustrious career, which he began by working at various factories in the Buffalo, New York area, eventually reaching the position of Labor Relations Manager at Spaulding Fiber, in Tonawanda New York. In 1973 he moved to the area of higher education and served as the Manager of Employee Relations at the University of Buffalo. From there he moved to Washington, D.C., where he was the Director of Education and Training for the American Arbitration Association, and later was the Executive Director of the Public Employee Relations Board of the District of Columbia. He returned to higher education and became a professor at Florida A and M University, where he taught courses in labor relations and economics. He eventually rose to the position of Chair of the Department of Economics. While at FAMU, he established the Center for Human Resources Management.

Professor Taylor retired from FAMU in 2001 and moved to Kissimmee, Florida. Having professed Christ as his Savior while living in Tallahassee, when he moved to Kissimmee, he joined Parkview Christian Life Center. He remained a member of that church until 2019, when he relocated to Southfield, Michigan to live with his daughter and son-in-law. In 2020, after the onset of the pandemic, Addis began attending (virtually) Pilgrim Baptist Church, in Silver Spring, Maryland. He faithfully attended Sunday school, weekly service, and Wednesday night bible study, never missing any of the services or bible studies. While living in Michigan, he became an avid bible reader, and he also cultivated his interest in model trains. He spent hours upon hours making additions to the train set that was first given to him in the 1940s.

Dr. Addis Taylor is survived by his daughter Natalie Taylor Cross and her husband Melvin Charles Cross, Sr., his son Dr. Steven Jeffrey Taylor, his sister Bernadette Riley, his grandson Melvin Charles Cross, Jr. (and his devoted wife Maki Cross), his granddaughter Dr. Tamika Katherine Cross, his

great-grandsons Melvin Charles Cross, III and Maddox Tristan Cross, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Previous Events

Family and Friends Hour

AUG 17. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
24585 Evergreen Rd
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 702-5367
info@kempfh.com
<https://www.kempfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services
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Tribute Wall



“ *Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast Funeral Service in memory of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr.*



Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services - August 17, 2021 at 08:53 AM

AT

Arthur Taylor send his condolences and prayers 🙏 to the family. Andrea Taylor RIP I wish I would have meet you. 🙏

Andrea Taylor - August 19, 2021 at 12:48 AM



Rest in Heaven... you crossed my mind this morning so I Googled your name to see if you were still with us. Sorry to see you've transitioned but thank you for everything during my time as Florida A&M University.

Camp Campbell - August 05, 2022 at 08:33 AM

MS

“ I just was thinking of Addis and looked on-line to discover he had passed a few years ago. I worked as an intern in 1974 and 1975 at the American Arbitration Association in DC and he was one of my supervisors. We then worked together a few times a year at training sessions throughout the country. In time my career had expanded and we saw each other infrequently but he asked me to travel in the 80s (I think) to teach his students at FAMU about alternate dispute resolution. We tried to stay in touch thereafter but it didn't turn out to be doable. Much of that fault lies with me. Addis was always the most decent, sweet, unassuming man. Brilliant but understated. Though from completely different walks of life and different experiences we had deep affection for each other. In 1976 I was close to getting married to a wonderful woman but I really wasn't ready to do so. So close to the long planned wedding - at great expense to my future in-laws - I confided how unsure I was but was going to go through with the event out of respect for the woman and her family knowing the marriage probably would not last for a long time. I had decided this was the way to not hurt her terribly. Addis listened to me agonize for about 3-4 days. He rarely opined. Finally, he held me by the shoulder and said, “you know going through this with the way you feel is not doing her a favor. Your plan is really worse for her.” I cried and with his immense help summoned the courage to call this lovely woman to share my feelings. We did not get married but stayed in touch and she to this day tells me though it was hard at the time she and I both have Addis' wisdom to thank for how our lives evolved. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I regret deeply not telling him more how much he meant to me. I owed him much more but know he would have forgiven me. My belated condolences to his whole family. May his memory be a blessing to all that loved him. Martin Scheinman, Port Washington, NY.

Martin Scheinman - November 28, 2024 at 10:07 AM

RM

“ He was a good person and a good friend. I lost contact and hate I was not there to say goodbye. But I know my friend is in a better place and rooting for me. God rest his soul.

Richard Moore

Richard Moore - December 03, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr.

September 27, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr.

