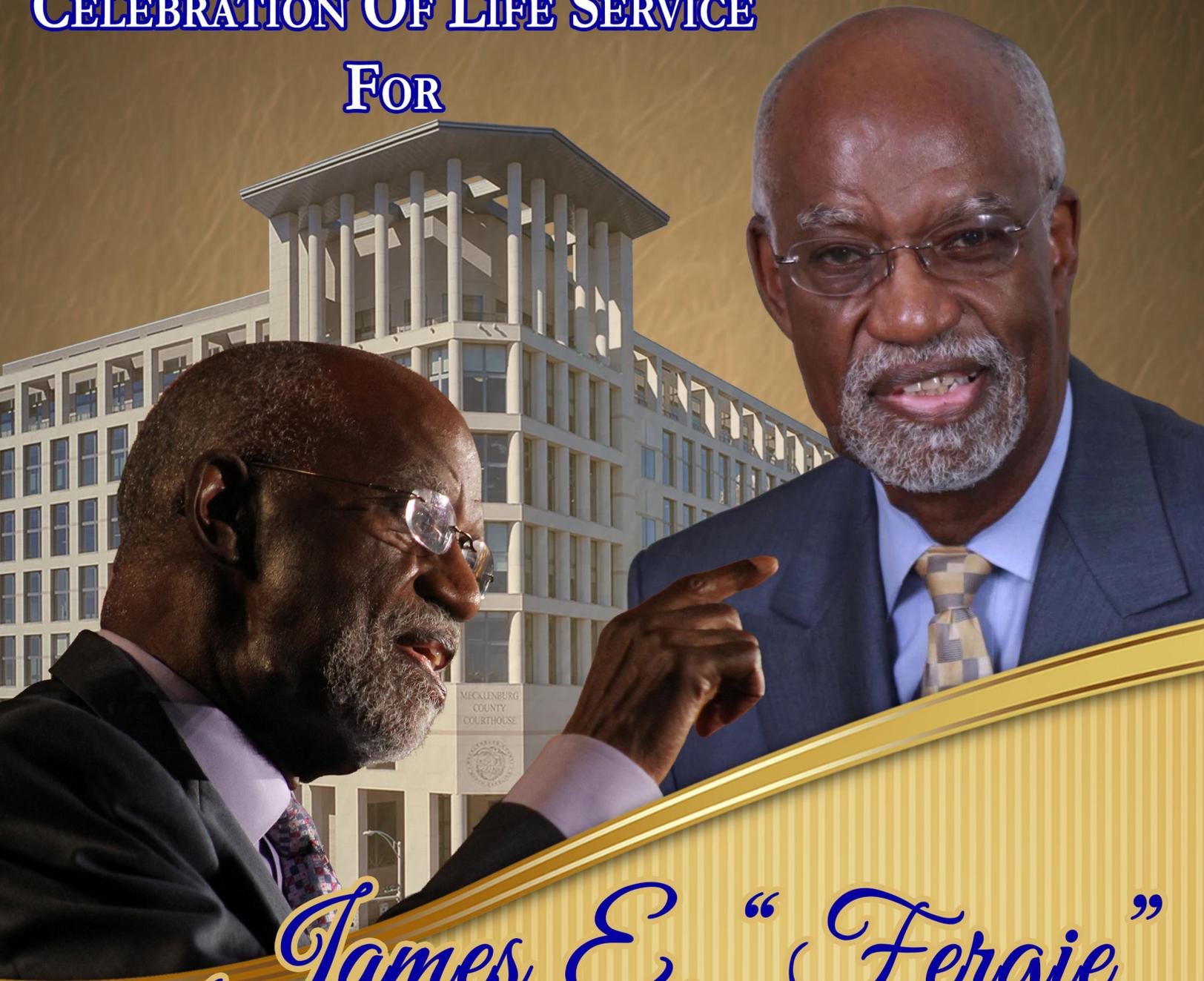


**CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE**

**FOR**



*James E. "Fergie"*

**FERGUSON, II**

**October 10, 1942-July 21, 2025**

**Thursday, August 7, 2025**

**Visitation: 11:00 AM | Service: 12:00 Noon**

**The Park Church**

**6029 Beatties Ford Road**

**Charlotte, North Carolina 28216**

**Bishop Claude R. Alexander, Pastor**

**Officiating**

# *Celebration of Life Service*

Opening .....Bishop Claude R. Alexander, Jr., The Park Church

Musical Selection ..... "The Lord's Prayer"  
Wesley Fields

## Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Micah 6:6-9

New Testament: Galatians 5:22-23

Remarks from Friends .....Josh Stein, Anthony Foxx, Mel Watt,  
Mojanku Gumbi, Geraldine Sumter

Remarks from Taj Ferguson

Musical Selection ..... "Sweet Sweet Spirit"  
Tiffany Barber Ferguson

Remarks from Yolonda Artadi

Remarks from Jalyn Black

Remarks from Jay Ferguson

Musical Selection ..... "Walk in Jerusalem Just Like John"  
Geoffrey Golden, The Park Church

Remarks from Kali Ferguson

Musical Selection ..... "Ain't Got Time to Die"  
James E. Ferguson II, (solo from North Carolina College, 1963)

Eulogy .....Bishop Dwayne A. Walker, A.M.E. Zion Church

Closing .....Bishop Claude R. Alexander, Jr., The Park Church

# Attorney James E. Ferguson, II

From whom much is given, much is required.

In 1942 James E. “Fergie” Ferguson II was born in Asheville, NC into a family of seven siblings. His parents earned a living selling coal and kindling wood, along with domestic work for wealthier white families. As the youngest child, he had the benefit of being nurtured by his parents, James and Nina Ferguson and older siblings, especially his sister Sandy who was his “second mama”. From this family his character was shaped by their demonstration of love, respect, kindness, forgiveness and compassion towards others.

As a high school student in the Jim Crow South, Ferguson worked with fellow students to form the Asheville Student Committee on Racial Equality (ASCORE). The group was successful in desegregating department store lunch counters and other Asheville public facilities, including libraries and parks. It is believed that ASCORE was the only group of its kind at the time, and as its first president Ferguson attended the founding meeting of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1960. His work with ASCORE brought him in contact with two black lawyers in Asheville, Ruben Dailey and Harold Epps. Their unselfish efforts and offer to represent the students inspired his philosophy of attorney involvement in community work. He was impressed that they never talked to the students about fees or retainers and never charged them.

A few years later he married ASCORE's third president and fellow Asheville native Barbara Turman, and during nearly 56 years of marriage until her passing in 2022, they built a life together around their shared passion for social justice, the culture of the African Diaspora, and their 3 children and, 4 grandchildren.

Ferguson went on to become Student Body President at North Carolina College for Negroes, now known as North Carolina Central University, receiving his degree in 1964. He continued his academic career at Columbia University Law School graduating in 1967 and settled in Charlotte upon the invitation of Julius L. Chambers. A year later he was a founding member of North Carolina's first integrated law firm, Chambers Stein Ferguson & Lanning, today known as Ferguson Chambers & Sumter. He remained with the firm through his reluctant retirement effective December 31, 2024. For over forty years he served as the firm's President.

After just three short years in practice, Ferguson led the defense in one of North Carolina's most well-known criminal trials, the Wilmington Ten. This world-renowned case involved America's first political prisoners of conscience, as declared by Amnesty International. Forty years later he secured Pardons of Innocence for each of the defendants. In 1968, he served as lead counsel for the Charlotte Three, three activists against racist practices, who were convicted of setting fire to a horse stable. In 1979, Governor James B. Hunt commuted their sentences after a vigorous campaign by state, local and international organizations highlighted the heightened racial strife surrounding the arrest and conviction. His interest in defending wrongfully accused persons remained strong.

In 1970, sixteen years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Ferguson led a lawsuit that held Asheville City Schools accountable for its failure to implement a true desegregation plan. His personal experiences fighting against segregation as a teenager informed his future legal path. He remained involved with the Asheville City Schools desegregation efforts as the school board sought to make changes to its plans, including revisions under consideration as late as 2021.

Beginning in 1986 during the Apartheid era, Ferguson and Ken Broun,, members of the Board of Trustees of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) , traveled to South Africa in collaboration with the Black Lawyers Association Legal Education Centre to conduct trial advocacy training. He served as Co-Founder, Coordinator and Faculty Member and was asked to serve as a Trustee of the organization. His work there brought him in contact with Nelson Mandela both before and after Mandela was elected President. His speech at the tenth Anniversary of the founding of the BLA so impressed President Mandela that when they met again President Mandela immediately recognized him. The program over the years became recognized for its effectiveness and served as a model program for other international programs sponsored by NITA. Completion of the trial skills program offered by the BLA is now required by the Law Society of South Africa for all practioners before they can appear in court. The opportunity to share essential litigation skills with South African attorneys seeking legal and social justice, was one of the most rewarding highlights of his career.

In 2000, Ferguson became a founding board member of the Drug Policy Alliance, a national organization formed to end the War on Drugs and to reshape drug policy across the United States. He was an early advocate of decriminalization of marijuana and crack/cocaine. He lobbied state and local officials to introduce legislation to decriminalize these drugs and to focus on treatment not incarceration. Today, due in large part to his vision and hard work, we see less criminalization of drug or substance abuse and much more treatment of the disease of addiction.

Fergie can be seen in “The Trials of Darryl” on HBO, a documentary chronicling the life journey of Darryl Hunt, for whom Ferguson won a judicial declaration of innocence after Mr. Hunt spent nearly 20 years in prison, following a wrongful conviction of rape and murder. He represented the family of 23 year old African American veteran, Henry Marrow, who was murdered by a white businessman who was acquitted of the murder. The story was the subject of an historical memoir and biopic, *Blood Done Signed My Name* by Timothy Tyson.

Ferguson was a staunch opponent of the death penalty for any crime. He defended a number of persons accused of crimes who faced the death penalty. When his expanded practice limited his ability to engage in the extremely time-consuming capital punishment cases, he engaged in public advocacy against the death penalty. During his tenure as President of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice (then North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers), he made the abolition of the death penalty and challenges to procedures used in death penalty his highest priority.

worked with a team of advocates to spearhead the passage of the Racial Justice Act (RJA) in 2009, along with many other efforts throughout his career to minimize or eliminate the impact of the death penalty. When passed, it was the only legislation of its type in the country. Until it was repealed by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013, the law allowed previously convicted defendants in capital cases to challenge their convictions based on racial bias by the prosecutors involved in their cases. Ferguson and his co-counsel obtained commutations, from death sentences

to life imprisonment, in each of the four cases decided under North Carolina's Racial Justice Act, the only law of its kind in the nation.

