

Neville Anthony Parker

November 22, 1939 - September 26, 2021

Dr. Neville Parker, a Tower of College STEM Education for People of Color, Dies at 81

Dr. Neville Anthony Parker, a tower of college STEM education for students of color, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 26, in Teaneck, New Jersey, at the age of 81. He is survived by his most loving wife Aethnae of 54 years, his four children Adenike, Kwame, Ayanna, and Maisha, six grandchildren Adisa, Tarik, Nandi, Neenah, Neville, and Selwyn, sisters Maria and Althea, and his beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and a tribe of close family friends.

Born on November 22, 1939, Dr. Parker spent his formative years at Bishops High School in Scarborough, Tobago; here were laid the foundations of his thirst for knowledge and his caring for family and community. After graduating from high school, he emigrated to the United States to attend the City University of New York ("CCNY"), part of the City University of New York ("CUNY"), in 1959. Starting out at CCNY's evening division, Dr Parker overcame many odds to become one of the school's few people of color to receive an engineering degree during the civil rights era. He received his B.E. in Civil Engineering from CCNY in 1965, his M.E. in Transportation Engineering from Cornell University in 1966, and his Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from Cornell in 1971. In addition to his academic achievements, Dr. Parker also served as an ROTC cadet, and after graduation he

was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He later rose to the rank of Captain and was awarded a National Defense Service Medal and an Army Commendation Medal. After receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell, Dr. Parker began his civilian career as a Professor of Civil Engineering at Howard University. He remained at Howard until 1976 when, at the request of the first President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere – whom he had met in 1974 when Tanzania hosted the 6th Pan African Congress – he moved his family to Dar es Salaam as a Senior Fulbright Scholar. There he served as the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and later as the Dean of the School of Engineering. He took up the challenge of training the first generation of East African engineers, many of whom have gone on to make significant contributions to business, education, and government in the region. Dr. Parker remained at the University of Dar Es Salaam until 1988, when he returned to the United States to assume position of Associate Director of the Institute of Transportation Systems and Professor of Civil Engineering at The City College of New York. In 1989, he was appointed Director of the Institute, which flourished under his leadership and gained international recognition for its research and training activities. He was also appointed Acting Principal Investigator and Director of the University Transportation Research Center (“UTRC”) for US Northeast. As regional Director of the Transportation Careers Pipeline Initiative Program of the UTRC, Dr. Parker led the effort to target graduate and undergraduate students from university and community colleges, professionals, sub-professionals, and 10th-12th grade high school students for its pipeline for preparing transportation professionals. Throughout his four-decade teaching career, Dr. Parker has taught courses such as courses such as railways, port and airport engineering; construction management, route location engineering and design; project feasibility analysis; engineering systems analysis; urban systems engineering; pavement design and management. Dr. Parker’s greatest contribution to CCNY, CUNY and the nation has been in the development of underrepresented minorities for careers in science,

engineering, mathematics and technology. He directed the National Science Foundation-supported New York Louis Stokes Alliance since its inception in November of 1992, through which in excess of 17,000 baccalaureate degrees have been awarded to underrepresented minority students. His many students and mentees have described him as warm, caring, invested in their careers, and always willing to provide practical advice in their personal and professional lives.

Dr. Parker received numerous awards as an educator and researcher. He was profiled in Transportation Research News, January-February, 2000; received the prestigious “1996 Giants In Science Award,” from the Quality Education for Minorities in Engineering network; the “1994 Black Engineer of the Year – Outstanding Education, College Level” from the Career Communications group, the “Outstanding Educator Award” during the 20th Anniversary Harlem Week celebration at City Hall in 1994; and the “Career Achievement Award” from the CCNY Engineering School Alumni also in 1994. He is co-author of the textbook Essentials of Highway Engineering (McMillan, 1988). Other honors include the Council of University Transportation Centers’ 2015 CUTC Award for Distinguished Contribution to University Transportation Education and Research, and the Townsend Harris Medal, given by CCNY to distinguished alumni.

Outside of his significant academic and professional achievements, Dr. Parker was an accomplished All-American college soccer star, an avid tennis player in his later years, an amateur photographer, a gifted gardener, a surprisingly good dancer, and a true lover of calypso – the traditional music of Trinidad & Tobago – having been both a member of the Our Boys Steel Band in his youth and a modest calypso guitarist.