September 27, 2022 at 06:52 PM

SB

“ We just recently heard of the passing of Dr. Taylor! He was a customer at HobbyTown in Southfield for nearly two years. He loved his Lionel Trains. He was a regular, and we got to know he and his family, as he would share the success of various ones. He would lovingly talk about his daughter, and son and their families. We will miss him greatly. Please accept our sincerest prayers and sympathies. Love, Marvin and Sima Ballinger



Sima Ballinger - July 31, 2022 at 08:12 PM

CR

“ I had the honor and privilege of being Addis' flight instructor about 9-10 years ago. He knew I wasn't a morning person but he insisted we always fly as early as possible as to avoid the turbulence that often came later in the day. So we would meet at the Kissimmee airport at 7am, he would begin the preflight inspection and I would brew the preflight coffee. We would drink our coffee, talk about the day's lesson and then take off. When I met Addis, I never expected my 23 year old self would have much in common with this older gentlemen, but it didn't take long before it felt like we were old friends. I will remember him fondly and I am so thankful I was able to get to know him, even for a short time. I don't have any pictures of him and I flying, but this picture is one of the planes we often flew together.



Craig Robida - November 19, 2021 at 07:33 PM

DF

“ +May the souls of the faithful, through the grace of GOD, rest in peace.+ Amen. 🤍👤
🤍💔



Diana Barry Frazier - August 19, 2021 at 06:48 PM



“ I received my Labor Relations Certificate in 1981. Dr. Taylor helped get me an internship with the National Labor Relations Board in Tampa and Seattle while in college. I ended up with an offer at General Motors in Labor Relations and spent my career in HR/ LR. He was my key mentor/supporter in guiding me into this field. My academic experience at FAMU would not have been as rewarding as it was without Dr. Taylor. He was very special in that he took not just a professional but a personal interest in my success. I owe a lot to Dr. Taylor. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Aubrey Scott - August 17, 2021 at 06:58 PM

DH

Our prayers and thoughts are with the family. Addis was a good friend of my uncle's. My he rest in peace and my the the family bath in wonderful memories of him. 🙏

Dr. Keith and Patricia Howard - August 23, 2021 at 08:00 AM

DH

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Addis was a good friend to my uncle. May you enjoy many memories of him. Rest in peace. 🙏

Dr. Keith and Patricia Howard - August 23, 2021 at 08:03 AM

GW

I was a student of many courses taught by Dr. Taylor at Florida A&M University in the Advance HR Certificate Program. I took his course in arbitration, and at the end of the course he asked me to serve on the Ford Motor Company arbitration board. He indicated he needed to recommend someone for his replacement. I was honored to know he considered me capable to follow in his BIG footsteps. I served for three years on this board and later served many years with the Florida Lemon Law. All thanks to Dr. Taylor.

Dr. Taylor and I kept in touch because we shared the same birth month of July. We would call each other on our respective birth dates and have long conversations about what's happening in our lives.

I called to check in with him and to my surprise his phone number was no longer in service. I am now shocked to know he has left his place here on earth to take his place with in the LORD.

I want to thank his family for sharing him with FAMU and all the students he touched during his tenure at the University. I will miss him and our conversations.

I hope the family has peace in knowing he was a beautiful individual who inspired others.

Gwendolyn F.

Gwendolyn - January 13, 2022 at 12:17 PM

FK

“ We remember Dr. Taylor visiting our church ,Independent Lighthouse Baptist Church, in Tema, Ghana West Africa. It was encouraging to see our elder join us in service. May his soul rest in peace. Our prayers are with the Taylor family.

Fredrick Kearney - August 17, 2021 at 11:43 AM

AD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Adriane Dorrington - August 17, 2021 at 11:22 AM

AD

Cordell and his Taylor Cousins: Vannie, Randy, Darrell. Cordell loved his Taylor Family.... RIP Cordell Love always Adriane (Vannie)

Adriane Dorrington - August 17, 2021 at 11:24 AM

AD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

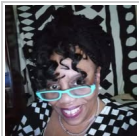


Adriane Dorrington - August 17, 2021 at 10:25 AM

AD

Vannie and Cordell - cousins who saw each other as brothers!