In 2018 Ferguson filed and resolved a contentious police misconduct action against the City of Asheville. Seeing the continuing tensions in Asheville between law enforcement and the African American community inspired him to make the Asheville a point of focus along with his Charlotte, as he pursued his vision for expanding the use of restorative justice. Following this he worked with experts as well as local leaders and residents, to apply principles of this philosophy in pursuit of broader healing in both communities.

In 1999, a challenge to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education's plans implemented pursuant to the court's orders in *Swann v. Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education*. Ferguson represented a group of African American intervenors in the case, *Belk v. Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education*, as they sought to defend the continued use of practices required by Judge John B. McMillan and affirmed by the U. S. Supreme Court in 1971 which approved the use of bussing to achieve the mandates of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Much to the disappointment of many, the Fourth Circuit of Appeals upheld the decision of the district court to declare that the school system had reached unitary status and could not continue to operate under the previous court orders. The *Belk* decision was a partial victory as it upheld the use of magnet schools for which selection was highly coveted.

In the 1980's Ferguson expanded his area of expertise from desegregation, criminal defense and police misconduct to medical malpractice and personal injury. He excelled in these areas as well. His first medical malpractice verdict of two million dollars against a hospital was one of the highest in the state at the time.

In addition to his work representing clients, Ferguson served the legal profession tirelessly as a member of the various committees of the North Carolina State Bar, the North Carolina Advocates for Justice, North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, NAACP-LDF Cooperating Attorney, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, ACLU, Black Lawyers Association of South Africa, and the Innocence Commission.

In 1971, Ferguson led the effort to revitalize efforts to organize African American lawyers in North Carolina. Those lawyers had been organized in association with African American lawyers in South Carolina and Virginia. The North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers was organized and has been pivotal in the advocacy of equal justice for the community and for advancement of representation of African American lawyers in the judiciary, government, education, private law firms and industry. He served as its President for two years and remained on its Board of Directors as a Past President. He was honored by NCABL at its June 2025 meeting. He also worked closely with the Charlotte African American lawyers in the John S. Leary Bar.

Ferguson did not limit his service to the legal profession. He was an active member of the community. He shared his knowledge and vision of a better world through a number of efforts in Charlotte. He was instrumental in the early work of the Charlotte Community Building Initiative (CBI) where the mission is to give people and organizations the knowledge, skills, and courage to fight bias, remove barriers to opportunity and build a more equitable and just Charlotte-

Mecklenburg. He served as co-chair of the task force that led to its formation. The group's efforts were recognized nationally in 1998. The work of the CBI was close to his heart as it promoted an action oriented inclusive process designed to allow all people to do the hard work of truth and reconciliation, a process he had observed as it helped South Africans adjusting to life after Apartheid.

Ferguson supported the arts and culture institutions in Charlotte. His wife, Barbara Turman Ferguson, established the Afro American Children's Theater in 1981 when she noticed that her children and other African American children were not welcomed into children theater programs in the City of Charlotte. Ferguson was one of its biggest supporters. He was also a strong advocate for the Afro American Cultural Center from its inception through its present formation as The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture. He enjoyed a vibrant relationship with the African American and Africana Department of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Ferguson never sought political office but was actively engaged in the elected political process. In 1968, he ran the statewide campaign of Dr. Reginald Hawkins for governor of the State of North Carolina. Dr. Hawkins did not win the primary, but his race demonstrated the power of the African American vote. Ferguson never ran another campaign, but his support and endorsement of candidates was sought and highly desired by local, state and national candidates. Harvey Gantt, Mel Watt, Leslie Winner, Henry Frye, Dan Blue, Anthony Foxx, Vi Alexander Lyles, Cheri Beasley and Josh Stein are among those for whom he actively campaigned.

Ferguson liked to engage with people on all levels. He was known for enjoying family, good music, food and friends. In 2006, he purchased The Historic Excelsior Club and continued its legacy as a hub for the social and political gathering place for African Americans in Charlotte. All were welcome to visit the Club and many came for the first time. For eight years A Sign of the Times of the Carolinas, a local jazz group, and musicians from the Charlotte Symphony presented a collaborative performance at The Historic Excelsior Club to mark MLK Day.

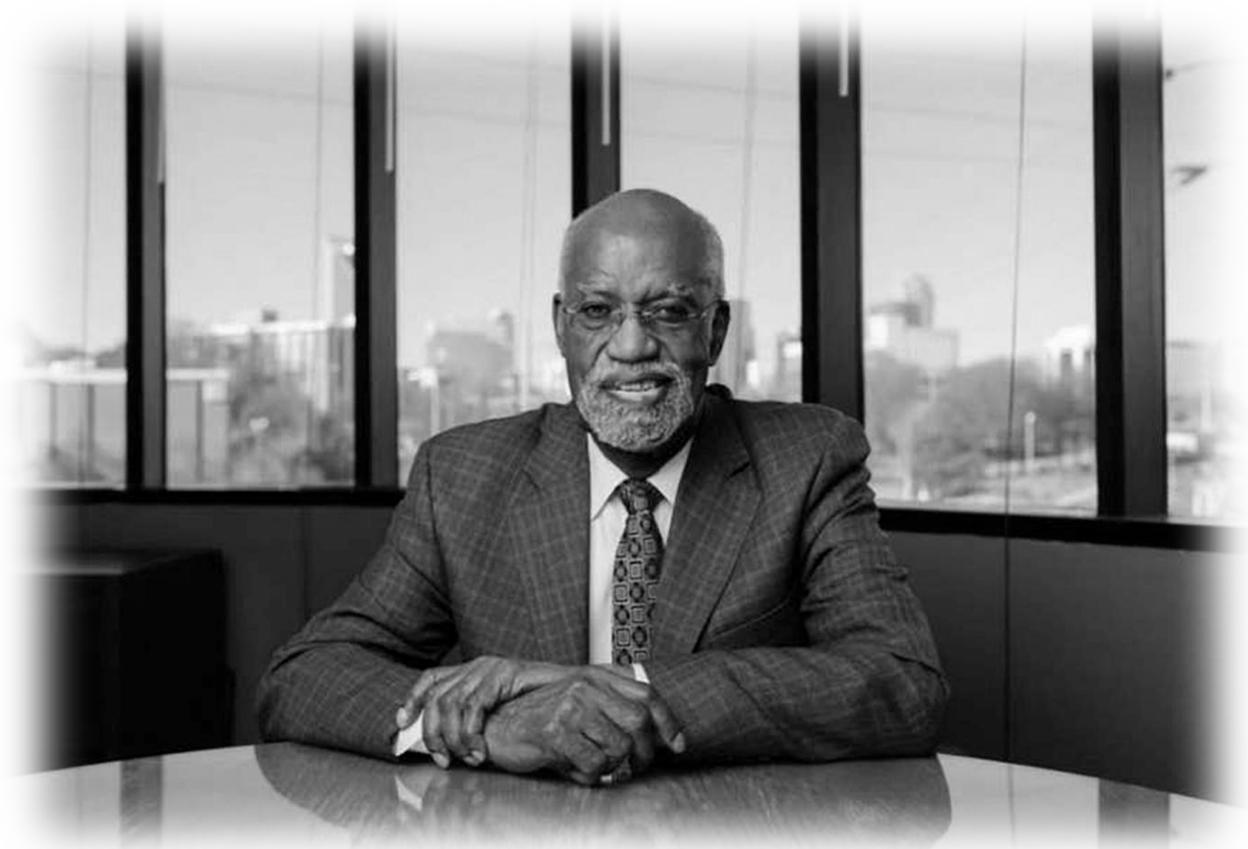
Fergie liked a good party. In April of 2024, he and his sons threw a "Just Because Party" on April 17 at his house. It was a huge success! The word on the street was that over 500 people stopped by his house during the course of the evening, some of whom had not seen each other for years. As in earlier years, family and friends of all stripes spilled out onto the patios and front lawn. All had a good time. Later in May, he joyfully hosted the Board of Trustees of NITA for food and fellowship, an opportunity to see and connect with old friends and to meet new ones. He hosted the 2024 Cohort of the Marshall Motley Scholars Program sponsored by the NAACP-LDF as they began their orientation to the program. law school. Their commitment to do civil rights work on behalf of African Americans in the South gave him hope that the struggle for freedom and equality would be carried forward.

Ferguson was recognized for decades in the The Best Lawyers in America publication. He was featured in The National Law Journal as one of the top ten litigators in the country. He was featured in the Charlotte Observer as "The Lawyer Lawyers Come to See", was recognized as a Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers Magazine, and was a member of the coveted Inner Circle, a group of 100 of the best plaintiffs' lawyers in the country.

Ferguson is survived by his brother William Ferguson, his sons Jay (Reneisha) and Taj (Tiffany), his daughter Kali, his goddaughter Yolonda Artadi, his grandchildren Jalyn (Breana), James, Johari and Ayanna, his great-grandchildren Geo and Omni, and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends throughout the world, all of whom cherished him dearly. He included himself in all things family as much as possible, playing cards and teaching his children the art of Bid Whist. He advocated for them as they navigated the CMS integrated school system. “Uncle Bo” got much joy out of spending time with his parents, siblings, cousins and later, nieces, nephews and chosen family.

None of Ferguson's accomplishments or activities was more important to him than the family that he raised with his wife Barbara. A perfect example of this was the annual Easter egg hunts which they began hosting when their children were small, and continued well into their grandchildren's early years. Papa B, adored his grandchildren, noticing their individual gifts and sometimes just hanging out with them every week, they each had their own special relationship with “Poppa B”, and they will probably miss and celebrate him the most. Thankfully prior to his transition, he was overjoyed to meet his two great-grandsons.

May we all say “thank you” to Fergie, Uncle Bo, Papa B, and Daddy for showing us all what a well-lived life of service and joy is.