A man of powerful intellect, steadfast character and impeccable morals, Dr. Parker was consistent in challenging all with whom he interacted to be their best selves. He touched the lives of many, and his absence will be sorely felt.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 4. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
789 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
info@volkleber.com
<http://www.volkleber.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
789 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
info@volkleber.com
<http://www.volkleber.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Neville Anthony Parker*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - October 04, 2021 at 09:08 AM

LA

With the Family in heart and soul. 🙏💕🌸

Leah Aird - October 04, 2021 at 11:53 AM

PS

*Dear Family of Dr. Neville Parker,
Sincere appreciation for sharing Dr.Parker with so many in the CCNY community, and earlier at the University of Dar-es-Salaam. He very positively influenced hundreds of students. He was also a superb colleague. May his example and memory live on... Many thanks to the family.*

*Prof. Asha Samad-Matias
AGIS (ANTH)*

Prof. Asha Samad-Matias - October 04, 2021 at 04:43 PM

DT

May He Rest in Perfect Peace and May God give his family the strength to overcome the loss!

Dr Isaac Takyi - October 04, 2021 at 09:31 PM

RB

We will all miss Dr. Parker.

To have shared some time with him at City College was a blessing.

To Ms. Parker and his true legacy, his wonderful children, the world is a much better place because of your husband and dad. He is truly a gentle legend with thunder as his impact. All of us from Trinidad & Tobago on campus were so proud of having our very own Professor Parker. Civil Engineering students for generations were always so glowing in their respect for him. My thoughts are with you.

Rawlins

Rawlins Beharry - October 04, 2021 at 10:38 PM

RV

A great son of CCNY and a ROTC graduate.

Richard Ventola - October 05, 2021 at 12:14 PM

JD

I met Neville when I entered CCNY. He became a mentor and a good friend over the years. I will truly miss him.

Joel Dreyfuss - October 06, 2021 at 01:01 PM

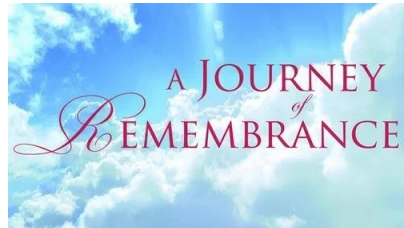
KG

I remembered Dr. Parker and searched for him. Only to find years later that he is no longer with us. What an amazing human being, thanks to him I am the professional I am today.

KG - December 04, 2024 at 07:37 PM



“ Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Neville Anthony Parker



Volk Leber Funeral Home - October 03, 2021 at 03:01 PM

LW

*Condolences to the family.
May Neville's soul Rest in Peace.
From the Wheelers of Tobago.*

LOLITTA WHEELER - October 03, 2021 at 03:46 PM

AP

My deepest condolences to this part of the Parker family and all that knew him well. Though I meet him only a few times in life, we both share the name Anthony Parker. The last time we met was at my mothers memorial at my house. A great and pure love soul. You will be missed.

Anthony Parker - October 04, 2021 at 07:59 AM

JS

My condolences to Aunty Aethne and all of the family. I always thought of uncle as my "fun uncle" and as a child I loved when he came to visit. He was always full of life and laughter and I have nothing but the fondest memories of him. May he rest in eternal peace.

"To live in the hearts of those you love is not to die." - Thomas Campbell

Love always, Jude-Anne Spencer-Phillip and family.

Jude-Anne Spencer-Phillip - October 04, 2021 at 11:18 AM

JL

My deepest condolences to my Dr. Parker family. It is a sad day. I will keep the family in prayer.

Jean Leon - October 04, 2021 at 11:29 AM

RP

My deepest condolences to Dr Parker family. He was a wonderful person to work with and he will be missed. Especially, every time you see him, he has that wonderful and graceful simile. He will be missed.

Regina Pierce

Regina Pierce - October 04, 2021 at 12:37 PM

SH

Deepest condolences to the Parker family from Sam Howard & family (Neville's class mate at Scarborough Boys E.C. and Aethnae's at Scarborough R.C.)

Ssmuel B. Howard - October 04, 2021 at 12:44 PM

FK

So sad ro learn of your passing Neville. We still have fond memories of your presence hete at the University of Dar es Salaam. Kileleni still misses you

*Rest in eternal peace Neville. Our deepest condolences to the family
Fred & Theresa Kaijage
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*

Frederick Kaijage - October 05, 2021 at 12:41 AM

CD

*Condolences to Aethnae and family on the passing of Neville.
May his soul rest in eternal peace.*

*Monty Greigg-Duncan
From the Crooks family (Tobago)*

Catherine Duncan - October 05, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ *Neville Anthony Parker*

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Neville Anthony Parker*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM



“ *Neville Anthony Parker*

August 30, 2022 at 02:48 PM

JH

“ Dear Mrs. Parker and family,

We have no words to express our sorrow for your loss.

