

WORD ON THE STREET

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Ennis Emanuel Williams Jr., a legendary educator in Galveston, died July 3.

Williams had a huge impact on GISD students

Ennis Williams exemplified and utilized "No Child Left Behind" long before the law took effect by impacting the lives of so many Galveston Independent School District students.

He addressed the needs of each student, making sure all students were taught and tested to improve their academic achievement and success.

His gentle smile and words of wisdom will live in the hearts of many; I know it will in mine!

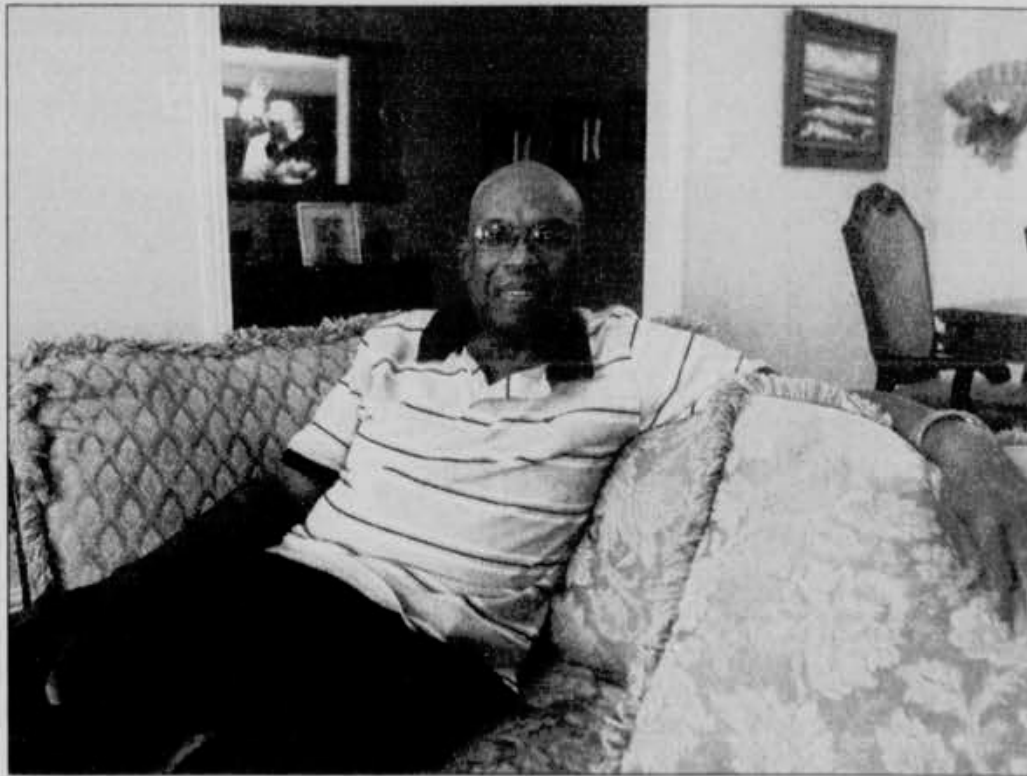
Vivian Hernandez
Mentoring Coordinator at
Ball High School
Galveston

Mr. Williams encouraged all

If you've ever watched an episode of Sanford and Son, you've heard Fred G. Sanford articulate what the "G" stood for. Besides Emanuel, the "E" in Ennis E. Williams Jr. stood for "encouragement."

Everyone who knew Ennis has witnessed him encouraging someone. There are students, church members, citizens, family, friends and brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity who were on the receiving end of his gift of uplifting others.

I met Mr. Williams when I transferred to Weis Middle School halfway into the school



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News file photo

Former students and colleagues of Ennis E. Williams Jr. praised the longtime Galveston educator.

year. I was very nervous and didn't have any friends in my new school. He encouraged me to focus on my academics and reassured me that everything would be just fine. Mr. Williams rarely received proper accolades for the thousands of unselfish acts he did for someone, but that never stopped him.

He is one of the few people I knew who could look adversity square in the face and manage to smile. Sometimes that was all it took to encourage those around him. Mr. Williams, thank you, for encouraging us.

Marvin Johnson Jr.
Galveston

There will never be another Ennis Williams

Words will never quite express the love and appreciation I have for Mr. Ennis Williams! Hopefully, this

poem will say it all.

An honest man, Mr. Ennis Williams, has died and gone home to rest.

A friend of man, a friend of truth.

A friend of age, wisdom, and guide of youth.

Few hearts like his, with virtue warmed few hearts with knowledge, so informed.

If there is another world, he lives in bliss, if there is none; surely, Mr. Ennis Williams was the best!

Sleep well, Mr. Ennis Williams; Jesus will wake you!

Sheila Bruno
Galveston

I'll always remember Mr. Williams

I visited the Williams household throughout my high school years. Elicia and I had a great time each visit. Mr. Williams was always



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kind, pleasant and hospitable.

I will always remember the warmth and pleasant spirit in the household. At school, Mr. Williams continued that same demeanor. He was always smiling and always made the day a little brighter. I will always remember and cherish the time that I spent with Mr. Ennis Williams and his family.

Demetra Jones
Dallas

Mr. Williams left a legacy

I remember it vividly. It was the first day of sixth grade at Weis Middle School. I say I remember it vividly, but the only thing I really recall clearly was sitting at my desk for morning announcements: "Good morning, students. My name is Mr. Williams, and I am your assistant principal."

I had no face to go with the voice. I didn't know his smile. I didn't know his

dedication to students or his support for Galveston education. I had no idea who Mr. Williams was, who he would become or what he would mean to me 35 years later. But I remember his voice on that first day of middle school.

I had the double privilege to attend schools where Mr. Williams was an administrator and to be in the band when he and his wife, Maggie, were active band boosters. I came to see firsthand his tireless work and ever-present smile. His spirit seeped into me, modeling how to be an educator.

Now a Galveston Independent School District staff member, I will never fill Mr. Williams' shoes — one person will never fill his shoes. That is why Mr. Williams touched thousands of lives. It will take all of us, together, to follow his footsteps and continue his legacy for Galveston.

Marianne Pascal Beerstecher
Ball High Class of 1986
Galveston