Proclamation Honoring the Life and Legacy of Attorney James "BoBo" Ferguson II

Presented by the Freeman Wells Family Council

August 7, 2025

WHEREAS, Attorney James "BoBo" Ferguson II was a devoted son, father, grandfather, and a beloved member of the Freeman Wells family, whose life's work advanced the cause of civil and human rights for generations; and

WHEREAS, born in Asheville, North Carolina, James Ferguson II became one of the nation's most prominent racial justice litigators, playing a pivotal role in the 1970 Supreme Court decision that ordered the use of busing to desegregate public schools; and

WHEREAS, as a founding partner of Ferguson, Stein, Chambers, Gresham & Sumter, he served as a tireless defender of civil rights activists, a brilliant legal mind, and a courageous advocate for the Black community; and

WHEREAS, his impact extended far beyond legal victories—he mentored young attorneys, shaped policy under the Racial Justice Act, and inspired civic leaders across North Carolina and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Ferguson never wavered in his commitment to justice, integrity, and community, leaving an indelible legacy rooted not only in law, but in the shared values and strength of the Freeman Wells family bloodline; and

WHEREAS, his life's work continues through his children and grandchildren, and through every life touched by his advocacy, his mentorship, and his example;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Freeman Wells Family Council does hereby honor and proclaim our deepest appreciation for the life and legacy of our cousin, Attorney James "BoBo" Ferguson II, and proudly presents this proclamation and commemorative plaque to his son and granddaughter as a symbol of our enduring love, pride, and gratitude.

With honor and remembrance,

The Freeman Wells Family Council

Presented this 7th day of August, 2025



## FERGUSON CHAMBERS & SUMTER, P.A.

### Attorneys

James E. Ferguson, II  
Geraldine Sumter

*Julius L. Chambers*  
(1936 – 2013)

### Office

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### Mailing

PO Box 36486  
Charlotte NC 28236

After Julius Chambers left the firm to head the NAACP-LDF as its President and Director Counsel, James E. “Fergie” Ferguson, II became the titular leader of the firm. During his fifty-seven years with the firm, Fergie lead a team that included, over time, some 42 partners and associates, over 120 support staff, and hundreds of law students and clerks. He was associated with the firm longer than any person other than Ella Hand, the office manager. His dedication and commitment to the institutional value of the firm never wavered.

Fergie was proud of the legacy of civil rights work the firm had done and was true to its mission. In the early 80’s he recognized the need for additional streams of revenue to support the extensive non paying public interest work the firm took on such as voting rights and defending school systems which had enacted measures based on *Swann v. Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education*. He embarked on a plan to expand the personal injury practice to include major personal injury and medical malpractice cases and became a national leader in that area.

Fergie was approachable and available to lawyers and staff. He shared his knowledge and wisdom freely. Every lawyer and law student who worked at the firm jockeyed to be able to work with him. Each of us gained insights beyond the normal legal skills. His passion for the work, his steadfast commitment to and loyalty to his clients were clearly demonstrated. He showed us that every client was a human being first who needed help. Every client’s case was an opportunity to strengthen our legal system as well as to obtain justice for them. He was equally approachable to lawyers who called him for advice, both personal and professional.

Most importantly, Fergie saw every person as a human being worthy of equal dignity, equal respect, equal rights and equal justice. The African concept of ubuntu, “I am because you are”, though not initially expressed by him in that term, was lived by him. That spirit was instilled in him by parents, James and Nina Ferguson, who by their strength, character, love and faith grounded him with the sense of fairness, kindness and value of being a good human.

Fergie’s work sometimes ran him ragged but at the same time gave him energy. The more he did the more he found time and energy to do. Multitasking was second nature to him. His family was the center of his life and his anchor. He sought their satisfaction and joy above all else. The time and attention that he gave to his children was impactful and created the strong bond and love that was shown by their untiring devotion to both Barbara T. and Fergie during their end-of-life health challenges.

The work that he has done speaks for him. May he rest in peace.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JOSH STEIN  
GOVERNOR

August 1, 2025

The Ferguson Family  
c/o Jay Ferguson  
8119 Solace Ct.  
Charlotte, Nc 28269

Dear Jay, Taj, and Kali,

I wish to offer my sincerest condolences on your father's passing. Fergie spent his life fighting for the betterment of all people. He was my hero. His passing represents a painful loss to countless people.

It is difficult to find the words to express the gratitude I feel to have known and learned from your father. As a steadfast champion for civil rights, he worked tirelessly and fearlessly to make North Carolina a welcoming home for all. He was kind, charismatic, and encouraging.

I hope that in this difficult time you find comfort in your special memories of your father and in the love and support of family and friends. Fergie inspired and was beloved by so many, and I know that I am one of many committed to carrying on his legacy.

Please know that you and your entire family are in Anna's and my prayers. May Fergie's memory be a blessing.

With deepest sympathy,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Stein".

Josh Stein  
Governor

ALMA S. ADAMS, Ph.D.  
12TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION  
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, RESEARCH,  
AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND WORKFORCE  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,  
ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

August 7, 2025

*“What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”*

Dear Family of Attorney James ‘Fergie’ Ferguson II,

Dear Ferguson Family,

With a heavy heart and the deepest respect, I extend my condolences on the passing of your beloved James Ferguson II. His legacy as one of Charlotte’s most distinguished civil rights attorneys and a towering figure in the fight for justice will never be forgotten. Our community, our state, and our nation are better because he lived and because he never stopped striving to make the promises of the Constitution ring true for all people.

Throughout his remarkable career, Mr. Ferguson stood on the front lines of history, defending the marginalized and challenging the systems that threatened their rights. As a co-founder of Ferguson, Stein, and Chambers, he helped build one of the most influential civil rights law firms in the South. His work in landmark cases, his mentorship of young attorneys, and his relentless pursuit of equity embodied the very best of our legal tradition and our shared humanity. He was not just an advocate; he was a cornerstone of progress.

Though we mourn his passing, we also celebrate a life lived with courage, conviction, and compassion. His impact will continue to reverberate for generations to come. As Scripture assures us: *“Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord.”* — Matthew 25:21. May those words bring comfort as you reflect on a life of purpose and profound contribution.

The citizens of the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of North Carolina and I send our most sincere condolences to the Ferguson Family. There are no words to ease the pain, hurt and grief you all are experiencing at this time, but the memories you have will sustain you for a lifetime. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May God bless your family.

Sincerely,



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

# G. K. BUTTERFIELD

U. S. CONGRESSMAN (RETIRED)  
WASHINGTON

August 7, 2025

James Elliot Ferguson II was a mentor and role model to my generation of black lawyers in North Carolina and across the country. It was on December 4, 1985 that Attorney James Ferguson presented me for admission to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, the day the *Gingles* case was argued by our beloved Julius Chambers.

Fergie's legal excellence and commitment to the equal administration of justice leveled the judicial playing field in communities across the Nation. Joining with Julius Chambers, Adam Stein, Mel Watt, Charles Becton, Karl Adkins, Leslie Winner, Geraldine Sumter, Anita Earls and so many other committed lawyers, the Chambers-Ferguson law firm was the architect of helping to dismantle racially segregated schools and successfully challenging racially gerrymandered political districts. Let it be known that the large number of African Americans now serving in the U.S. Congress is attributable to the Chambers-Ferguson team of lawyers who successfully litigated Voting Rights cases.

In the field of equal employment, the Chambers-Ferguson team successfully litigated hundreds of cases where black and brown employees were unfairly disciplined or terminated from their employment. In criminal courtrooms across North Carolina, Attorney James Ferguson (and his brilliant team of lawyers) defended criminal defendants who were innocent of crimes or over charged by law enforcement officers and the criminal justice system.

While we mourn the passing of this giant of a human being who happened to be one of the best lawyers in the United States, we celebrate his accomplishments and commend him to our Heavenly Father as one worthy of acceptance into God's Kingdom for eternal life.

To the Ferguson family, please be assured that your beloved father and grandfather leaves a legacy that you should honor and celebrate. My condolences to the Ferguson family and the legendary lawyers and associates who supported this great attorney and counsellor at law.

James Elliot "Ferguson" II now belongs to the ages.



North Carolina General Assembly  
House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE Brandon Lofton  
104<sup>th</sup> District

1309 Legislative Building  
16 W. Jones St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925  
(919)-715-3009  
brandon.lofton@ncleg.gov

COMMITTEES

Agriculture  
Commerce  
Finance  
Education K-12  
Judiciary 1  
Transportation

**Statement of Representative Brandon Lofton on the Passing of James E. Ferguson II**

There are some people who live such impactful lives that their passing causes us to reflect not only on our personal loss but on the state of our community as a whole.

On July 21, 2025, we lost James E. Ferguson II. Over a lifetime of service and sacrifice, Ferguson, or “Fergie” to those who had the privilege of knowing him, touched many people and helped change the lives of many more he would never meet. Among other things, Fergie helped found the first integrated law firm in North Carolina, was instrumental in landmark civil rights victories and helped train lawyers across the United States, England and South Africa.

I began my legal career working for Fergie and he remained an inspiration and mentor for me all these years—as he has for countless others. He was generous with his time and encouragement to all who needed him.

My prayers are with his family during this time of loss. My hope is that we honor his legacy and continue working for liberty and equality.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Lofton".

Representative Brandon Lofton  
North Carolina House District 104  
Mecklenburg County



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
501 E. COURT ST., SUITE 5.500  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201

CARLTON W. REEVES  
DISTRICT JUDGE

TELEPHONE: (601) 608-4140  
FAX: (601) 608-4149

EMAIL: REEVES\_CHAMBERS@MSSD.USCOURTS.GOV

So many places have the honor of claiming James Ferguson. North Carolina, of course. South Africa, too. But Fergie's spirit runs deep in a place where the Black Excellence he exemplified has always been needed ... Mississippi, my home.

When Frank Emory lured me from Mississippi to spend a summer at Ferguson Stein in 1988, there wasn't a single integrated law firm in my state. Working in the hallowed halls of what Fergie built showed me the value of what Mississippi was missing. The firm was a place where Black Excellence was named and nurtured. It was a place that proved the power of Black and white, men and women, Christians and Jews fighting for justice, together. As we say in Mississippi, they did good. And they inspired every person invited into that joyous world of comradery and hope to recreate it, wherever they could.

A few years later, I was working at the U.S. Attorneys Office in Mississippi and crossed paths with a young white guy name Cliff Johnson. I learned he was a graduate of Fergie's law school alma mater. The lessons Fergie imparted to me were given to Cliff through the mentorship of another pillar of Black Excellence, Julius Chambers. Of course, we all know what Mr. Chambers did for North Carolina and America. Cliff and I spoke about the vision of those mentors (and so many others Fergie partnered with, like Adam, Mel, Jon, Karl, John, Geraldine, Frank, Leslie, Margaret, Anita and the rest). That vision led us to form Pigott Reeves Johnson & Minor, Mississippi's first fully integrated law firm since Anderson, Banks, Nichols & Leventhal had dissolved decades earlier.

