



## Wesley James Bryant Jr.

December 27, 1937 - November 19, 2020

II Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight: I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Wesley James Bryant, Jr. was born on December 27, 1937 at home in Lake City, South Carolina. He was the son of Wesley James Bryant, Sr., and Janie M. Daniels Graham, both preceded him in death. Fondly known as Wes, he surrendered to be with the Lord on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at Osceola Regional Medical Center in Kissimmee, Florida.

Wes lived with his grandmother Mrs. Lou Daniels and led a full and happy childhood in Lake City, S.C. until the age of 11. He moved to Brooklyn, New York in 1948 to be with his mom and family and attended New York City Public Schools. He graduated in 1955 from one of the top New York City high schools, Brooklyn Tech High School where he received many honors and awards. He excelled in Spanish which he later used to nurture his career. Wesley attended the Fountain Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ under the leadership of Reverend Jehovah Rice where he served as an usher and sang in the Young Adults choir. Immediately after graduation, Wes attended the prestigious NYU University before deciding to enlist in the United States Air Force. While in the Air Force he met and married the late Thelma Maria Barazza and they had 7 beautiful children. The family traveled the country from Washington State to Massachusetts with the oldest son Jaime often

serving as the road navigator for his dad.

During Wesley's stint in the Air Force, he was promoted quickly and served in increasingly responsible positions including Senior Air Traffic Controller. Based around the world including the Hanoi Airport during the Viet Nam War, and the U.S. Canal Zone Panama from 1961-65, Wes enjoyed meeting and interacting with people from different countries, cultures, and all walks of life. His thirst for new knowledge was instrumental in his successful career. He retired as a Tech Sergeant (TSGT/E-6) in 1976 with 21 years of service to his country.

In 1979, Wes married Amelia Barclay and they had two little girls. They settled in a quaint suburban area of Queens Village, New York. Wes was an active and doting father attending field trips, helping with homework and very protective of his two little girls as he affectionately called them his little pumpkins.

Wes continued his career and after retiring from the United States Air Force he worked for the New York County Court system as a Spanish interpreter. However, Wes was not finished with his career, and joined the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the largest federal law enforcement agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security. He worked at major airports including New York's JFK and Orlando International. His spirit personified civility: he was meant to be in service. He was polite, respectful, tolerate, gracious and above all humble. In short, he was not shy, but indeed confident in whatever task he took on. As his friends would say, "he was very loyal and dedicated to service and loved all those he worked with." His work ethic was enormous and will be his legacy.

In the early 2000's, Wes relocated to the Sunshine State Florida with his late wife Marlene Datus and stepdaughter Clodine. There they enjoyed family time in the pool on hot sunny days.

Wesley leaves to continue his legacy of service to his amazing children: Jaime and Miguel (Massachusetts) Eduardo (Georgia), Eredy and Jorge

(Virginia) Luis (Hawaii), Deborah (North Carolina), Erica Jackson and Michele Bryant (Georgia). Sisters, Sidney Theresa Ryals (Bishop John Henry) of Florence, S.C., Donna Maxwell, Charleston, S.C., Acquanetta Jones, Lake City, S.C., and brother Joseph Graham (Monika) of the Dominican Republic. Stepdaughters Tamara Surpris and Clodine Datus, (Florida) and a host of grandchildren and great grandkids, relatives and friends.

Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory - Lawrenceville; 770.338.5558

# Cemetery Details

## Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Dr  
Canton, GA 30114

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel  
914 Scenic Hwy  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

## Celebration of Life Service - Live Streamed

DEC 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel  
914 Scenic Hwy  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

## Burial

DEC 11. 2:30 PM (ET)

Georgia National Cemetery  
1080 Scott Hudgens Dr  
Canton, GA 30114



# Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a [Click Here For Live Stream in memory of Wesley James Bryant Jr.](#)*



**Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.** - December 10, 2020 at 11:34 PM



“ 🧡 🥲 🙏

**Michele Bryant** - February 08, 2025 at 10:09 PM



“ 🧡

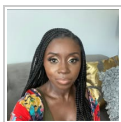
**Michele Bryant** - October 10, 2023 at 09:06 PM