We hope that you are able to celebrate his life, and the happy memories of the time he spent with you. In moments like this, some of us have found comfort in trying to behave in the way that the loved ones we lost would have liked us to react to their untimely departures.

I will always remember our discussions about life, politics, and academia; his wit and wisdom; and his unwavering commitment to the good causes. What a man!

Knowing Neville as well as I did, I firmly believe that the last thing he would want is that you succumb to grief and despair. We are certain that he would have loved to see you recover from the loss and live, to see you overcome the dark and sad night you are living at this terrible moment.

Be hopeful, even the darkest of nights will experience a sunrise.

Yours.

Jose and Teresa Holguin-Veras

Jose Holguin-Veras - October 15, 2021 at 04:47 PM

NR

“ Sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Parker during your time of mourning, from my family to yours. He influenced my life positively in so many ways over the years, particularly during my undergraduate years at CCNY and during my graduate school years working with him at CUNY-ITS. Thank you, Dr. Parker, for encouraging me and countless others to pursue a path of scholarship, excellence and service beyond ourselves. May light perpetual shine on you.

Neil Robinson - October 15, 2021 at 02:51 PM

HT

“ His face in the picture on this page, on the left, looks so familiar to me, for years, in my deep memory.

I have many fresh memories of interactions with him. In early mornings, I often saw his wife dropped him in front of the building, and I chatted with him in the lobby. In afternoons, frequently, I saw him in that downstairs room for senior design classes. In my first few years in the dept., he served as the mentor to me. I still remember his words: when you teach, pay attention to the lower part of the class, and talk to people in back seats. In a CE retreat at West Point, he talked about helping and growing new faculty, kidding that China might recruit our faculty, which did happen later. He once introduced the hydroplaning phenomenon to me (an airplane running and slipping on a layer of water while landing). He is a person who influenced me, and beyond, to students.

A few years ago, in a morning, he opened the office door and then came to me, next door, saying that he could not find his files in PC. After we searched and found them, he paused for a while and said he should retire, which made me felt heavy. Shortly later, he did. Shortly before the pandemic, he came to the lecture hall for an activity honoring him, and many students came, who were in his program, from a long time ago and most recent years. It looked that he got some weight, with weaker memory, but still could recall something I was chatting with him in the lobby before retiring.

All too soon. To me, his retirement is a surprise, and his passing is even more. But he is a mentor, an icon, and a light tower, and will stay in my memory in the years to come.

*Hansong Tang
Civil Eng., CCONY*

Hansong Tang - October 13, 2021 at 02:54 PM

HT

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Hansong Tang - October 13, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 06, 2021 at 03:32 PM

KH

“ Sending warm condolences to Adenike and family. May the Most High heal you all in these times of bereavement. Peace love and light. Sista khem, ras kisho and the youths...💜💚💛❤️

Khem - October 05, 2021 at 12:35 PM



“ Mrs. Fields With Sympathy Combo Tin was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 05, 2021 at 11:02 AM

TR

“ Dr. Parker was my teacher, mentor and friend. My first class with him was "Route Location" at UDSM in the Fall term of 1976. When I joined the civil engineering department as faculty, he was instrumental for my development both academically and professionally. I had the opportunity to visit with him and Aethnae in the spring of 1992 and spent 2 pleasant weeks at their lovely home in Teaneck NJ. To Aethnae and the children please accept my deepest condolences, I share in your sorrow. With love and friendship. Theophil Rwebangira.

Theophil Rwebangira - October 05, 2021 at 07:20 AM

FB

“ My deepest condolences ! he was great boss ! I deeply admired him !
Fred Brodzinski

Fred brodzinski - October 04, 2021 at 09:13 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 04, 2021 at 06:22 PM

EP

“ *My deep condolences to Dr. Parker's family. My great respect for his outstanding accomplishments educating CCNY engineering students on the real purpose for their civil engineering goals. I interacted with Neville Parker via his graduate student workshops and was always impressed of the faculty / student relationship Dr. Parker was able to achieve. A person definetely to be remembered.... ED PLOTKIN*

ed plotkin - October 04, 2021 at 05:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.*



October 04, 2021 at 03:19 PM

RB

“ I am so very sorry for the loss of Neville. He was a mentor, colleague, strong supporter and wonderful friend. During my many years as an administrator in the CCNY School of Engineering, I was always struck by his deep passion for ensuring the success of minority engineering students that was consistent and and was always one of his top priorities.