Everything Mississippi's replica of Ferguson Stein did ... every person we hired, every case we brought, every inch of justice we claimed ... it was stamped with Fergie's spirit. (There is no doubt that other summer interns can and will say the same). And that spirit has guided what each of us at that firm has done since, and all we continue to do. Mississippi will always benefit from that architect of Black Excellence, James Ferguson.

Sincerely,

s/ Carlton W. Reeves

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



## OFFICE *of* MAYOR VI LYLES

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600 East Fourth Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
Charlottenc.gov

July 21, 2025

To the family of James Ferguson,

On behalf of the Charlotte community, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of noted civil rights attorney James Ferguson who passed away today.

James was a civic leader of great conviction, fighting for equity, justice and equal rights for all. He was an exceptional friend and mentor, and I will miss him very much.

I know the memories you shared with him will bring you comfort and peace, and that the love and support of those around you will help you through this difficult time. I continue to keep everyone in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Vi Alexander Lyles  
Mayor



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Statement from the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners  
on the Passing of Attorney James E. Ferguson II**

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners extends our heartfelt condolences to the family of Attorney James E. Ferguson II, a civil rights pioneer and beacon of justice, whose contributions, and sacrifices were essential in eradicating barriers to systematic injustices that plagued many marginalized communities across this nation.

Attorney Ferguson's humble beginnings, along with his steadfast commitment to civil rights, fairness, and uplifting others, played a vital role in reshaping the legal and social landscape of Mecklenburg County, as well as many other communities throughout North Carolina and across the world.

From being the co-founder of North Carolina's first integrated law firm in Charlotte, in the 1960s, to successfully desegregating libraries, lunch counters, and other public facilities in the Jim Crow South, Attorney Ferguson was a trailblazer who carried out his work with an admirable spirit and silent fortitude.

A giant among giants, Attorney Ferguson's impact in our community transcends his work and contributions in the courtroom. He will be equally remembered for mentoring young leaders and elevating the needs of the vulnerable, along with strengthening our civic institutions and communities. Our society is in a far better place because of Attorney Ferguson's selfless work and sacrifices.

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners joins the Ferguson family, our entire community, state, and nation, in celebrating the life and legacy of Attorney James E. Ferguson II. May his soul rest in peace, and may his legacy continue to inform and shape the work of this community for generations to come.

***Signed - Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners***

*Chair – Mark Jerrell, District 4*

*Vice Chair – Leigh Altman, At-Large*

*Arthur Griffin, At-Large*

*Yvette Townsend-Ingram, At-Large*

*Elaine Powell, District 1*

*Vilma D. Leake, District 2*

*George Dunlap, District 3*

*Laura Meier, District 5*

*Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, District 6*



## CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 26  
PO BOX 37971, CHARLOTTE, NC, 28237-7971  
O 704-686-0420  
F 704-686-0410

**ELISA CHINN-GARY**, ELECTED CLERK  
EX OFFICIO JUDGE OF PROBATE

August 4, 2025

### **RE: A Tribute to My Beloved Friend and Mentor, Fergie**

I stand in awe that my life intersected with James Ferguson II — a pioneer, a giant, a master of his craft, an illuminator whose light reached far beyond courtrooms and case files. He was an icon. A super lawyer. A global force for justice. A man whose presence defined power, yet whose spirit exemplified humility.

To be mentored and befriended by Fergie stands as one of the greatest honors of my life. His wisdom, his generosity of time and spirit, his unwavering moral clarity were gifts he shared unselfishly. One of my most treasured memories is the long drive Fergie and I took to Johnston County, North Carolina in August of 2024 to hear closing arguments in the evidentiary hearing of Hasson Bacote. Mr. Bacote's legal team summarized social science and historical evidence linking the death sentences of Black men to a pattern of racial terror and intimidation. The occasion made for rich conversation about racial bias in the criminal justice system.

For hours, we traveled and talked. Or rather — I listened, captivated, as he recounted stories from some of the most pivotal legal battles in North Carolina's history: the *Wilmington 10*, *Darryl Hunt v. The State of North Carolina*, *Johnny Rush v. City of Asheville*. He spoke with such clarity and depth — not just about law, but about people. About the injustice that lives in real bodies, real lives, and real communities metastasizing to devastate the physical, psychological, financial, and spiritual well-being of all humanity. Fergie never sought to impress; he simply shared. And in that quiet storytelling, he delivered a masterclass on courage, purpose, conviction, and truth-telling.

On that same drive, Fergie shifted gears and began to talk about South Africa — not as a distant place, but as a part of his journey. He spoke of his friends there, of the movement for freedom and justice. He told me where I should go, who I should seek out, what I should listen for when I visit. It was like he handed me a map — not just for travel, but for how to walk boldly through the world as a servant leader. Fergie believed a global end to structural racism was possible. I am reminded of the quote by his kindred spirit, Nelson Mandela, who said, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

Fergie also left me with sage advice about parenting. He often spoke of his own parents with deep affection and admiration — about the love, joy, and security they gave him growing up in Asheville. He encouraged me to lead my children with the same steady hand and open heart. "Teach, not punish," he said. Those simple words, full of wisdom and grace, have stayed with me and reshaped the way I move as a parent. Justice begins at home — with love, faith, and fidelity to truth.

James Ferguson II was a man of courage and conviction. So prominent, yet so humble. So accomplished, yet so deeply human. To walk with him — to be mentored by him, inspired by him, known by him — was a gift beyond measure. I will forever be grateful for his guidance, his example, his love, and his light.

Thank you, Fergie. We WILL carry your torch forward.



## Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

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To the family of Mr. James Ferguson,

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and the many members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) team mourn the passing of Mr. James (Fergie) Ferguson – a great leader, attorney, and civil rights activist instrumental in integrating public schools.

Attorney Ferguson will forever be remembered for a life of great purpose. With a sharp legal mind, a passion for doing what is right, and a vision for an integrated educational experience, he fought for desegregation at a time in our society that made it impossible for students of different races to learn together and from each other.

Throughout Attorney Ferguson's career, his firm challenged the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District in many pivotal cases, including efforts that advanced a busing plan which ultimately shaped CMS into what it is today, a vibrant school district that honors the many experiences each and every child brings to their schools, teachers, and most importantly, their classmates.

He started fighting for desegregation locally and took his passion internationally when he founded South Africa's first Trial Advocacy Program that served Black and white lawyers.

But no matter how far his influence reached, he will always be considered a Charlotte legend. Many people who did not know him personally regard him for being a skilled trial lawyer and civil rights activist. And although those things are very true, he was so much more.

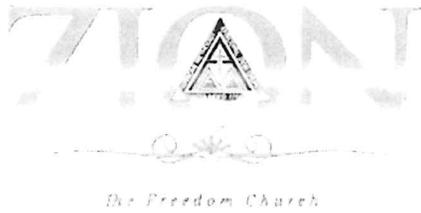
As several board members can attest to, he had the ability to gather community members in a way that allowed each and every person to share ideas and engage in collective community movements.

He was a devoted husband and father. He had a deep appreciation for the arts. Board members have shared that Mr. Ferguson's ability to lead by example, profoundly influenced their life and their future pursuits.

"The diversity of the 141,000 student body is built on the pillar of the work of Attorney Ferguson. Our thoughts are with his family at this time for their loss of a great man," shares Chairperson Stephanie Sneed. "The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education is thankful for Attorney Ferguson's dedication to education, his vision for integrating schools, and the courage he demonstrated in making Charlotte, North Carolina and the world a better place."

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Sneed, Esq.**  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education  
Chair of the Board



Board of Bishops  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion  
Church  
3225 W. Sugar Creek Road  
Charlotte, NC 28269

**A Tribute to Attorney James Ferguson**

The Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Civil Rights Attorney and Icon, James Ferguson.

We are especially grateful for his work with the A.M.E. Zion Church. During challenging times, Attorney Ferguson stood by us, offering his legal brilliance, dedication, and support. His involvement guided us through difficult and challenging situations, and we will be forever indebted to him.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy, condolences, and prayers to his family in this time of loss. May his legacy continue to inspire. The World is undoubtedly a better place because James Ferguson passed this way.

**Now the Laborer's Task is O'er**

*" Now the Laborer's task is o'er; Now the battle day is past;  
Now upon the farther shore Lands the voyager at last.*

*There the tears of earth are dried, there its hidden things are clear,  
There the work of life is tried By a juster judge than here.*

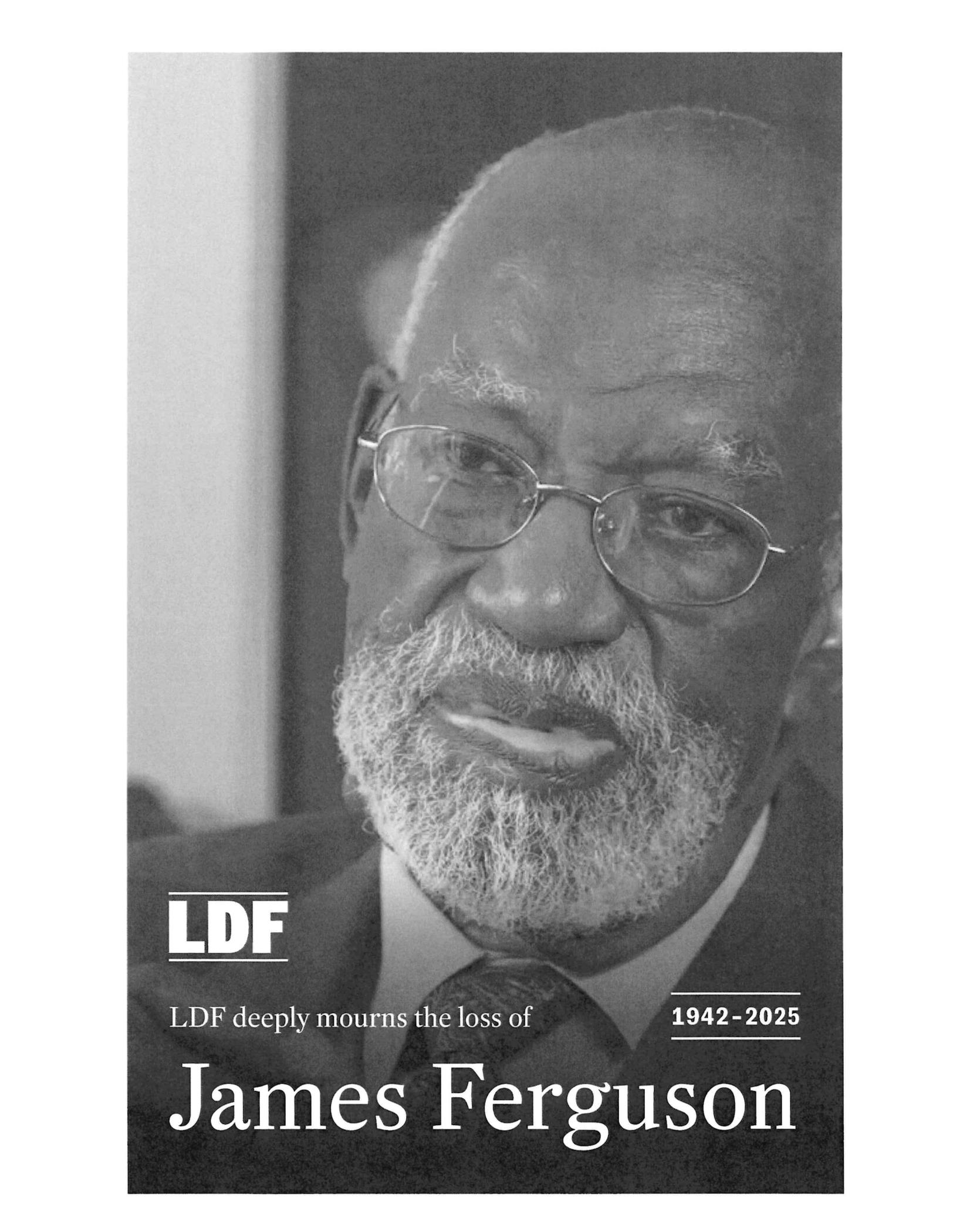
*'Earth to earth, and dust to dust,' Calmly now the words we say;  
Leaving him to sleep, in trust, Till the resurrection-day.*

