

In  
Loving Memory



GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc.  
celebrates the life and legacy of

*Dr. Joseph "Joe" D.  
Patton, III*

May you rest in eternal peace

## *Dr. Joseph "Joe" Durax Patton, III*

GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc. celebrates the life and legacy of our beloved Dr. Joseph D. "Joe" Patton, III, Chief Executive Officer Emeritus.

Celebration of Life is scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 4:00pm  
Silver Hill United Methodist Church  
778 John B. White Senior Boulevard  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29306

The GLEAMNS Family extends our condolences to the Patton family and all those touched by Dr. Patton's legacy. We hope you all find comfort in knowing "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

### *Remembering Dr. Patton...*

Betty Boles, GLEAMNS Board Chair, remembers Dr. Patton as being such a distinguished man. "He was such a sharp dresser. Even his cane was fancy. And he had so much knowledge and so much wisdom. He was very inviting and willing to share his experiences with you so you too could benefit from all the things he learned. He had so many different experiences; there was no job he had not conquered. He was the epitome of a leader and a visionary. He forever changed GLEAMNS for the better."

Shunna V. Jeter, GLEAMNS CEO, remembers her very first conversation with Dr. Patton. She states they talked for over an hour. "There was something about Dr. Patton that linked you to him instantly; his spirit, his relatability, his love for people. We hit it off in that first phone conversation. He treated me like a daughter everyday thereafter. Dr. Patton had an amazing technique for story telling...it was always a pinch of guidance, a dash of comedy, and a load of wisdom. He is so dearly missed."

Vanessa Frazier, GLEAMNS Executive Assistant Emeritus, remembers talking to Dr. Patton when he first came for the interview for the GLEAMNS CEO position. She says, "It was just something about him. I was instantly drawn to him. He became my family. I remember he walked in wearing an ivory Stetson hat, ivory suit, and his classic cowboy boots. He drove up in a convertible car. I told him you look just like Boss Hog. We burst out laughing!"

Jimmie Hastings, GLEAMNS Finance Manager and most senior employee of almost 50 years, remembers ALLLLLLL the arguments she would get into with Dr. Patton. "We would get into some arguments because he always wanted to do something he couldn't. And I would have to be the one to tell him he couldn't. He'd go OHHHHHH... yes I can! We would get so mad at each other. Then he'd call me and we would be best friends all over again. As stubborn as he was; I loved him dearly. He really made not only work, but life in general interesting and fun. I am so glad I had the chance to know him and to love him."

## *Biography*

A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Dr. Joseph D. Patton, III is a graduate of St. Emma Military Academy and Voorhees College. He completed several professional courses and programs at the University of Georgia, University of Miami, Washington College, and the College of Charleston.

With over 40 years of experience in leadership and executive management, Dr Patton served as the Chief Executive Officer of GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Inc., in Greenwood, South Carolina, from February 2002 until his retirement on August 1, 2016.

Under Dr. Patton's leadership, the management and operational systems of GLEAMNS evolved to include, but not limit to, creating a cabinet management system consisting of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, and Chief Financial Officer; training staff in protocols and professionalism; establishing a Public Relations/Website Committee; increasing GLEAMNS visibility and participation in community activities and events such as the Wellness Celebration, job fairs, the Abbeville Spring Fling, Senior Citizen Sports Classic events, Chamber of Commerce events, and the Festival of Flowers.

Under Dr. Patton's leadership, GLEAMNS procured the Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Birthplace House and a one room school, and established a national historical preservation site on the GLEAMNS campus. Dr. Patton's vision has also allowed him to partner with Ervin "Magic" Johnson's Foundation to develop a Magic Johnson Community Empowerment Center that contains a state of the art computer lab, a study room, a conference room, an office, and a lounge.

Dr. Patton received the Administrator of the Year and the Executive Director of the Year awards from the South Carolina Community Action Partnership, as well as the 2006 Leadership Award from the Greenwood Section of the National Council of Negro Women. In addition to being recognized by Greenwood County Council and South Carolina AARP for his community support and leadership, he was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in June of 2007. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and was recognized by Epsilon Phi Zeta Chapter during their 2012 Ladies and Gentlemen of Distinction Awards Program.

Dr Patton, a U.S. Army Veteran, has been affiliated with many community and civic organizations, including the Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officers Association, American Public Health Association, S.C. Primary Health Care Association, Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, United Way Boards in Greenwood and Charleston, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, National Rifle Association, and the National Council on Alcoholism. He also served as a project officer and consultant to Sarah and former White House Press Secretary Jim Brady's Center to Prevent Hand Gun Violence.

He is an appointed member of the South Carolina State Workforce Investment Board, as well as a past member of the Upper Savannah Workforce Investment Board. He is a past member of the Barber Scotia College Board of Trustees, South Carolina Community Action Partnership

Directors' Association, South Carolina Association of Human Services Agencies, and a past member of Lander University's Board of Visitors and the United Community Care Center.

Dr. Patton is past Basileus of the Epsilon Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity – Graduate Chapter. He is an ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church and holds an Honorary Doctorate Degree for his services to the Church and Community. In addition, Lander University, in Greenwood, South Carolina, conferred the Doctor of Humane Letters degree on Dr. Patton at their 2007 Commencement Exercises.

Dr. Patton received the Order of the Palmetto Award, our State's highest civilian honor in 2015, for his outstanding service as a community, civic, and business leader. He was also commissioned a Kentucky Colonial by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In eternal peace, Dr. Patton joins his beloved wife, Josephine Bell Patton, Esquire, who predeceased him. They have four (4) sons, one (1) daughter, nine (9) grandchildren, and one (1) great-grandchild.