



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

DR. ABDULALIM ABDULLAH SHABAZZ

SUNRISE MAY 22, 1927

SUNSET JUNE 25, 2014

INTERMENT CEREMONY

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road (Route 619)

Triangle, VA 22172

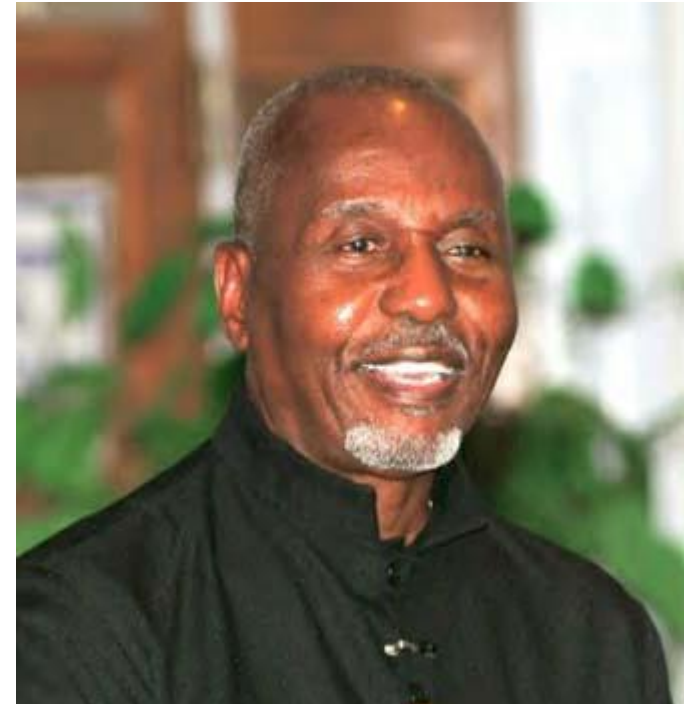
Send Condolences and Donations, in care of Ernestine Cook, to
1185 Appleton Road
Simi Valley, CA 93065

The Family would like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your support and expressions of kindness.

ASANTE SANA

A special thanks to the Nation of Islam, Grambling State University Family, colleagues – local and national, Sister Connie Muhammad and the staff of Northern Louisiana Medical Center for their support and love of Dr. Abdulalim Shabazz.

Repass at Grambling immediately following the service



SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2014
12:00 P.M.

**Grambling State University
Conrad Hutchinson Fine & Performing Arts Building
Floyd L. Sandle Theatre
Grambling, Louisiana 71245**