*Father, in thy gracious keeping,*

*Leave we now thy servant sleeping. A-men."*

Submitted in Love and Sympathy,  
The Board of Bishops  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Bishop Brian R. Thompson, Sr., President  
Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Senior Bishop

A black and white portrait of an elderly man with a full white beard and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. The image is the background for a memorial notice.

**LDF**

LDF deeply mourns the loss of

**1942 - 2025**

**James Ferguson**

# James Ferguson

*Beloved civil rights champion*

**1942-2025**

The Legal Defense Fund (LDF) mourns the loss of James “Fergie” Ferguson II, a beloved civil rights champion and steadfast advocate whose extraordinary legal advocacy reshaped the fight for racial justice in North Carolina and beyond.

“With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of James ‘Fergie’ Ferguson — a dear friend, a trusted colleague, and an inspiring pillar of the civil rights community. LDF is profoundly grateful for his partnership, his generosity, and enduring spirit over the years.

“Our deepest condolences and sympathies are with Fergie’s family, loved ones, and all whose lives he impacted. We are forever touched and inspired by his lifelong dedication to justice, a shining example that will continue to guide and strengthen us in the formidable fight ahead. Rest in praise and power, Fergie.”

— **Janai Nelson, LDF President and Director-Counsel** **LDF**



LDF had the privilege of knowing Ferguson closely throughout his lifelong commitment to justice, as recounted in LDF’s oral history and archival project “Recollection.”

**Scan the QR Code to listen to James Ferguson’s Oral History.**

Ira Glasser

July 23, 2025

Dear Jay, Taj & Kali —

I was chagrined to learn of your Dad's passing.

During our long years together at the ACLU (I was Executive Director; he was on the Board of Directors & our General Counsel) and, later, at the Drug Policy Alliance (where we both were on the Board), Fergie, as we all knew him, was one of the most decent & powerful presences among us.

To me, as much as anyone I ever met professionally, he was smart, principled, courageous, uncommonly kind & a man of great integrity.

I shall always consider it a great privilege to have known & worked with him.

You should be justly proud.

Ira Glasser



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## A Tribute to James E. "Fergie" Ferguson II

There are few things that are harder than saying goodbye to those who shaped us. The mentors we admired, the colleagues we respected, the friends who left behind legacies of wisdom, laughter, and love. Some taught us how to lead; others, how to live. The exceptional ones taught us both. Their absence leaves a space that words can't quite fill. We mourn the loss a NITA legend—James E. "Fergie" Ferguson II—whose decades of service, mentorship, and passion for advocacy shaped generations of trial lawyers. His contributions to NITA and the broader legal community were profound, and his absence will be deeply felt.

Fergie was a legendary civil rights advocate in North Carolina who came of age during the Jim Crow era and as a lawyer was instrumental in bringing about racial desegregation in American public schools. He began teaching for NITA in 1974, a mere three years after the organization was founded. Fergie sat on the Board of Trustees from 1986 to 2008 and served as Chair in 1997 and 1998. He continued teaching and supporting NITA through leadership activities until this spring.

In apartheid-era South Africa, he and Ken Broun collaborated with the South African Black Lawyers Association to design a trial advocacy training program that expanded into neighboring countries and became the model for NITA's international programs. Fergie's life work reflected his passionate commitment to justice and legal education.

We extend our condolences to all who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing and teaching with Fergie and share in their loss.

By the late 1980s, crack cocaine was impacting communities across the United States and dominating media headlines. The overwhelming public sentiment was that America was losing the war on drugs, and that the only way to win was with more firepower.

But James E. Ferguson saw through that false promise. He realized that the government's drug war was not only a losing strategy, but that it would do much more harm than good. He knew that policing and incarceration, racist targeting of communities, and bulldozing neighborhoods would fail to leave us safe, healthy, or whole.

Fergie understood that the war on drugs was, in many ways, the latest front in the struggle for civil rights – a struggle he had been deeply involved in for decades. It is hard to over-state the courage of his position. Back then, the vast majority of Americans, including those in the communities that were suffering the most because of crack cocaine, wholeheartedly supported the war on drugs.

In time, Fergie was unfortunately proven right. The drug war fueled the mass incarceration that decimated communities and caused incalculable harm to generations, crack receded unrelated to the excesses of law enforcement, and today we continue to move from drug scare to drug scare.

As a leading civil rights litigator and advocate, Fergie was a man of action. It was not enough to be right about the failed war on drugs – he would do something about it.

In 2000, he became a founding board member of the Drug Policy Alliance, a national organization working to end the drug war and to build a better approach. Together with his close friends, Drug Policy Alliance board chair Ira Glasser and executive director Ethan Nadelmann, Fergie helped reshape drug policy in the United States. He interrogated our strategy, challenged our rigor, and pressed us forward with a powerful agenda for social change.

It is not an exaggeration to say that millions of people have had the trajectories of their lives improved because of the Drug Policy Alliance and the laws we changed over 25 years. Today, far fewer people are arrested and incarcerated for drugs and many more have access to health services and treatment for substance use disorder that never previously existed. Fergie helped make that possible. While there is still much work to do, let us celebrate what we have accomplished together.

My tenure as executive director at the Drug Policy Alliance, the first Black person in this position, is in no small part the result of Fergie's influence. Drug policy reform has never been a marquee social issue among the many that impact the lives of African Americans in the United States, despite many negative racialized consequences of the war on drugs. But regardless of what the numbers tell us and what our own experience shows us, it was Fergie who helped affirm for me that our mission is righteous and central to the story of racial justice in American. If Fergie stands here, I will stand here too. I have immense gratitude for his courage, counsel, and kindness.

Before Fergie retired from the Drug Policy Alliance's board, he challenged us to articulate a vision for the world after the drug war and chart a strategy for peace. As we honor this radical mandate from one of our movement's luminaries, our continued success will always owe a debt of loving gratitude to Fergie.

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## DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

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**NEW YORK CIVIL RIGHTS COALITION**  
315 WEST 39th STREET  
SUITE 1104  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10018

July 27, 2025

I write to express our deepest sympathy on learning of the death of our dear friend Fergie. "Fergie"--as I know you know he was called--was among the best of God's servants to his nation and to human kind. There was no human being smarter or wiser or more attuned with the best of us as Fergie. James E. Ferguson II will long be remembered as a super-lawyer, and cherished for his full commitment to the betterment of our society and as a champion of law, justice, and community service.

Fergie and I were for many years colleagues on the National Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union. By way of comparison between us, Fergie was my better in every way and every measure. He was kind, thoughtful, generous, insightful, broadly knowledgeable, humble, and witty. Fergie was not only my--but our--hero, in the courtroom and on the National Board of the ACLU. More significantly, Fergie was the dearest of friends, a trusted colleague and the best of mentors, to whom I looked up, and who was always an abiding and guiding spirit in the effort to foster and strengthen civil rights and equal opportunity for all. Fergie was one of the fiercest and most brilliant champions of social and racial justice, and himself, to us, the finest example of a human being. He was always admired and deeply loved as much as he was a beloved champion of the lesser of us.

I counted Fergie alongside my other mentors--Roy Wilkins , the national executive director of the NAACP; and with Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, the psychologist whose work was cited as the authority in the 1954 ***Brown v. Board of Education*** Decision that unanimously outlawed intentionally racially-segregated public schools. I count my lucky stars that I walked the earth with and was guided and taught by such great human beings as Fergie. No American was smarter or more capable than James E. Ferguson II. No American deserves more regard and the right to be remembered as the greatest of heroes and champion of social and racial justice, and as a lawyer of excellence, and as good and as capable servant of God, and pursuer of equal access and full citizenship rights than James E. Ferguson II.

In sympathy,

Michael Meyers, President

## Some Reflections on the Life of James E. Ferguson

The family of NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. lawyers, past and present, mourns the passing of James E. Ferguson II. But even more, we celebrate the life of this brilliant, passionate and committed warrior for justice.

My relationship with “Fergie” spanned almost fifty years. I heard of James Ferguson before I ever met him. I knew of him for his work on behalf of The Wilmington Ten, a cause that captivated the attention of African Americans throughout the country in the 1970’ s. He was a partner in the firm of LDF cooperating attorneys, Ferguson, Stein, Chambers, Gresham & Sumter. The Firm worked with LDF over many decades on many of the most important civil rights cases in the American South. I met Fergie when I was a young LDF lawyer. At LDF’s annual lawyer training conferences at Airlie House in Virginia, I was captivated by Fergie’s presentations. I could see how he was a force in the courtroom, and how compelling he was to juries. Fergie had a way about him – a charisma, charm and easiness in his interactions with others that defied description. He had a persuasive personality. He was a lawyer’s lawyer.