“ *I miss my Dad! Happy Father's Day!*



**Jorge Bryant** - June 19, 2023 at 08:24 PM



**Michele Bryant** - November 18, 2023 at 11:03 PM



“ 🥰 🙏 🕊️

Michele Bryant - October 16, 2022 at 05:45 PM



“ 🥰 🥰 🥰 🕊️

Michele Bryant - July 11, 2022 at 06:01 PM



“ *Still missing you every day Daddy. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about you. I miss you and I love you* 🥰🥰

Michele Bryant - September 09, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ *Missing you every single day Daddy! You are always the first thing on my mind in the morning and the last before I go to sleep. I will love forever until we meet again* ❤️

Michele Bryant - April 18, 2021 at 02:37 PM



“ *Control tower at Westover AFB, Chicopee at the time when our dad served as chief controller.*



Jorge Bryant - March 22, 2021 at 06:11 PM

JR

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Bryant for 25 years, when my family moved from Brooklyn to Queens. I can still remember him turning the corner in his freshly pressed U.S. Customs uniform and his black briefcase, while my friends and I played ball or just chilled in front of his home with his lovely daughters Erica and Michele. Life more often than not takes the people we care for in different directions. I would join the Army and end up working for Customs and Border Protection in 2012.

On my first day out of the academy, I report to the Customs House in Orlando, FL and told that an officer would be taking me to the Airside to meet my FTO. As I wait for the officer, a familiar face sits across from me, so I begin to ask him a few questions. I will never forget the look of surprise on his face when I told him the block he used to live on to confirm that this was the same Mr. Bryant from my childhood. I thought, “this man hasn’t aged one bit.”

I got to know Mr. B as a friend and colleague over the last eight years. I left conversations feeling all types of emotions, but was usually amazed by the stories of his life as a child in South Carolina, as a young man in the Air Force, and as a Customs Officer. I used to always tell him, “I want to be like him when I grow up.” That was absolutely true. He seemed to have endless energy, not just for a man his age, but of any age. He never got too down when things got rough. And he was kind to every person, passenger or colleague, he encountered. Mr. B, thanks for the advise, the stories, and two life long friends. The world is a little less bright without you!!!



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J. Richey - December 11, 2020 at 10:13 AM

RA

“ I had the pleasure of working with Wes for most of his career. I was amazed at how quickly he earned the respect of his fellow officers even those that had more time in service than he had. He was dependable and reliable and I knew that anything I assigned to Wes was going to be done precisely within the guidelines and procedures. My prayers go out to his family because I know they are enduring a great loss but do know, Wes was a great man that I had the pleasure of calling my friend.

*Retired CBP Director Field Operations, Atlanta, San Francisco, & New York. He*

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**Reginald Manning, Retired DFO, Atlanta** - December 10, 2020 at 04:23 PM

EC

“ I had the pleasure of working with Wes here at JFK probably for the last 8-10 years of his career before his transfer down south.



*I was in awe of his knowledge, his past in the military as a war veteran like myself and especially his agility. Wes had a trim slim build and a fast pace walk with himself. Lol.*

*I still can remember all the smiles, handshakes, double handshakes, hugs and yes kisses he received on his last day on the job with us. I'm sure I even recalled seeing Wes privately pulling out a hankie to dab his tearing eye that day as well.*

*I read a description of Wes in a post here where someone summed it up best.*

*Wesley Bryant was indeed "An Officer And A Gentleman".*

*May You Rest In Eternal Peace My Beloved Brother....*

*To The Bryant Family: May God provide you peace, comfort, solace and resolve during this difficult time.*

*Blessings....*

*Errol Hall  
CBPO/JFK*

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**Errol Hall CBPO/JFK - December 10, 2020 at 07:30 AM**



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wesley James Bryant Jr..*



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December 09, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ *I remember as a little kid my father calling the house and my mom telling me to take a pack of cigarettes to my dad in the control tower which was located near the runway and having to wait for jets to pass before running across between them not caring about the danger but the mission cigarettes to my dad and the smile he gave me when my little head popped up out of the hatch on the floor I was 6yrs old. Mission accomplished. Eduardo*

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**Eduardo Bryant** - December 09, 2020 at 08:48 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wesley James Bryant Jr..*



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December 09, 2020 at 07:30 AM



“ *Our condolences to you and the family at this difficult time. May you find comfort in the wonderful memories that you shared. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. Elder Anthony and Sheila White & Family.*