OBITUARY

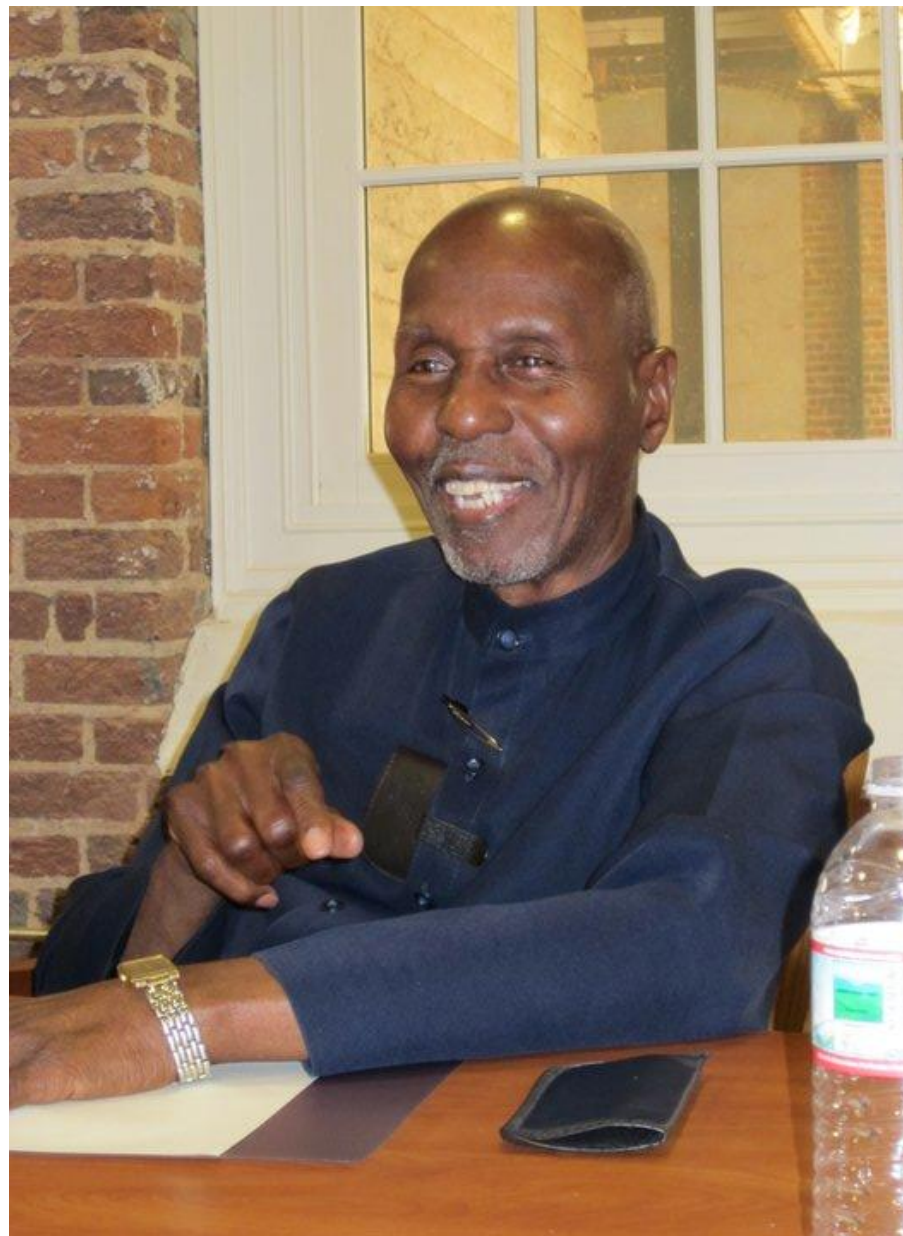
Dr. Abdulim Abdullah Shabazz, was born Lonnie Cross, on May 22, 1927 in Bessemer, Alabama to Lewis and Mary Robertson Cross.

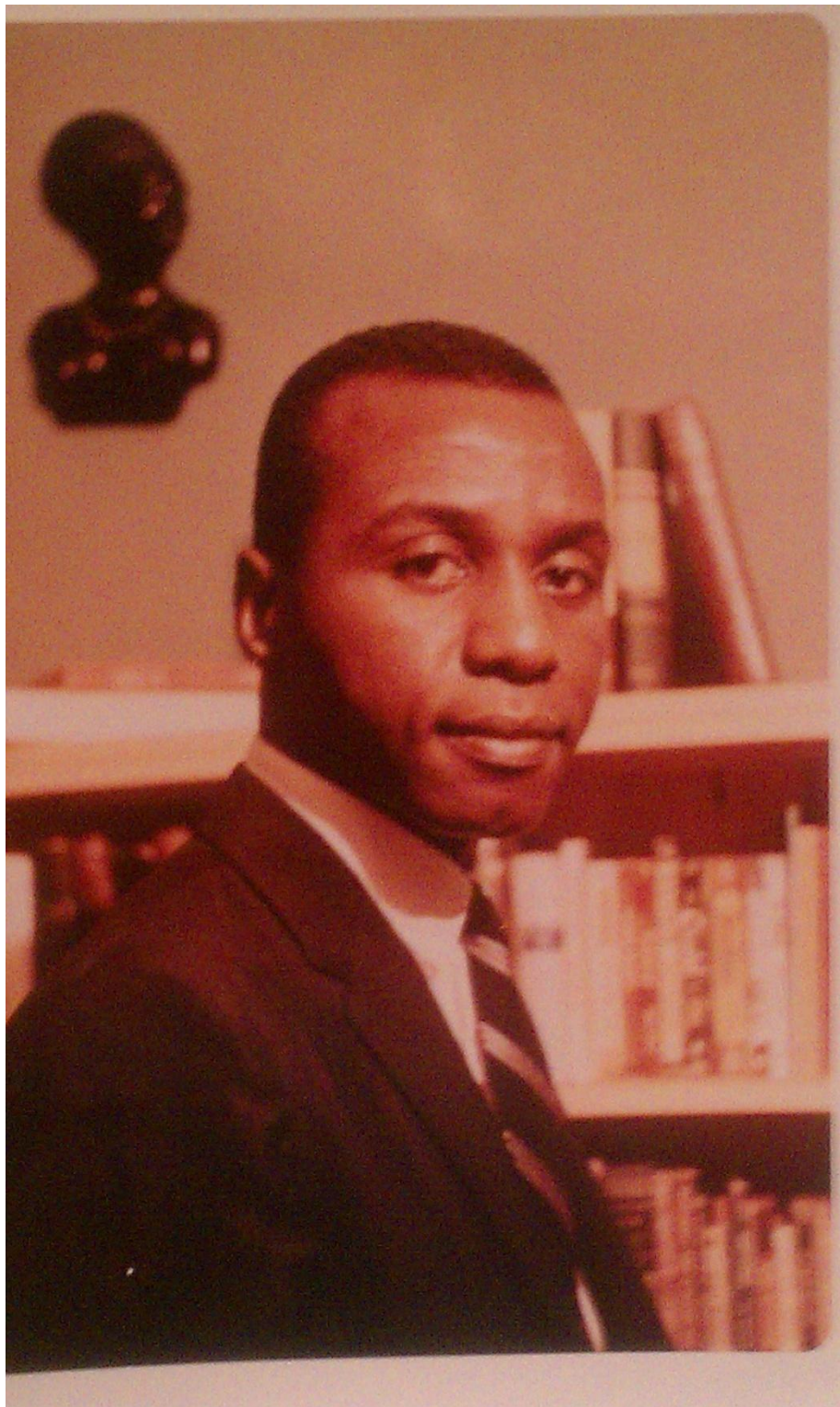
Dr. Shabazz graduated with honors in 1945, he matriculated at Lincoln University, a historically Black university, with a scholarship. But he was drafted in February 1946 and served in the U.S. Army Air Force until he returned to Lincoln in February 1947. There he majored in chemistry and mathematics and had minors in French and physics, earning an A.B. with honors in 1949. He earned a M.S. in mathematics with a minor in philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1951.