His work laid at the heart of the cooperating attorney relationship and typified its tenacity. Julius Chambers litigated *Swann v. Charlotte Mecklenburg Bd. of Ed.*, which in 1971 finally led to the implementation of *Brown v. Bd. of Ed.*. In 2003, Fergie, joined by LDF, litigated *Belk v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Bd. of Ed*, fighting efforts to roll back desegregation.

Fergie was one of the best trial lawyers in America, litigating wrongful death cases, medical malpractice, and personal injury claims. Fergie was one of the most outstanding civil rights lawyers, not only in the United States, but in world. He was a founder of South Africa’s Trial Advocacy program. I had the honor of joining him on multiple occasions as South Africa transitioned from apartheid. On one occasion, we met with Nelson Mandela. Remembering him from a previous encounter, Mandela warmly greeted Fergie as a valued friend of South Africa’s struggle for social justice. I witnessed many interactions in South Africa in which lawyers and activists exhibited their love for Fergie. They embraced and claimed him as one of their own.

Those of us who were present for Julius Chambers’ funeral some years ago remember Fergie’s eulogy. It was among the most eloquent and moving I have ever heard. Last week it occurred to me that I wish Fergie could eulogize himself. That is not possible. I channel Fergie by saying that he now walks with Thurgood, Constance, Jack, Nabrit, Julius, and Mandela. He knew them all. And he is with them again. And Barbara, whom he loved dearly.

Theodore M. Shaw, Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law, UNC School of Law

LDF Fifth Director-Counsel

## **Mojanku Gumbi and family. Johannesburg, South Africa**

“When death finds you, may it find you alive” is a well-known African proverb.

Death certainly found Fergie very much alive. Alive to the fight against erasure. In each and every one of his cases, he sought to defend the rights of those whose history others sought to erase; those considered to be the wretched of the earth. Through his defense of these, he gave meaning to the universal principle that all human beings are born free and equal, in dignity and rights. From the Wilmington 10 to the ordinary litigants wronged by the health system, he fought to remind us that each and every one is entitled to be heard. Fergie constantly tested the artificial boundaries set by legal precedent, shaping international jurisprudence in ways even he did not know. Death found him very alive to the need to ensure that the contribution of people of colour to world civilization is not erased. The Excelsior Club was more than a place of gathering. It was an exercise in celebration of Black history. I remember visiting Charlotte with my children, who were both too young to be at the club. My son was tall and pleaded with his Uncle Fergie to join the adults at the club, which of course Uncle Fergie managed to negotiate with the then manager of the club, Taj. Like Fergie, my son and I never need an invitation to get on the dance floor. That night at the Excelsior Club remains as one of my family’s fondest memories of time spent with him.

Death found Fergie alive to the needs of others beyond his own country. When it became clear that the evil system of racial discrimination in South Africa was bound for the heap of history, he led a team of lawyers from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy to South Africa to prepare black lawyers to be ready to take their rightful place in the country at the moment of victory. The lawyers that Fergie and his colleagues trained became part of the first and excellent cohort of black judges in South Africa, with two of the first 4 black judges of the South African Constitutional Court, the highest court in the land, coming from this group. Many others currently serve on the Constitutional and other courts in South Africa and abroad. Fergie became a member of the Black Lawyers Association of South Africa. He regularly paid his membership fee like all other members. He served on the Board of Trustees of its Legal Education Centre. In that capacity, he served, in person, on the interview panel that selected me for a post at the Centre, after being completely overwhelmed, as a young lawyer from a rural area, to be interviewed by an accomplished American lawyer. His speech at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Black Lawyers Association in 1990 remains as relevant today as when he delivered it 35 years ago. In attendance at that event was Nelson Mandela himself, a mere few months after he was released from 27 years in detention. I went on to work with Nelson Mandela four years later and he remembered that speech, as well as the one delivered by Julius Chambers on the same occasion.

Death found Fergie alive to the need to build alliances against a system that continues to treat others as sub-human. Through his involvement in civic affairs, Fergie reminded us that a world without racism is possible, but only if we are prepared to work for it. Recently, he was part of an effort to bring together black activists from across the globe to build on the foundation laid by leaders such as WEB Du Bois at the first Pan African Congress in 1919. That conference is scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2026. Fergie participated in some of its planning meetings.

More than anything, Fergie was just a wholesome person. Wherever he was, people congregated around him, drawn by his boundless love of people. He loved his immediate family as much as his South African extended family, understanding that family is more than blood. A great African tree has fallen.

Jay, Taj, Kali and family, please accept our heartfelt condolences. Rest Fergie. You will remain in our hearts forever.



**NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED  
RESOLUTION IN LOVING MEMORY OF ATTORNEY JAMES ELLIOTT FERGUSON, II, '64**

**Whereas**, we pause with solemn hearts to honor and remember the extraordinary life of *James E. Ferguson II*, a proud graduate of North Carolina College at Durham (now North Carolina Central University), Class of 1964, who transitioned from this life having left an indelible mark on his community, his alma mater, and this nation; and

**Whereas**, Alumnus Ferguson distinguished himself early as a student leader and servant, faithfully serving in the Student Government Association as both President and Vice President, and contributing his time and voice to the NAACP, the Student Welfare Committee, and the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, always championing the cause of justice and the rights of others; and

**Whereas**, he went on to become one of the country's most noted civil rights attorneys—a trailblazer in the legal field whose courage, brilliance, and unrelenting commitment to equality helped to shape a more just society for generations past, present, and yet to come; and

**Whereas**, he was not only a mentor to many and a stranger to none, but a man whose deep faith and profound humility anchored his remarkable life and service, reminding us all of the power of purpose, grace, and legacy; and

**Whereas**, he was an example and model alumnus of North Carolina Central University and will always be remembered as a graduate who did all he could to bring about equality for all. He demonstrated in his actions a profound sense of duty and pride, and in doing so, he epitomized the very essence of our alma mater's motto, "*Truth and Service.*"

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association mourns the loss of our beloved alumnus, *James E. Ferguson II*, and extends our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and all who were blessed to know him.

**Be it further resolved**, that we, the NCCU family, celebrate his life and legacy, ever grateful for the path he paved and the light he leaves behind. The good that he has done will live after him—and we will carry his torch forward with pride.

**Witnessed this 7th day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five**

**In Truth & Service,**

*Nikki Davis-Green '98*

**President, North Carolina Central University Alumni Association, Inc.**



James E. Shepard, Founder

## **IN MEMORY OF ATTORNEY JAMES E. FERGUSON, II**

The North Carolina Central University School of Law community mourns the profound loss of Attorney James E. Ferguson, II – a brilliant legal mind whose influence extended well beyond the courtrooms in which he practiced.

Known affectionately as “Fergie” to those who knew him best, Attorney Ferguson spent time with us as an adjunct professor, teaching Constitutional Litigation. He peppered his lectures with both sharp legal analysis and genuine compassion. His litigation brilliance was matched only by his character, compassion, and professionalism. He approached his students in the classroom, as well as those NCCU graduates who received opportunities with his firm, with humility and thoughtfulness. He served as an excellent role model in helping guide our students in their journey to becoming attorneys.

Our legal profession has lost a giant presence whose impact will resonate for generations to come. His legacy will live on, however, through the countless lives he shaped, the minds he sharpened, and the hearts he touched. To his family, friends, and all who loved him, we share in your grief and stand with you in honoring his memory.

With Heartfelt Sympathy,

**Don Corbett**  
**Interim Dean**  
**North Carolina Central University School of Law**



## **A Tribute from the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers In Loving Memory of Attorney James E. Ferguson II**

The North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers mourns the passing and celebrates the remarkable life of our Past President, Attorney James E. Ferguson II. Affectionately known as “Fergie,” he was a civil rights icon, a brilliant trial lawyer, and a steadfast advocate for justice whose legacy will endure for generations.

A native of Asheville, North Carolina, Attorney Ferguson began his fight for equality as a teenager, working to desegregate public facilities in his hometown. He went on to co-found North Carolina’s first integrated law firm, Ferguson, Stein and Chambers, and led some of the most consequential legal battles of our time including the Wilmington Ten, the exoneration of Darryl Hunt, and pivotal Racial Justice Act cases.

His commitment to justice extended beyond our borders. During apartheid, he co-founded South Africa’s first Trial Advocacy Program and remained a respected legal educator internationally.

Attorney Ferguson received countless honors throughout his career including recognition as one of the Top Ten Litigators in the nation by *The National Law Journal*, inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*, selection as a Super Lawyer, and membership in the Inner Circle of Advocates. But his greatest impact was found in the lives he changed and the people he mentored.

At our 2025 Annual CLE Conference, NCABL proudly honored his life’s work. His law partner, Attorney Geraldine Sumter, reflected on his deep love for the law, his devotion to his family, and his care for the welfare of others. He lived the values he taught—dignity, courage, and service.

As Past President of NCABL, he helped shape our mission and inspired a generation to lead with purpose. We are forever grateful for his leadership and example.

On behalf of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his extraordinary life.

**Rest in power, Fergie. Your legacy lives on.**

*Kimberly A. Moore*

President

North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers



## THE NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

Senator Kandie D. Smith, Chair

16 W. Jones St. Room #1113, Raleigh, NC 27601

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Rep. Renee Price, Secretary  
Sen. Caleb Theodros, Parliamentarian  
Sen. Natalie Murdock, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Sen. Joyce Waddell, Chaplain

On behalf of the members of the North Carolina Black Legislative Caucus, I want to extend our condolences to the family of James E. Ferguson, II for your loss. I also want to extend our gratitude.

Because of the work of Mr. Ferguson, the lives of countless North Carolinians are improved, more children have greater opportunities in life, and the Caucus' work—standing up for the interests of African Americans and people of color in North Carolina—is made possible.

Mr. Ferguson's steadfast commitment to justice—representing the Wilmington 10, helping desegregate schools and public facilities, and helping to found the first integrated law firm in North Carolina—helped create the North Carolina we live in today.

Our commitment is to honor his legacy by continuing the work of removing racial and other barriers in our state and working for a more just society for all North Carolinians.

We are grateful to him and to you.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kandie D. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kandie D. Smith

Chair, North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus  
North Carolina General Assembly



# NORTH CAROLINA ADVOCATES *for* JUSTICE

## NCAJ Remembers James Ferguson

Members of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice remembered James “Fergie” Ferguson as a legendary trial attorney, a trail blazer and a gentleman. An NCAJ member from 1981 to 2017, he served as president in 2000-2001.