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**Sheila White** - December 07, 2020 at 12:46 PM

AG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Anita Green** - December 05, 2020 at 03:17 PM

AG

“ My childhood friend Sidney Theresa Ryals asked that I include her message on her brother Wes' tribute wall; and the message reads:

*My dear sweet loving brother Wes, I will always remember the beautiful days we shared together from childhood to adulthood. You will always be in my heart. Rest now with the ancestors and the Lord until we meet again. I am sending you pictures of me, my husband John, my son, your nephew Clifford III. We love you always.*



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**Anita Green** - December 05, 2020 at 01:23 PM

JJ

“ My deepest condolences to the Bryant family and his extended family at US Customs and Border Protection at both Orlando International and JFK International Airports. Wes was one of the first Senior Inspectors I worked under when I was promoted to Customs Inspector. Wes taught me so much in the time we spent together. He was always a great person to work with, always pleasant, and always a gentleman, and a true 'old school' Inspector. May Wes rest in paradise. Lux Eterna.



*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand*

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**John Buonincontri, CBPO JFKIA** - December 02, 2020 at 09:51 AM

LF

“ My Sincere condolences to the Bryant family! I worked with Wes at JFK for many years. He was a gentleman of gentleman! Wes was always respectful and kind not only to his coworkers but to the people we dealt with every day! No matter the situation he always kept a level head and a respectful manner. He will truly be missed! Rest In Peace my friend!



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**Laurelli Faustin** - December 02, 2020 at 05:12 AM

JB

“ *My condolences to the Bryant family. I worked with Wes at JFK in the passenger terminals. He trained many officers and the depth of his knowledge will surely be missed. Wes was a caring, honest and hardworking man. A true officer and gentleman. You labored for many long years. You've earned your wings. Rest in Peace Wes.*



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**JULIA S. BRADSHAW** - December 01, 2020 at 11:39 PM

EC

“ *From: Efren Cruz*

*Dear Wesley,*

*I take honor in capturing the photo that is posted just a few weeks before your life came to an end, I am grateful to the Dear Lord to afford me the opportunity to worked with you all those years. I remember your graciousness when conducting inspections even with the most upset passenger you will obtain a smile from the.*

*Clearly you were a gifted man in bring harmony and peace to others; Maestro it will be hard to follow your footsteps, what a great teacher you have been to all of us. Our lord has a special place for you at his side. Rest in peace my friend.*

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**Efren Cruz** - November 30, 2020 at 09:53 PM

SS

“ Wes,

*May God keep our family in total comfort and peace during this time. I remember you coming to visit us when I was a little girl in Lake City, SC. I remember your warm spirit, smile and voice.. I use to love to hear you call my grandmother, Aunt Glennie. You served your country and others with great admiration! Rest in heaven my dear cousin. Your legacy and beautiful family will always live on in our hearts...*

*Love,  
Cousin Sherry G. Smith*

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**Sherry G Smith** - November 29, 2020 at 08:31 PM

JB

“ *My dad dedicated almost 60 years of his life to service of our country. He retired from the Air Force where he served as a senior air traffic controller at numerous bases around the U.S., Canal Zone Panama and at Hanoi Airport during the Vietnam War. Shortly after retiring from the Air Force he joined the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency where he served mostly at major Int'l airports (NY-JFK & Orlando Int'l-MCO). He was very loyal and dedicated to service and he loved all those those whom he worked with. It's no wonder why my sisters, brothers and I are as dedicated to our work as he was. My dad was truly a man of honor. I will truly miss you!  
Love your son, Joqui*



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**Jorge Bryant** - November 29, 2020 at 10:33 AM

JB

*It's been one year ago today since I lost my dad to cancer. I miss you Dathe! R.I.P. 🙏*

**Jorge Bryant** - November 19, 2021 at 07:15 AM

JW

*“ Wes was on my team here at JFK for a while, and I worked with him for many years even when he wasn't. Wes always made sure that the new guys that came on had what they needed to do their jobs as well as they could. Wes also worked quite a few Christmas holidays for me because he knew my kids were still young, and his were grown. very selfless and thought of others he worked with. I always loved working with him, and was very happy when he finally got his transfer to Florida. I was just talking about him not long ago. He will be missed and definitely not forgotten.*