During the year 1952-1953, Shabazz worked as an Assistant Research Mathematician at the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory in Buffalo, New York. His Ph.D. in mathematical analysis was completed at Cornell University in 1955. While studying for his doctoral degree, he had minors in geometry and algebra. After graduation he worked in industry as a mathematician in the Metals Research Lab of the Electro Metallurgical Company in Niagara Falls, New York.

While he was at Cornell, Shabazz began his teaching career as a teaching fellow. During the academic year 1956-1957, he taught at the Tuskegee Institute taking a position as assistant professor of mathematics. He then moved to Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University after a merger in 1988 with Clark College) as associate professor and department chair where he remained from 1957 to 1963.

The relocation to Atlanta coincided with the Sputnik era when the National Science Foundation, among other agencies, determined to fund science and mathematics Education both for students and to bring teachers up to date. When he went to Atlanta University, the school had only two graduate students in mathematics. By the end of the year there were eight. When he left in 1963, Atlanta University had graduated 109 students with master's degrees in mathematics. Shabazz supervised 78 completed master's theses during this period. More than 30 percent of those students went on to receive doctoral degrees in mathematics or mathematics Education. Between 1976 and 1982, Shabazz was also an adjunct professor on the faculty of the Union Graduate School where he supervised four successful Ph.D. candidates. In 1992, one hundred of the African American holders of doctoral degrees could trace their academic lineage back to Shabazz or to his students.





In the early 1960s, he along with his African- and European-American students had been involved in uprisings to destroy Jim Crow segregation. Together they utilized public spaces that were deemed for whites only: the Atlanta Library and Rich's department store's restaurants and lunch counters. He invited Malcolm X to speak to the Mathematics Club and James Baldwin visited him and spoke to many Atlanta University Center students. Accused of causing student protests and unrest and labeled a Communist by the University president, he faced an atmosphere that resulted in a sense of persecution. He left Atlanta University in September 1963.

In the summer of 1963 he participated in the Space Mathematics Seminar for Advanced Mathematicians at Cornell.