“He was awesome in so many ways,” recalled NCAJ Past-president Bill Mills. “He was a wonderful person and a truly incredible attorney and a ground breaker. I just adored Jim. He was so kind to everyone and despite his brilliance and his success he remained very humble. He was truly a giant.”

NCAJ Past-president Mark Sumwalt recalled that when Janet Ward Black asked him to be her president-elect, the first calls he made were to Fergie and Allen Bailey, “who both separately went to lunch with me and provided many words of wisdom. Not just then, but many times thereafter. Both grew up with little and became giants in their respective worlds.”

With Julius Chambers, Ferguson founded Chambers, Stein, Ferguson and Lanning, the first racially integrated law firm in the state. Partner Adam Stein would also become president of what was then the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers. Stein told The Charlotte Observer that he and Ferguson became fast friends.

“I feel like I lost a brother,” Stein said.

Burton Craige, who followed Ferguson as NCAJ president, was also bereft.

“Fergie was so full of life that I can hardly believe he is gone,” Craige said. “For decades, his brilliance, eloquence, passion and courage inspired us as he fought for the powerless, the accused and the injured. As we face the current threats to equal justice and the rule of law, we could have no better model than the life and work of James Ferguson.”

Bill Powers, also an NCAJ past-president, got to know Ferguson while researching an article on the Wilmington 10 for the North Carolina State Bar Journal. He reflected on a quote that Ferguson provided for the article: “Addressing injustice, in whatever form from whatever time, starts with acknowledging its existence and continues through honest dialogue. I encourage the younger generation to step up and make right decisions, doing so in love and compassion for the downtrodden and those around them.”

Powers said Ferguson’s passing serves as a reminder that even in dark and desperate times, you put your head down and you get to work and fight through it. “He called the younger generation to stand up,” Powers said. “If you want to remember him, remember him in your own words and deeds. His passing, while terribly sad, is a reminder that it’s time for individuals to stand up for what’s right.”

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Empowering a Strong  
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## THE CENTER FOR DEATH PENALTY LITIGATION

Dear Friends and Family,

The Center for Death Penalty Litigation is honored to have called James E. “Fergie” Ferguson II a partner in the fight against North Carolina’s death penalty. We will miss his graciousness, collegiality, stubborn optimism, and fierce advocacy.

In 2009, Fergie helped us champion the Racial Justice Act (RJA), what he called “one of the most important civil rights laws that’s ever been on the books.” With a team of advocates and experts, we proved what many of us already knew from experience: racism had infested death penalty sentences in North Carolina for decades. The RJA explicitly recognized that hard truth and allows people on death row to challenge their sentences by showing race played an improper factor in their case.

Fergie stayed with us in the fight to ensure that the RJA would make a tangible difference in the lives of people on death row. In 2013, North Carolina repealed the RJA and tried to nullify all related claims. Having experienced this type of regression time and time again in the struggle for civil rights, Fergie remained unfazed and committed to the cause. In 2019, Fergie successfully argued *North Carolina v. Augustine*, one of a series of cases in which the NC Supreme Court held that death row inmates who filed RJA claims before 2013 would still be able to have their petitions heard. In total, Fergie secured four life sentences through the RJA and made it possible that many others would still have their day in court.

As we reflect on Fergie’s incredible witness during these uncertain times, we are encouraged to keep fighting for the dignity of each individual and to eradicate the pernicious racism that runs through our criminal legal system. We join Fergie in his staunch belief that racism, whether it be in the realm of capital punishment, voting rights, public education, or any other sector of society, is something that negatively affects us all. When we fight against it, we fight for one another. We fight for you. We fight for us. We fight for Fergie.

May our work continue to honor our dear friend’s life and legacy.

In fond remembrance,

Your Friends and Colleagues at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation



## **In Tribute to James E. “Fergie” Ferguson II**

*From the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina*

The ACLU of North Carolina honors the life and legacy of James E. “Fergie” Ferguson II, whose principled leadership and unwavering commitment to justice helped shape our work and our institution for more than a generation. For over fifteen years, Mr. Ferguson served on the ACLU’s Executive Committee, including as General Counsel. His guidance helped chart the course for our legal strategies and deepened our organizational commitment to racial justice and equal protection under the law.

Mr. Ferguson’s work reflected the ACLU’s highest values: courage in the face of injustice and a steadfast commitment to equity. He was a driving force in our efforts to confront racial bias in the criminal legal system, particularly through his groundbreaking work under North Carolina’s Racial Justice Act. He co-counselled the first-ever evidentiary hearing under that law, in which a judge concluded that race had played a persistent, pervasive, and distorting role in jury selection across the state. The success of that case, and others that followed, transformed the legal landscape in North Carolina and offered a powerful model for challenging racial bias in capital punishment across the country.

Mr. Ferguson’s persistence in the pursuit of fairness and unshakable belief in the law as a tool for justice was invaluable to the ACLU. His legacy continues to guide us, both in the courtroom and in the broader movement for civil rights. To recognize this lifetime of work, the ACLU of NC awarded Mr. Ferguson with the Paul Green award in 2013, which recognizes leaders who have made important contributions to abolish or reform the death penalty. This year, the ACLU of NC will be honoring Mr. Ferguson with the Legacy of Justice award at their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.

We are proud to have had Mr. Ferguson as a leader, a colleague, and a standard-bearer for justice. For many in the legal community, especially those working in civil rights, Mr. Ferguson and his generation of attorneys exemplify what it means to pursue justice through the most difficult circumstances. In these difficult times, his legacy calls on us to remain steadfast in the struggle for a better, more just North Carolina.

With deep gratitude and respect,  
The American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina



**North State Law Enforcement Officers Association**

P.O. Box 1556 · Rocky Mount, NC 27802

[www.northstateofficer.com](http://www.northstateofficer.com)

President: Muriel P. Hughes

The North State Law Enforcement Officers Association honors the life and legacy of Attorney James Ferguson—a fearless advocate for civil rights and justice. In the early 1970s, Attorney Ferguson represented our organization in groundbreaking legal efforts that challenged discrimination in law enforcement and opened the door for affirmative action across North Carolina.

His work helped ensure that African American officers had access to the same hiring, promotion, and leadership opportunities within police departments statewide. His legacy of commitment to fairness and equality will live on through the countless lives he has touched.

Attorney Ferguson’s courage, vision, and advocacy created lasting change. Because of his efforts, generations of minority Law enforcement officers have been able to serve with dignity, pride, and a sense of belonging in departments across the state.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.

Rest in power, Counselor. Your impact will never be forgotten.

North State Law Enforcement Officers Association

Muriel P. Hughes, President



☎ 919-323-3380

🌐 [southerncoalition.org](https://southerncoalition.org)

To the Family, Friends, and Colleagues of James “Fergie” Ferguson,

It is with profound sorrow and deep respect that Southern Coalition for Social Justice mourns the passing of our esteemed founding board member, Attorney James “Fergie” Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson was more than a legal pioneer — he was a towering figure in the fight for civil rights and racial justice. His legacy is etched into the very foundation of SCSJ and reverberates across North Carolina and the nation. As a founding board member, Mr. Ferguson played a pivotal role in shaping the vision and mission of our organization; he served as a North Star. His leadership, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to justice guided SCSJ through its formative years and continued to illuminate our path as he served as an emeritus board member and trusted advisor.

Over the years, his wisdom and fierce dedication to equality helped inspire and guide each of us to push toward a more just world. We extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Ferguson’s family, his countless mentees and colleagues, and the broader communities who were impacted by his extraordinary life.

As we grieve his loss, we also recommit ourselves to the values he championed. SCSJ will continue to carry forward the torch he held so high, working tirelessly to uplift marginalized communities and build a more equitable society.

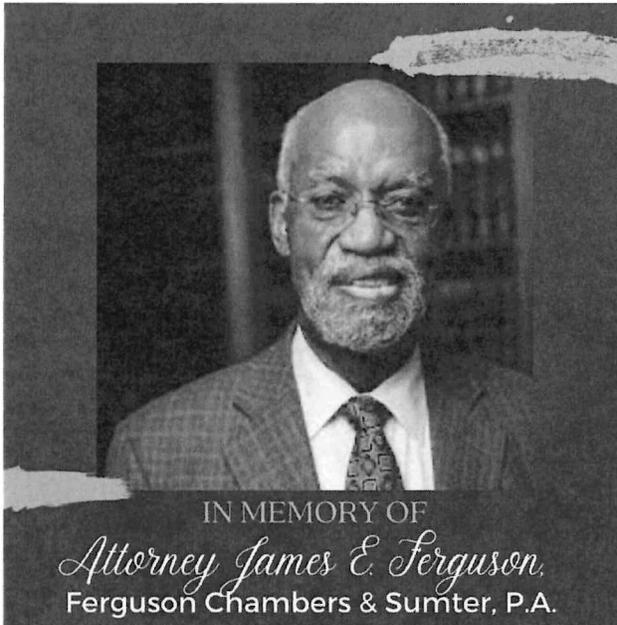
Mr. Ferguson’s legacy lives on in every act of justice, every voice raised against inequality, and every life changed by his work. We honor his memory with gratitude, reverence, and resolve.

With deepest sympathy,

Ryan E. Roberson

Executive Director

Southern Coalition for Social Justice



The North Carolina Black Alliance extends our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of renowned Charlotte civil rights attorney James Ferguson II. His passing is a profound loss, but his extraordinary legacy will continue to inspire generations.

Attorney Ferguson's tireless dedication to justice, equality, and civic engagement left an indelible mark on North Carolina and the nation. His landmark legal work helped desegregate schools across the country, and as co-founder of the first integrated law firm in North Carolina in the late 1960s, he spent more than five decades challenging systemic injustice and advocating for civil rights—right up until his retirement in 2024.

In 2023, during the NC Black Summit, we had the distinct honor of recognizing James Ferguson II as a History Maker, a testament to his lifelong commitment to civil rights and educational equity.

Reflecting on his impact, NCBA founder, The Honorable Brad Thompson, shared:

“Most people remember James Ferguson as the top-rate lawyer. He was that. But in addition to being a member of one of the best-known law firms, Chambers, Ferguson and Stein. I saw the people who worked for that firm, including amazing individuals like Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, Wade Henderson, and Congressman Mel Watt — too many to name. However, I think he will be mostly remembered because he was a top-rate individual. He and his wife were always willing to speak truth to power, and they always helped people and did things that benefited the community. I don't think he had one bad spot on his record. I think he was just a great person. His loss is a tremendous loss for the community, the nation, and North Carolina.”