I will always remember Neville for his smile, his jokes , expertise, being a dapper dresser, his dancing and his many conversations with me. We had a lot of conversations sometimes over coffee in our offices, at lunch, and often, on the ride home from work to Teaneck. I heard much about his travels, research, and family during these times.

He was respected by all as an outstanding professor , researcher, excellent communicator, and for his honesty and integrity.

I extend my most sincere sympathy to the Parker Family and will continue to pray for God's love, peace and comfort as they move through this very sad time. And, I pray that they will have joy in the mornings to come knowing that he was loved and will be missed by so many! He was indeed an Icon!!

*Blessings,
Ramona Brown*

Ramona Brown - October 04, 2021 at 01:06 PM

YJ

“ Our deepest condolences to the Parker Family. It was an honor to have experienced Dr Parker while at CCNY and long after. He was a role model to many of his students and country men. He will always be a legend for the TrinToCity (Trinidad/Tobago at City College) Guys. Thank you, for lasting impact you bestowed on our education, and life. You are honored and will be missed.

Respect Always.

Yuri Job - October 04, 2021 at 12:54 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 04, 2021 at 11:58 AM

MR

“ I am the director of the CSTEP program at CCNY called CCAPP. CSTEP is a statewide opportunity program that has as its goal to increase the numbers of underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students entering the STEM professions. Prof. Parker was an outstanding supporter of CCAPP throughout his time at City. He was strongly committed to its goals and was always available to address its students where he shared with them his experiences that led to his success as an engineer and as an educator. He provided them with the much needed motivation to succeed in life and to achieve their dreams for themselves and their families. As a colleague, I could always count on him to be there with his support for this program and its goals.

Millcent Roth - October 04, 2021 at 11:39 AM

LI

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to the Parker family. May you hope in the midst of sorrow and comfort in the midst of pain. Dr. Parker was my professor, mentor and boss at City College of New York and the Transportation Institute. My life has been better for having met Dr. Parker.*

Linda Lindsay

Linda - October 04, 2021 at 11:34 AM



“ *Neville represented, in this civilisation, an international icon. I met him in 1951 when we both entered Bishops High School Tobago. He can claim citizenship of Trinidad and Tobago, the US and Africa. His work on all these continents represents the pride of his family. On behalf of the Sealy family, I want to wish Aethnae and the rest of the family my deepest condolences and I urge them to be strong in this moment of grief. May he rest in peace having contributed so much to this global civilisation.*

Edward Henry Sealy

Henry Sealy - October 04, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.*



October 04, 2021 at 11:02 AM

DM

“ *Dr. Parker was a beacon of light, a tower of knowledge, mentorship, service, and advocacy in the Civil engineering and transportation community. As a student at the Grove School of Engineering, I was fortunate to receive mentorship from Dr. Parker, and I have benefitted from his commitment to creating opportunities for students like myself in underrepresented groups. I am forever grateful for he has left a lasting impact on me, my education, and my career!*

My sincere and deepest condolences to the Parker family; I pray that they are granted strength, peace, and comfort during this time of despair.

Diniece Mendes (formerly Peters) CCNY CE'12

Diniece Mendes - October 04, 2021 at 10:39 AM

YF

“ *Praying for the family and friends of Dr. Neville Parker. He will be greatly missed. His legacy will live on forever here at The City College of New York/ Grove School of Engineering. I will miss him and remember him always.*

With my sincerest condolences,

*Yvette Burke-Forehand
Dean's office of Administration
Grove School of Engineering*



Yvette Forehand - October 04, 2021 at 10:11 AM

CL

“ I fondly remember my daily holiday swims with Neville at Creek in Tobago. He was always a warm and brainy teenage friend with whom one could spend pleasant hours of talk and laughter. May he rest in God's perfect peace! My deep condolences to his wife, Aethnae and the rest of his family. Cecil Louis.

Cecil Louis - October 04, 2021 at 10:07 AM

NJ

“ Uncle Neville and the entire family we integral in our family feeling at home in Tanzania. He never missed an opportunity to stay in touch with our parents. He will be missed for his love of family, intellectual banter, encouragement of young minds and laughter. We will miss you Uncle Neville. Sending love and strength to Madame Parker as we fondly remember our language classes, Adenike, Kwame, Ayanna and Maisha and his extended family.

Nicole Johnson - October 04, 2021 at 09:41 AM

JA

Condolences to the family. Rest well Nev. You have made your contribution and left your mark. Peace Bro. Jim Armstrong.