Adriane Dorrington - August 17, 2021 at 10:27 AM



“ Rip Cordell

Juliette Fickling - August 17, 2021 at 09:45 AM

SZ

“ *Samuel Zalanga lit a candle in memory of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr.*



Samuel Zalanga - August 17, 2021 at 05:13 AM

SZ

“*Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr. became an important part of my life through his son, Steven Taylor, who is a Professor at American University in Washington DC. I arrived the United States as an international student from Nigeria to study at the University of Minnesota, where Steven Taylor was then a graduate student in the Department of Political Science. Steven and myself were funded by the same organization for our doctoral studies. Interestingly, Steven wrote me a letter while I was still in Nigeria that when I arrive the University of Minnesota, he wants me to be his roommate.*

It was something very special that Steven wrote me such a letter requesting that we should be roommates and we indeed became roommates. This was how I came to know Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr. and became close to him. The first time I met Dr. Addis Taylor was when the whole family came to attend Steven's commencement at the University of Minnesota when he completed is doctoral studies. Subsequently, there was a time Dr. Addis Taylor and myself visited Steven Taylor at Silver Spring, Maryland at the same time. We stayed together for some days and visited many places as a group. I have also enjoyed and appreciated participating with him in Virtual Sunday School classes that are taught by Steven Taylor.

I was shocked and saddened by the sudden departure of Dr. Addis Taylor. It is my payer that the Lord God will give Laurie, Steven, the grandchildren of Dr. Addis Taylor and relatives the courage to bear the loss. On my part, I will infinitely remain grateful to him for raising a son that has become my closes friend in the United States. Thus, the Addis Taylor family is the family that I feel very close to in the United States as an immigrant. May his soul rest in peace.

Samuel Zalanga - August 17, 2021 at 05:12 AM

DC

“ Dr. Taylor was my absolute favorite instructor while at FAMU between 1990 & 1994. He genuinely was interested in each of his students and the life we were preparing for ourselves after college. Rest well Sir with much love. Dwayne Carpenter

Dwayne Carpenter - August 16, 2021 at 10:00 PM



So sorry for this great loss. Cordell Was my favorite cousin. I remember growing up he was this tall handsome man I ever seen. He always kept me informed with everything family. I loved him dearly. He was the key that held our family together. My heart aches for this loss. I know that he is in Heaven now with the rest of our family that we loss. Always in my heart Robyn Lonon-Braxton

Robyn Braxton - August 17, 2021 at 12:07 AM

MA

Dr. Steven Taylor, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Prayers of love for comfort, peace and strength. Know that we love you and are here for you should you need us. Mira Austin

Mira Austin - August 17, 2021 at 12:12 AM

AD

When my husband Vannie Taylor III (cousin) passed unexpectedly under similar conditions, Cordell stepped in to provide comfort, assistance, and guidance as I struggled to work through my grief. I looked forward to his biweekly calls. He was always there for Vannie and he was always there for me. Now he will join his Heavenly Family. RIP Cordell.... Dr. Adriane E.L. Dorrington

Adriane Dorrington - August 17, 2021 at 10:05 AM



My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. I will miss him dearly.

Julius Taylor - August 17, 2021 at 10:21 AM

CJ

Uncle Addis was a wonderful uncle. He always made me and my family feel valued and appreciated. He was super funny and loved joking with my child. He was such a wonderful family man. It was clear how much he loved his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. And he was a friend to so many, admired by all. He was a role model and mentor to family, friends, students and even strangers. He will be missed. My love and prayers of comfort are with the family. <3

Connie St. John - August 17, 2021 at 01:07 PM

WT

Dr. Taylor - you were an inspiration to me and many others who were fortunate to have you as a professor at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University! You made sure that we made progress academically but your input or pouring maturity, leadership, and awareness to support each other is a common thread. I appreciate all of our conversations. Your presence will be missed. With much respect, admiration and love, Willie Taylor c/o 90 FAMU

Willie Taylor - August 18, 2021 at 11:49 AM

RR

“ *Please accept our deepest condolences for your loss-Robert and Debra Raze, Tallahassee, Florida.*

Robert Raze - August 16, 2021 at 09:06 PM

AC

“ *Dr. Taylor and I go back to the late 70's & early 80's at the real U. He was a pleasure to be around, especially when he'd talk about his labor-relations cases. W/o a doubt, Drs. Taylor, Daniels, & Burggraf motivated me to major in Economics & Finance. We continued to correspond after I finished FAM & fsu (notice the lower case letters here), and moved to central Fla. He will be sorely missed.*

A Shawn Collins - August 16, 2021 at 08:52 PM

BW

“ To the family! Please except our sincere sincere condolences. Dr. Taylor and I shared many research projects and student events, trips to TRB in Washington,DC , with many students and staff for many years! He was a inspiration to all who knew him.

May God continue to bless you with beautiful memories of your father, brother and grandfather.

Blessings!