*Joe Schaefer JFK*

**Joe Schaefer JFK co worker** - November 26, 2020 at 09:02 PM

JO

*“ i worked with Wes on the JFK CET team back when we were Inspectors during the busy days Lots of seizures and laughs . He was a truly a pleasure to work with , a reliable old school gentleman .*

**John** - November 26, 2020 at 12:23 PM

SM

*“ I know Mr. Wesley for 7 years. He was a amazing officer, partner and great person. He will be really missed for all us. I will always remember his jokes, his smile and the deeply he care for everyone. God bless him and your family.*

**Sonia Mozdzen** - November 26, 2020 at 06:25 AM

AG

“ May God bless the family during this sorrowful hour. Now is a good time to reflect back on all the beautiful memories you shared. I knew Wes many years ago in Brooklyn, NY. We were neighbors and I remember feeling very sad when he left to joined the Air Force. My sincere condolences.

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**Anita Carroll Green** - November 25, 2020 at 08:29 PM

JB

“ To Know My Dad Was To Love Him. His Care And Concern Towards Other's Has Been Expressed To Me From All Who Knew Keeping Him Close! A Life Well Lived And Missed By Many! May He Continue To Rest In Peace



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**JAIME BRYANT** - November 25, 2020 at 06:24 PM

EB

*His was a life of service to the end I wish I'd had more time Rest in Peace  
Papi  
Eduardo*

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**Eduardo Bryant** - November 25, 2020 at 06:49 PM

MR

*Your Dad was an awesome individual. I worked with him at JFK for many years. He was as straight as an arrow, great sense of humor and a tireless spirit. The service and the world is slightly diminished by his passing . I pray for your strength and that of your family. God Bless you Wes.*

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**Manuel Rodriguez** - November 26, 2020 at 12:05 PM

MC

*The true definition of an Officer and Gentleman. In what would be our last conversation Officer Bryant told me he was an Air traffic Controller during the Vietnam War and he shared a lot about his job at the time directing U.S Military planes at Hanoi Airport. I asked Bryant if he had ever considered sharing his adventures with the world through a memoir and he smiled and told me, not many would believe the stories. Well Officer Bryant, i believed your stories and will forever miss hearing about your adventures. Rest in Peace Officer Bryant.*

**Muange Christopher** - November 27, 2020 at 11:10 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wesley James Bryant Jr..*



November 25, 2020 at 06:06 PM

CJ

“ *Mr. Bryant it was an honor to have worked along side you, you will be deeply missed by all of us. I was saddened to hear about the loss of such great man. Prayers to the family and friends of Mr. Bryant, our family sends our deepest sympathy.*

**Chris Johnson** - November 25, 2020 at 05:43 PM

IF

“ *Ingrid Finch lit a candle in memory of Wesley James Bryant Jr.*



**Ingrid Finch** - November 25, 2020 at 03:03 PM

DR

“ *Mr Bryant It was a pleasure working with you. You made me laugh and gave good advice as a father would, Thank you. Heaven gained a new Angel. My condolences to the family.*

daisy Rodriguez - November 25, 2020 at 02:27 PM

FW

“ *Mr. Bryant you are a true gentleman and a patriot and you will be missed by all who knew and came in contact with you.*

Fred Williams - November 25, 2020 at 02:23 PM

SO

“ *Mr. Bryant, you are going to be truly missed. I always loved talking to you and for sure I will never forget your laugh and smile. I had the pleasure of working with you in Customs and Border Protection but above of all I had the honor of knowing you as a person, the love you have for your family, your integrity and love for our country. May your soul rest in peace.*



selma ocasio - November 25, 2020 at 01:11 PM

MD

“ *Although I did not know you personally, we are from the same family...The Orlando, CBP Family. My heartfelt thought and prayers go out to your family. May God fill the void with peace and loving memories. Aloha and Rest In Peace My Brother! Melanie Dixon and Family.*



Melanie Dixon - November 25, 2020 at 12:27 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Wesley James Bryant Jr..*



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November 25, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ *We can't begin to imagine what you are feeling, but please let us share our heartfelt condolences. May God comfort you through his word the Bible and the gift of prayer.*

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**Evans family** - November 25, 2020 at 04:07 AM