In 1960 he had become a member of the Nation of Islam after hearing Elijah Muhammad speak in Atlanta. It was at this time that he changed his name, first to Lonnie X, then to Lonnie Shabazz, and then to Abdulalim Abdullah Shabazz (Abdulalim means "slave of the all-knowing God"). He has served as Muslim Imam (spiritual leader) of Muhammad's Mosque No. 4 in Washington, DC. In 1963, Shabazz reestablished the University of Islam there and was Director of Education until 1975. He developed elementary, high school and college Education programs for the Nation of Islam. From 1982 to 1986, Shabazz was a professor at Umm Al Qura University -- the University of Makkah (Mecca) in Saudi Arabia -- continuing his Arabic and Islamic studies.

During the summers of 1988 and 1989, he was a NASA-ASEE Summer Research Faculty Fellow at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.



In 1986, he began teaching again at Clark Atlanta University where he remained until 1997, serving as chair from 1990 to 1995. After his chairmanship the atmosphere had changed dramatically. Students were failing in great numbers even the remedial courses. As chair, he had eliminated these courses and started students on more difficult work at all levels. Because of the concern for remediation prior to his chairmanship, no one received a B.S. or B.A. in mathematics in 1990, and only one master's degree was awarded that year. During the five years Shabazz was chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, 77 B.S. or B.A. degrees and 45 master's degrees were awarded. The high point was 1995 when 23 bachelor's and 23 master's degrees were awarded



In August 1997, Shabazz resigned his position as professor of mathematics at Clark Atlanta University and returned to his alma mater, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, as Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

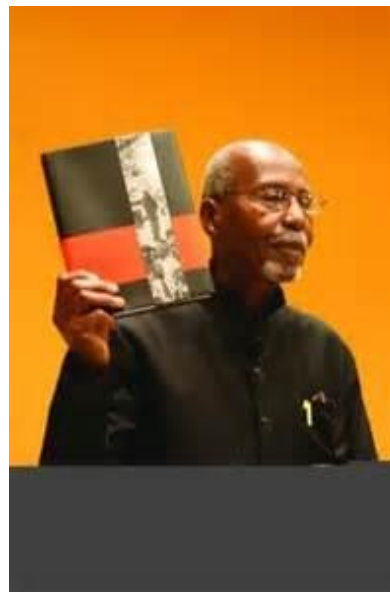
Shabazz spoke often about his philosophy of Education which stems from a belief that Education for all is possible. He emphasized hard work and seeking excellence. As a result, he received numerous awards including recognition by the Mathematical Sciences Education Board on May 4, 1990 as a professional who has been outstanding in making mathematics work for minorities. In 1992, he received the American Association for the Advancement of Science Mentor Award which honors those who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in efforts to increase the participation in science and engineering of women, minorities, and individuals with physical disabilities. In April 1994, he was the National Association of Mathematicians' Distinguished Service Award for his years of mentoring and teaching excellence. He was named a giant in science by the Quality Education for Minorities MSE Network for his contributions to mathematics and his invaluable aid in increasing the participation of minorities in mathematics, science, and engineering.



Dr. Shabazz joined the **Grambling State University** family in 2007. He was active in the Grambling community and a mentor for many junior faculty. He represented the university well as an invited speaker at national and international events that recognized his contributions to mathematics education. He has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 2000.

