



Foster Parris Stenson

November 24, 1935 - March 15, 2022

FOSTER P. STENSON

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Foster Parris Stenson passed away peacefully at age 86 after a brief illness related to double pneumonia and other ailments on March 15, 2022 at Virginia Hospital Center. He was born November 24, 1935 in Indianapolis, Indiana to Philmore Stenson and Louella Flanagan Stenson, who were part of the Great Migration north from Georgia. He was the oldest of three (3) children from their union. Foster graduated from the racially segregated Crispus Attucks High School. During his tenure at High School, Foster developed an interest in airplanes, which led him to join the United States Air Force following graduation in 1953. Foster served as an Airborne Radar Technician/Instructor for four (4) years in the United States Air Force. Following his military service, Foster worked several years as a Radar Technician and Electronic Technician for several aerospace companies, such as Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, RCA Corporation, and Aerojet in California and Hawaii. He worked with security sensitive equipment, which required government security clearance.

Foster enjoyed traveling and exploring new cities and countries. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where his best friends lived, Paris France, and Africa, including Kenya, were his favorite destinations. His interest in Africa was

influenced during his time in New York in the 1960s, where he met and developed friendships with diplomats of newly independent African countries. He enjoyed visiting various countries around the world, and especially enjoyed immersing himself in the culture, language and food of each locale. Over the years he particularly embraced Brazilian culture and music. Foster was blessed in his ability to easily learn foreign languages, and his outgoing personality enabled him to connect and forge bonds with people he met during his travels.

In the early 1960s, he traveled to New York and was introduced to a new career. His skills and interest in technology led him from a managerial position at Cinema 1 and 2 on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, to seamlessly transition to the field of audio-visual engineering. After a whirlwind romance, Foster fell in love and married Clotilde Guinier in 1963. Their daughter Lisa was born a year later. He introduced her to lobster at a young age, which remains her favorite food. He later exposed Lisa to the adventure of travel and encouraged her study of languages. After several years, the couple separated and they later divorced. During Foster's years in New York, he was able to join the union for audio-visual technicians, which led him in 1970 to transfer to the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE) union when he moved to California. Foster became a parent again with Laura Brown, when they had a son named Kobie, born in California. As a projectionist, Foster introduced Kobie to the wonders of movies at a very young age. Foster spent countless hours with his son in the projection booth exposing Kobie to the spectacle and grandeur of cinema. These formative experiences with Foster played a huge role in Kobie gravitating towards filmmaking as a career choice. As an adult, Kobie spent many happy hours with Foster at his favorite eatery Skate's By The Bay. Here, Foster and Kobie would enjoy Foster's favorite appetizer, oven roasted crab and artichoke dip, while commiserating about everything from sports to politics.

For two years, Foster worked as an Audio Visual Director for Francis Ford Coppola in San Francisco, where he handled procurement, installation and operation of projectors, and scheduled time for screening, sound mixing, and film editing. While this was an exciting opportunity, he wanted to complete his college education. Foster was accepted to Stanford University, where he majored in Communications (Television and Film) and minored in French and Political Science. As a student, he directed research for a Radio-Science Engineering Department professor on the impact of Cable TV on educational institutions in Palo Alto, which was published in 1972. He also studied abroad through Stanford in France, where he studied French language, culture, art and architecture. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1975 from Stanford University. He was very proud that his mother and sister Louella attended his college graduation. After graduating from Stanford, through the IATSE union in Northern California, Foster transferred into broadcast news engineering at CBS and ABC. Thereafter he worked in the Tradeshow, Convention, and Exhibition industry as an Audio Visual Engineer at the Moscone Center in San Francisco, California until his retirement. During this time, he also enjoyed serving as the Audio Visual Engineer at destination conferences for Fortune 500 companies such as Microsoft, Cisco, and Intel in Maui, Hawaii, Arizona, and Florida. His early interest in aerospace technology, as well as time in the service, inspired Foster to take flying lessons and pursue hours of flight time toward obtaining a pilot license.

Foster always held a special place in the hearts of his sisters, Louella Thomas and Irena Webster, affectionately known as Babe and Tootsie, respectively. As young women, they traveled to wherever Foster lived, happy to share adventures with him. The three siblings remained close throughout their lives, and Louella and Irena always admired their older brother.

Foster is survived by two (2) children, daughter Lisa Stenson Desamours

(Antonio) and son Kobie Lyons, two (2) sisters Louella Thomas and Irena Webster, two (2) nieces Taunya Taylor (Christopher) and Teri Bledsoe (fiancé Michael), grandnephew Nicholas Taylor, grandniece Madison Taylor, and a host of extended family and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22315 on Monday, March 28, 2022 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM. The family encourages everyone to stay safe. A mask is required and full vaccination is requested.

Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association Research Foundation in memory of Foster Stenson.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR **28**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Foster Parris Stenson*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - March 27, 2022 at 10:42 AM

ER

Thank you for sharing this service. I worked with Foster many times in San Francisco. He will be fondly remembered. Condolences to the family.

Elizabeth Russell - August 09, 2022 at 02:00 PM

AF

Where is his beautifully daughter Victoria?

Albert Fernandes - November 23, 2022 at 03:17 PM



“ *Foster Parris Stenson*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

MD

“ *I had the pleasure of serving Mr. Stenson during his brief residence at Chesterbrook Residences. Whenever we met whether it was in passing in the hall or in the dining room while he was sharing a meal with fellow residents, he always had a welcoming smile.*

Maxine Davidson - March 31, 2022 at 01:36 PM

LS

“ Our family send our sincerity’s condolences to the family of Mr. Foster Stenson. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you.

*Theon and Loretta
Indianapolis, IN*

Loretta Smith - March 28, 2022 at 08:06 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Foster Parris Stenson.



March 28, 2022 at 07:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Foster Parris Stenson.



March 27, 2022 at 09:49 PM

MP

“ Mary Goens and the Pearsons purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Foster Parris Stenson.



Mary Goens and the Pearsons - March 27, 2022 at 02:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Foster Parris Stenson.*



March 26, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Foster Parris Stenson.*



March 25, 2022 at 09:11 AM



“ *I never met Foster Stenson, but I do know Clo and Lisa. The union of Clo and Foster brought forth a wonderful, caring and brilliant child who is now a strong woman, Lisa Stenson Desamours. I pray for the eternal resting of Foster. May Lisa and Clo find comfort and peace in the midst of their sadness. Peace and love, Beverley Taylor-Diggs.*

Beverley Taylor-Diggs - March 25, 2022 at 08:48 AM



“ *Marilyn Brown purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Foster Parris Stenson.*



Marilyn Brown - March 24, 2022 at 01:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Foster Parris Stenson.



March 23, 2022 at 07:34 PM



“ FOSTER HAD A GREAT RIDE..LIVED TO THE FULLEST...MADE MANY HAPPY.....HE ALWAYS BROUGHT CHEER.....LOVE, JIMMY

JIMMY JOHNSON - March 23, 2022 at 01:21 PM