James Armstrong - October 04, 2021 at 10:43 AM

GL

“ I want to convey my sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Neville Parker on the occasion of his passing. I remember Dr. Parker fondly and well. I met him at a workshop for young engineering professors in Baltimore when he called me out by my family name while I was standing in the registration line for the workshop. He shook my hand and told me all about my family and our shared roots in Tobago. We shared a taxi to the train station in Baltimore after the workshop but headed in opposite directions, he to New York and I to Virginia. We shared the podium at similar workshops a few more times and kept in touch via email over the years. He often told me about his wish to use his knowledge to do more for Trinidad & Tobago, and encouraged me to try and do the same.

Dr. Parker taught a multitude of engineering students and faculty from all parts of the world. Through their work and his own, he has made a great positive impact on the world. I am proud to be his countryman, and hope that I can walk in his long and distinguished shadow.

May he rest in peace and may God comfort his family.

*Garrick E. Louis.
Scarborough, Tobago
&
School of Engineering and Applied Science
University of Virginia*

Garrick Louis - October 04, 2021 at 06:22 AM

AJ

“ I had the honor of working with Dr. Parker at CCNY for almost a decade. There, we were able to support and teach so many students through the Summer Transportation Institute. Because of his vision and leadership, hundreds of young people were introduced to an entirely new world through transportation and engineering. While he was a formidable director of the Transportation Department, he was also my friend. We would spend so many afternoons in the office sharing about our families and our hopes for our children. His legacy shall live on and I shall hold his memory in my heart. My love goes to his dear wife, who has been so kind to reach out and check on me through the years. I send my deepest condolences and prayers for his beautiful children and family.



*With Love and Admiration,
Alma Jefferson
(former Assistant Director of Institute for Transportation Systems -
retired)*

Alma Jefferson - October 04, 2021 at 05:14 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 04, 2021 at 03:32 AM

JL

“ A dear brother, a cherished friend, well educated yet so humble and unassuming. Our Neville has walked with Kings, yet never lost the common touch. His love for his beautiful wife Aethnie and her love and devotion to him is truly amazing. Our families are forever intertwined ever since we met in Dar as salaam Tanzania in 1976. Our lives are richly Blessed by all the beautiful memories we will hold forever in our hearts. Rest in peace dear brother, sincere condolences to dearest Aethnie, and all the family. We love you all lots and share your grief.
Lloyd and Judith .

Judith Lynch - October 03, 2021 at 10:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 03, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 03, 2021 at 05:22 PM



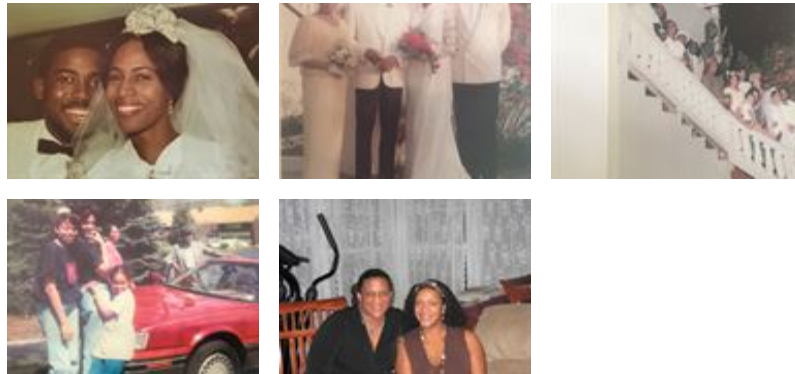
“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



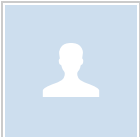
Volk Leber Funeral Home - October 03, 2021 at 02:58 PM



“ 113 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - October 03, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Neville Anthony Parker*.



October 03, 2021 at 09:18 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 02, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.



October 02, 2021 at 04:56 PM



“ Neville was a fraternity brother, friend and colleague who I was privileged to know. I have put together a little montage with photos from 1962 when he was an ROTC cadet and member of the City College Student Post of the Society of American Military Engineers to 2016 when I had lunch with him just after he retired. In between are memories of him at SAME reunions.

*Dr. Ted Drzewiecki
SAME Alumni Coordinator*



Ted Drzewiecki - October 02, 2021 at 10:16 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.*



October 02, 2021 at 07:36 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Neville Anthony Parker.*



October 01, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of working with Neville for many years in the the civil engineering department at The City College of New York. He was a fierce advocate of our students who improved the lives of countless students through the opportunities he created.*
- *Beth Wittig*

Beth Wittig - September 30, 2021 at 05:20 PM



Deepest Condolences to the Parker family, RIP Neville from the Johnsons (Jamaica/Dar ES Salaam)

Veronica - October 04, 2021 at 03:47 PM