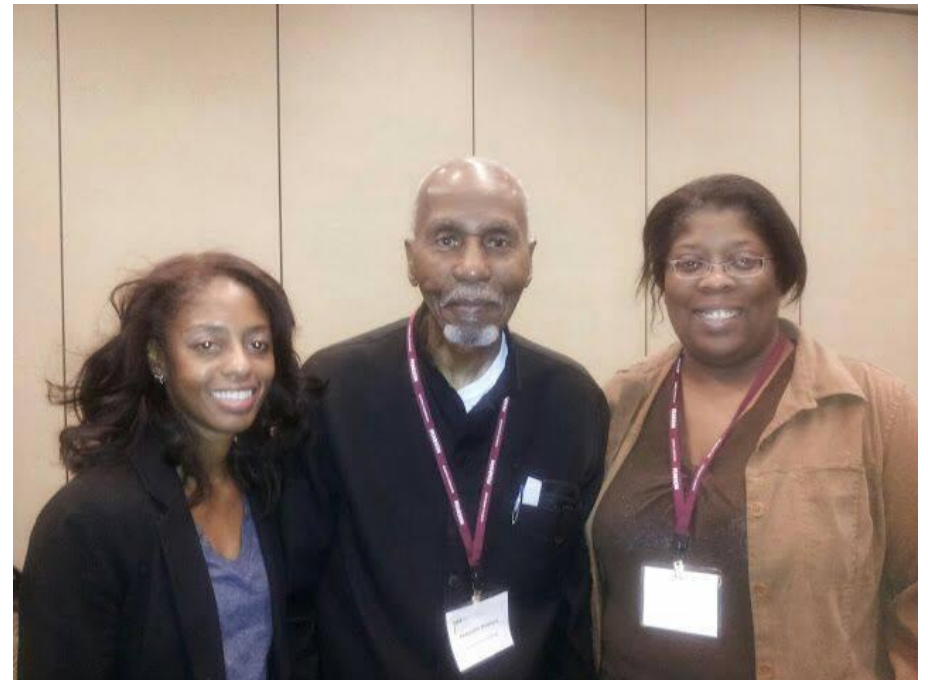
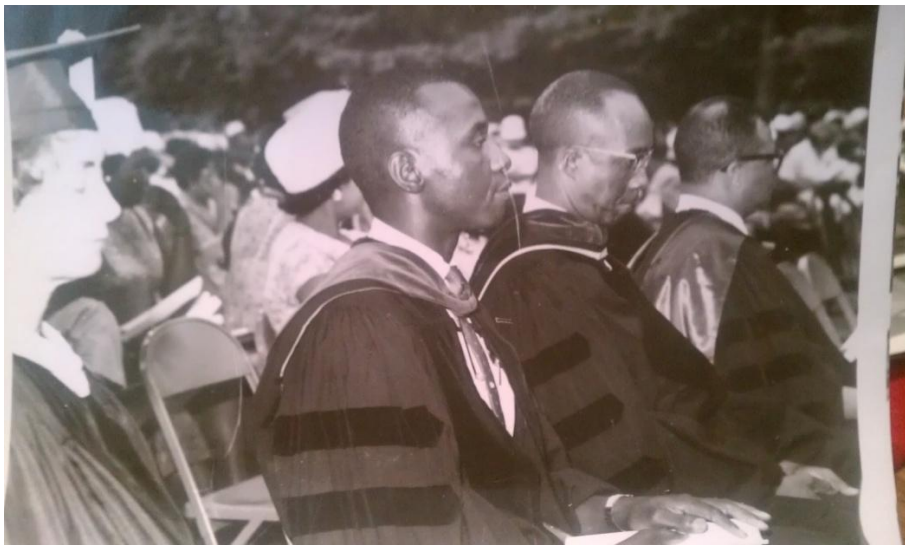
Dr. Shabazz is credited with training nearly half of all African Americans who have earned doctorate degrees in mathematics in the **United States**.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother; brothers: "Big Dude" and Luther Cross; sisters: Lucinda Cross Cook and Ernestine Cross Jordan; brothers-in-law, John W. Cook and Horace Jordan; sister-in-law, Mary Cross; nephew, Cedric Hinton; and niece, Mamie Lee Cook.





Dr. Shabazz leaves to cherish his memory and legacy, his nieces: Emma Jean Shepherd (Larry), Birmingham, Alabama; Ernestine Cook, Simi Valley, California; Judith McDuffy, Phoenix, Arizona; a "special son" he loved and supported for over 40 years, Yahya Shabazz, Ruston, Louisiana; two young Ethiopian brothers, Bumedin and Sharhabil Ali; and a host of great nieces, great nephews, friends, colleagues and loved ones.



SERVICE

Mistress of Ceremony – Ms. Linda Mays Logan

Prayer.....Brother Marvin Muhammad

Scriptures:

Holy Quran.....Sister Lurlene Muhammad

Surah 2, lyat 153-158

Old Testament.....Sister Marva Muhammad

Psalms 23

New Testament.....Sister Mary Muhammad

1 Corthinians 13

Solo

Poem.....Sister Sonya Muhammad

Obituary*Read Silently*

Special Remarks

Sister Connie Walton, Grambling State

Brother Frederick Semwogerer, Grambling State

Brother Danny Hubbard, Grambling State

Brother Marvin Muhammad, NOI

Eulogy.....Brother Verbon Muhammad
Nation of Islam

Recessional

A look back