Dr. & Mrs.Charles A. Wright



Barbara E Wright - August 16, 2021 at 08:00 PM

AS

“ I am so saddened by this news. I had the honor of serving as his Dean when he was chair of the Department of economics and am proud to report that he was a very fine scholar and exceptional teacher and administrator. His loss is deeply felt. Aubrey M Perry.



Aubrey M Perry, Sr. - August 16, 2021 at 04:31 PM

AH

“ Dr. Taylor was an awesome professor and director. He was the one who inspired me to major in Business Economics at FAMU. He was always a resource and a guide to me as I matriculated through FAMU. He will be greatly missed! Thank you for your wisdom.

Angela Hudson - August 16, 2021 at 03:30 PM

EG

“ Thank you Dr. Taylor for being influential in my college years at FAMU as your student. Your words of wisdom, warmth and care made an impression on me that still stands today. My daughter is currently enrolled as incoming freshman at FAMU and my dream is for her to receive the same experience as I did. Rest well and job well done my friend! Hubba Doc  

Ellis J. Gainey - August 16, 2021 at 03:03 PM

TO

“ After hearing a lot about Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor, whom I call "Papa Taylor" from Prof. Steve Taylor, I met him and Steve in Accra, on the campus of University of Ghana, Legon. We had lots of conversations. I was in the US, St. Paul MN, to be precise, in 2020. I listened to Steve Taylor's virtual Sunday School teaching on Sundays. I used to have conversations with Papa Taylor shortly after the Sunday schools ended. I admired him for his humility, particularly, sitting under the tutelage of his son during the Sunday school meetings. A nice man has left the earth to go to the presence of God. He will forever be remembered in my heart. Papa, enjoy the presence of the Lord.

Thomas A. Oduro
Accra, Ghana.

Thomas Oduro - August 16, 2021 at 03:03 PM

D(

“ I am so heartbroken to hear of Dr. Taylor's loss! I was blessed to be his student at FAMU. He encouraged me to pursue a Certificate of Labor Relations which led to a full scholarship to the University of Minnesota and a 28 year career as a Senior Human Resources Officer in the Army! Although I graduated in 1981, Dr. Taylor continued to mentor me through the years, even as recently as a few weeks ago! He was an incredibly loving and supportive person who gave unconditionally to his students. My prayers and condolences to the family. Know that Dr. Taylor's "FAMUly" grieves with you and mourns his loss!



Dr. Eurydice Stanley, LTC (Ret.) - August 16, 2021 at 03:00 PM

BL

“ Dr. Taylor called me into his office one day. I always stayed in trouble in high school and sitting there, I wondered what I had done wrong. To my great surprise, Doc told me that I had been recommended by a faculty member to give the "Occasion" speech at the 1991 Spring FAMU Convocation. I told him thanks, but would prefer that I not do the speech. He said, "You're going to do it and I can help you with your speech." I told Dr. Taylor that I didn't need any help, but I didn't want to give a speech. He told me again, "You're going to give it and when you're finished writing your speech, let me review it." What could I say but, "OK"? I did the speech, gave the "Occasion", and received a standing ovation. Doc was not going to take my "no" for an answer. Rest in Peace, Dr. Taylor. You saw more in me than I saw in myself....

*Britt K. Lyle,
BS, MASS, JD*

Britt K. Lyle - August 16, 2021 at 02:09 PM

RH

“ He was a wonderful professor. Sending love and prayers to the family. 🌿🙏💕

Rattler Pat Hinson - August 16, 2021 at 01:08 PM

L'

“ Dr. Taylor personally called the dean of admissions at Duke Law School on my behalf to get me admitted. I will forever be grateful to him for doing that. He was a caring, giving, man. I pray for his family's comfort and peace at this time. I hope you will be heartened and encouraged by the outpouring of love and tributes to Dr. Taylor that I'm sure you've been receiving. God bless you and keep you all. RIP Dr. Taylor.

L. Monty Garside '99 - August 16, 2021 at 01:08 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr..*



August 15, 2021 at 02:22 PM



“ *The Cross and Butler Families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr..*



The Cross and Butler Families - August 15, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr..*



August 15, 2021 at 12:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr..*



August 15, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr..*



August 14, 2021 at 08:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Addis Cordell Taylor Jr..*



August 14, 2021 at 07:55 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Laurie Taylor Cross - August 14, 2021 at 11:01 AM

LC

“ 13 files added to the album Memories Album



Laurie Cross - August 14, 2021 at 05:51 AM