

Brice Thomas Knight



Greetings ALL, I am Brice Thomas Knight, born in Tarboro, NC and raised on the dirt and coal ash filled streets of East Tarboro. My primary schooling, (grades 1st through 9th) was at the time, the fully segregated W.A. Pattillo High School, located in the fully segregated community of East Tarboro. In 1970, desegregation and integration became the law, and all grades at Pattillo would have to leave our beloved school that fall and move on to previously predominant white schools throughout town and/or the county. Grades 10th -12th was to attend Tarboro High School (**THS**). But the summer before fall semester 1970, conscientious student delegates from Pattillo and THS convened, debated, and decided that the school's name would be changed from Tarboro High School to Tarboro Senior High (**TSH**). Also there would be changes in the school colors, as well as to the school's mascot.

I graduated from Tarboro Senior High School in 1973. Some-time thereafter, the W.A. Pattillo National Alumni Association; in retrospect, (*more-so because we were the last three classes to attain high school status at W.A. Pattillo*), Classes, '71, '72, and '73 were designated W.A. Pattillo High School's '**Honorary**' Classes, with all rights and privileges bestowed. After high school, I attended and was a proud member of North Carolina Central University Eagle's 1973 MEAC Championship Football team. I graduated NCCU in 1978 with a BA degree in Visual Communication.

In the Fall of '79; I moved to Atlanta, GA, where with a friend and colleague, opened, operated, and owned, a modest, but successful Graphic Arts Agency. Unfortunately, the economic downturn of the 1980's brought about hard times particularly for small Black owned businesses. The venture was forced to shut down as a result of that recession and I had to find other means of income. I worked for years as a mid-level manager in corporate America. While there earned promotion proved to be a tough proposition, self-employment seemed more suitable and I eventually found my way into the financial industry as an independent Agent helping individuals and families understand how money works both in saving it relative to interest charged and growing it as a result of interest gained.

After 40 years in Atlanta, I moved back to North Carolina. I am semi-retired, but substitute teach in the ECPS system and serve as Executive Director on the Board of Tarboro Community Development Corporation. I have recently been appointed Chair of WA Pattillo Alumni Association's Logistics Committee. But of all the endeavor of which I'm tasked in my return home, it is my capacity as primary caregiver to my Nonagenarian (90+ yrs. *old*) mother which blesses me most and which is taken more to heart above all others. So . . . seems my life's journey has come full circle and I sincerely believe that from the humble beginnings from whence it began, right here in lil' ole' East Tarboro through to this current chapter, "I am a better man for it all."