We are grateful for his example, and we join the community in mourning the loss of such a transformative leader. His presence, leadership, and commitment will be truly missed.

North Carolina Black Alliance



## Proclamation in Commemoration of Life and Legacy of Attorney James E. Ferguson II

**WHEREAS** we gather in solemn remembrance to celebrate the remarkable life of Attorney James E. Ferguson II, a son of North Carolina, a champion of justice, and one of the most distinguished legal minds of his generation; and

**WHEREAS**, born in 1942 in Asheville, North Carolina, James Ferguson rose from modest beginnings to become a nationally recognized civil rights attorney, earning his undergraduate degree from North Carolina Central University and his Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School, affirming his lifelong pursuit of equity and legal excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ferguson co-founded the **Ferguson, Chambers & Sumter, P.A.** law firm in Charlotte, North Carolina, which for decades served as a legal sanctuary for individuals and communities marginalized and oppressed, advancing causes from voting rights and racial equity to employment law and police accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, as a prominent voice in landmark cases—including defense counsel for the Wilmington Ten, a group wrongfully convicted during a time of political unrest—Attorney Ferguson's work not only secured justice but reshaped national discourse around civil rights litigation and the role of the judiciary in preserving democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond the courtroom, Attorney Ferguson stood as a mentor, teacher, and luminary for countless law students, aspiring activists, and young attorneys, often opening doors for others even as he battled entrenched systems of discrimination and inequality; and

**WHEREAS** he served on national boards, received prestigious honors including the **North Carolina Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award**, and was widely recognized for his unyielding commitment to truth, justice, and human dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney Ferguson's legacy continues through the lives of his family, colleagues, and the communities he served—a legacy defined not only by legal precedents, but by the hearts he touched and the ideals he instilled; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we proclaim, on this day of remembrance, that the life of Attorney James E. Ferguson II shall forever be honored as a beacon of hope, resilience, and righteousness. Let all who hear these words carry forward his torch of justice and compassion into a world still in need of both.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that his memory endures not only in textbooks and courtrooms, but in our everyday actions, in the relentless pursuit of equity, and in the deep belief that the law must serve all people.

**Proclaimed this day**, 03 August 2025, in gratitude, reverence, and admiration.

*Jocelyn Nolley*

Chairperson

Black Political Caucus of Charlotte



*Dear Democrats,*

*Today, we pause to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of James Ferguson—a towering figure in Charlotte in the civil rights movement, a trailblazing attorney, and a son of Asheville whose impact was felt across the nation.*

*As a co-founder of North Carolina's first interracial law firm, in Charlotte, alongside Julius Chambers and Adam Stein, Ferguson broke barriers before he ever entered a courtroom. His courage and conviction helped redefine justice in America, most notably through landmark school desegregation cases that reshaped not only Charlotte, but schools and bus routes across the country.*

*In 1969, Ferguson stood with Julius Chambers to represent Black parents whose child sought the right to leave his all-Black school to attend an integrated one. That case not only changed the course of his career—it helped to change the course of history.*

*Ferguson and Chambers endured the unthinkable: protests, hate mail, and even firebombings. Yet, they pressed forward with strength, dignity, and an unshakable belief in justice. Their work helped dismantle generations of segregation and opened doors for children and communities who had been left behind for far too long.*

*As we reflect on James Ferguson's legacy, we are reminded that the fight for fairness and equity is far from over. In today's world—where injustice persists in new forms—we must continue the work he so fearlessly began.*

*James Ferguson's life is a call to action. He is a role model for all who choose to fight injustice, and a beacon of what it means to stand firm in the face of adversity.*

*Let us carry his legacy forward.*

*Wesley Harris, Chair*



Attorney James Ferguson and his law partner Julius Chambers attended special programs in the earliest years of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club, now named the Sarah Stevenson Tuesday Forum.

In the years before Stevenson's 1980 election to the school board, Stevenson and Attorney Ferguson developed a bond of respect as he helped litigate school desegregation cases and she prepared teachers and students and the once-segregated PTAs for what lay ahead.

Over the years, Ferguson remained a strong supporter of Mrs. Stevenson and even arranged for lawyers from South Africa to participate in the meeting when they were in Charlotte to visit. Ferguson's generosity in sharing his wisdom, talent and leadership were his hallmark. We salute him and remain committed to pursuing the goal he and Mrs. Stevenson set for us all: freedom and justice for all.

We were honored that he was able to join us on February 11, 2025 where the historical overview of economic development in the African American Charlotte community was discussed. He emphasized that while much had been accomplished, many challenges lie ahead and that much remains to be done.

The work he has done speaks for him. May he rest in peace.



## Statement on the Life and Legacy of James E. Ferguson II

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Community Building Initiative mourns the passing of James E. Ferguson II, who transitioned on July 21, 2025. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all whose lives he touched through his unwavering commitment to justice and community service.

His vision of justice extended beyond his distinguished legal career as founding partner of Ferguson, Stein, Chambers, Gresham and Sumter, P.A., to encompass the broader work of community transformation through collective action and shared responsibility. As one of the instrumental figures in establishing Community Building Initiative (CBI), Mr. Ferguson helped lay the foundation as co-chair of the Community Building Task Force in April 1997. Mr. Ferguson understood that true progress towards a strongly knit together city requires both direct advocacy and grassroots collaboration, principles that guide our organization's mission of community empowerment and racial equity. As one of the original members of the Leadership Team, Emily Zimmern reflected, "All of us who had the privilege of working with Fergie were inspired by his strength and courage, his moral clarity sustained us, and his powerful voice led the way."

In 2023, during our 25th anniversary celebration, CBI established the **James and Barbara Ferguson Community Impact Award** to honor their extraordinary commitment to a thriving and equitable Charlotte. This annual award recognizes individuals who demonstrate deep community impact toward racial equity through demonstrable social change while maintaining sustained connections to Charlotte. We were honored to bestow the inaugural award directly to our beloved, James "Fergie" Ferguson, in a moment of heartfelt celebration surrounded by friends and family at our annual breakfast. In December 2024, James Ferguson continued to practice inspiring leadership, bestowing the award to Mac Everett as our second-ever awardee, sharing the legacy with values that James Ferguson embodied throughout his life.

James Ferguson's commitment lives on through the organization he helped create and the countless lives he impacted. His contributions to justice and community building continue to inspire our work, and his vision of an equitable, inclusive community remains at the heart of everything we do.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Ferguson family during this difficult time. Both he and Barbara are celebrated for their steadfast vision of a connected and deeply rooted community.

In Continued Pursuit of Equity,

The CBI Family

**Contact:** Janeen Bryant, Executive Director  
**About Community Building Initiative** <https://cbicharlotte.org>

**HARVEY B. GANTT**  
517 North Poplar Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

August 4, 2025

James Ferguson (Fergie) now belongs to the Ages. I will miss him as a friend and colleague.

We met almost sixty (60) years ago when I was a young architect and he, Julius Chambers, and colleagues were starting a civil rights law firm. They were visionaries. Fergie certainly believed that positive change could be affected by skillful use of the Law to bring positive change.

What is seared in my memory, is how over all the years we knew each other, he never changed his core values, priorities, or personality. Fergie loved his family. His wry sense of humor and his understated humility belied his fierce intelligence, passion, and commitment in believing that their legal work could bring about major social and economic changes for people of color in this country.

Fergie, of course, grew in the intervening years, and he and his colleagues achieved landmark victories in the Courts. He became an outstanding litigator, great defense attorney, taught the law internationally and was honored with many accolades. Yet he never changed who he was at his core. Fergie became a father figure and mentor to many others. He stoked a passion for public service by encouraging young people to stay engaged and vigilant in social and political circles.

No, Fergie never changed who he was at his core. And I believe that has made the difference for us and future generations.

I will truly miss him.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. B. Gantt', written in a cursive style.

Harvey B. Gantt

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I first encountered James Ferguson—Fergie—in the summer of 1975, when I was a young law-clerk in his firm. Even then he stood out as a fearless attorney for civil rights, “tireless, undeterred, and unwavering” in the face of injustice. His clarity of purpose inspired awe from the very start.

Over the years we had numerous interactions that grew our friendship. However, what sealed it was not a courtroom exchange but the sight of him cutting loose on the dance floor. He moved with an ease and joy that revealed the man behind the legend—easygoing, genuine, and full of life.

When I later became the lone Black judge on the Mecklenburg County bench, Fergie made a point of checking in on me. Those “are-you-okay?” calls, delivered without fanfare, reminded me that friends never travel alone when Fergie is near.

His reputation traveled worldwide, from his speaking at Harvard to presentations in London, South Africa and Namibia. Internationally, attorneys spoke his name with reverence. His visits to South Africa included meetings with Nelson Mandela.

Yet his true legacy lives outside the law-books: in the people he lifted, the movements he fortified, and the communities he held with care.

### **The Fergie We’ll Always Remember**

- **Life of the party.** He “wasn’t scared of a good party” and could make friends with anyone in the room.
- **Heart for the marginalized.** Fergie instinctively empathized with those on society’s edges and acted on that empathy.
- **Calm in every storm.** When trials—or life—grew tense, he’d flash a steady grin and remind us, “*We ain’t alright, but we gonna be alright.*”
- **Family first.** He taught that what matters is not how often you’re present, but the *quality* of the time you give to loved ones.
- **A friend who shows up.** From hospital visits to long drives, he appeared whenever someone needed a brother at their side.

Fergie gave every ounce of himself—to justice, to friendship, and to the simple, sacred act of caring for others. May we honor him by carrying that torch forward, dancing a little, laughing a lot, and assuring one another in difficult moments that—even when we aren’t alright—we *will* be alright.

*With gratitude and love,*  
T. Michael Todd



## *Acknowledgements*

The family of JAMES E. "FERGIE" FERGUSON is grateful of the enormous outpouring of love and support during our time of bereavement. The two words, Thank You, seem inadequate to express the depth of our appreciation. Please know that each of your acts of kindness have touched us and made this process more bearable.

Bishop Claude R. Alexander and The Park Church's guidance, generosity, patience, love and support has been invaluable. We humbly thank them. We are also thank Bishop Dwayne Walker for his prayers and support and for being such a good friend to our father and family.

Final Rites Entrusted to:



**A. E. GRIER & SONS**

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