



Happy Birthday Mr. Ed

How wonderful it is to be able to share the milestones in our lives with family and friends. It is truly awesome to know someone who has reached such a milestone. That person is Mr. James Edward Bridgers, who celebrated his Centennial Birthday on September 27. What a blessing to be able to celebrate with him.

Mr. Ed, as he is affectionately called, was born in 1919, in Princeville, North Carolina. He graduated from Tarboro Colored High School in 1938. Mr. Bridgers attended Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginia. He also attended Artis Barber College in Wilson, North Carolina.

He has continued to be a product of Princeville over the years working and giving back to the community. Mr. Bridgers has been a public servant for Princeville in the capacity as a member of the Town Board of Commissioners, including eight (8) years as Mayor. Among his first civic contributions was working to secure the Army Corp of Engineers to build a 3-mile levee to protect the town of Princeville from frequent flooding by the Tar River. The dike held back waters until 1999 when Hurricane Floyd dumped in excess of twenty (20) inches of rain in Edgecombe County. As a result, Princeville was submerged in water for days. Mr. Ed was also instrumental in improving the living conditions of Princeville residents by lobbying for and getting streetlights, paved streets and water and sewer lines during his political career.



Mr. Ed is also the epitome of what true friendship should be. On September 27, when he was supposed to be celebrating his 100th birthday, he instead made it a point to visit his dear friend, Mr. William (Wee) Joyner, Jr., who was somewhat under the weather. The two had made it a ritual over the years to go out and eat fish every Friday if they could. Mr. Ed was determined that today was not going to be any different, so he brought the fish to Mr. Wee. Mr. Wee in turn knew it was Mr. Ed's birthday, so he made sure his daughter,

Phyllis, had a birthday cake for his friend so they were able to celebrate together.

Happy 100th birthday, Mr. Ed. You are indeed a fine example of one special man and one special friend. God bless you.

(To see the video of Mr. Ed's incredible journey, click the More tab to locate our Video Gallery.)