

Thomas Ellis Welch, ii

A War Veteran; Civil Servant



Erik DeSean Barrett

Saturday June 10 2023

Thomas Ellis Welch, Jr

A War Veteran; Civil Servant

Thomas Ellis Welch Jr, was born June 15, 1938 to the late Alice Brown, and civic pioneer Thomas Ellis Welch, Sr. His early years was spent beside his father, who



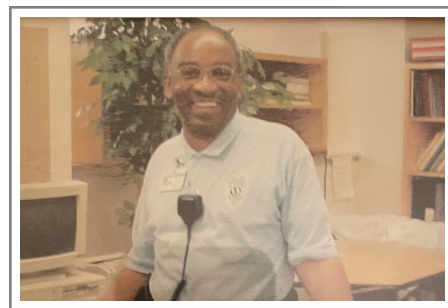
Thomas Ellis Sr, and Alice Brown Welch

worked to pave the way for African American business leaders, and ordinary citizens of Norfolk.

Around the age of sixteen, TEWii, decided his mission was to serve his country. He enlisted in the US. Army, putting his passion for auto mechanics into action; as a helicopter pilot, and repairman. After serving In The Vietnam 🇻🇳 War, he

returned to Norfolk, where he met, and married the love of his life Evelyn Johnson. The couple moved to the Ingleside neighborhood where they lived over 50 years.

Also during this time; Mr. Welch decided a career change. He became a resource officer for Norfolk Public Schools; where for close to 40 years he served at schools like Azalea Gardens Middle School, Northside, and James Madison Career Center. His mission in this role, was being a stark believer of reaching for the best, and achieving it.



TEWii as a resource officer of Norfolk Public Schools

Mr. Welch was also a faithful member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, during the tenure of one of Norfolk's Greatest Social Justice Advocates, Bishop I. Joseph Williams.

In addition to his love of God, and church, he was a huge advocate for athletics; playing in numerous sporting leagues, during a time when African American participation was extremely rare. Mr. Welch also loved, and supported biking. He religiously for 50 plus years, rode his bike along what we know now as the Elizabeth River Trail.

He was proceeded by his father, Thomas Sr, one of Norfolk's African American pioneer business, and social leaders, his mother Alice who through her work with the Presbyterians, brought spiritual hope, and Empowerment both here in Norfolk, and in the Congo of Africa.



The Welch Children
Thomas Jr, Top, Alice Z, right, Stephen R.
Center, Mamie Elizabeth Left

His sister, Dr. Alice Z, who was the director of nursing, who alongside his wife Evelyn, was instrumental in the medical empowerment of student nurses through Norfolk Community Hospital.

He left to witness a family, who also each in their own right has made significant contributions to Norfolk, and Beyond.

His Sister Elizabeth Welch Staton, who for close to sixty years has as a Norfolk Public Schools crossing guard, and Ordained Minister, sought to also bring hope, and change to Norfolk.

His Brother Stephen Richard, who as a carpenter, made a huge contribution to the building, and beautification of our Norfolk Neighborhoods. Nephew Joseph W. Barrett III, whose career in construction management began with the building of Norfolk's Dominion Tower.



Thomas Jr, center, Rodney & SherNita McFarlin, right, Erika Barrett, Center Left, Stephen Welch, far left

Erika, Joseph's Wife, who is leading through instructional development the future leaders of Prince George's Country Public Schools. His Niece SherNita McFarlin, who made her contribution as educator, and administrator for Norfolk Public Schools, and followed her grandma, Alice, as an ambassador to women in the presbyterian church.

Her husband, Rodney, who retired after 20 years of service to his country through the US. Navy.

Last, but not least his grand nephew's, Erik Barrett, and Derrick Davis who together with their wives Chavonda, and Briona are paving the way future African American leaders in Entrepreneurs and Civic Engagement.



THE GRAND NEPHEWS & WIVES

Erik & Chavonda Barrett, Left
Derrick & Briona Davis, Right

On Saturday, June 10, 2023, nearing what would have been birthday number 85. We will gather, at One o clock in the afternoon, on the grounds where he and his wife Evelyn called home in Ingleside,



Official Photo
Delegate Jackie Hope Glass

Delegate Jackie H. Glass, a veteran in her own right, civic advocate and current representative for Va House District 89, in the company of community civic members, family and friends will lead a moment of pause to celebrate a War Hero, Civic Servant, and model to all, particularly black men, of the true essence of believing, achieving, and succeeding.

If you desire to provide feedback, or request additional information, please email hey@heyitsedb.com.