

Nathaniel West



December 29, 1946—December 9, 2010

O SON OF THE SUPREME!

I have made death a messenger of joy to thee.

Wherefore dost thou grieve?

I made the light to shed on thee its splendor.

Why dost thou veil thyself therefrom?

Bahá'u'lláh

Baha'i Funeral Service

December 18, 2010

Obituary

Nathaniel West (Bradley) passed away on December 9, 2010 at West Jefferson Medical Center after a short illness. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Joan Fries West of Avondale; three brothers: his twin, Nathan West, of Austin, TX, Rolando Bradley (Tracie) and Elton Bradley (Barbara) of Raceland; five sisters: Linda White (Rodney, Sr.) of Paradis, Carolyn Bland (Adam Lee), Debra Wheaten (William), Vivian Bradley and Sandra Johnson all of Raceland; a maternal uncle, Sidney Charles, of Raceland; numerous other relatives and friends.

A native of Mathews, LA, he was born on December 29, 1946 as the first of identical twins. At age seventeen he was paralyzed by an accidental gunshot wound and confined to a wheelchair thereafter. He often said that because the accident changed the direction of his life for the better, he felt blessed by God. An independent and determined person, he finished high school while in the hospital. In 1971 while attending college in Clarksdale, MS he met his future wife, Joan Fries, of Oshkosh, WI, and they were married in Clarksdale in 1972. Although they had no children, they hoped their union might serve as an example of the power of love and unity. In 1980 he received a B.S. degree from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans. He worked for the Social Security Administration in Terrytown as a contact representative from 1991 until he began kidney dialysis in 2004. He loved his work and took great pride and joy in serving others, especially the elderly and persons in distress. He learned how to drive a conversion van, which gave him a wonderful sense of freedom. He became a Baha'i in 1970 and spent the rest of his life trying to live in such a way that his deeds would be a testament to his faith. At the time of his death he was a member of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of West Jefferson Parish. He was a man of great inner strength and faith, sensitive to the needs of others, quiet, non-judgmental, with a ready smile and infectious laugh. He will be missed.

Program

Prayer (a cappella) “Blessed Is the Spot”	Carla Baker*
Welcome	Monya Ward
Baha’i Prayer for the Departed	Dionne Lombard
The Lord’s Prayer	Simona Verneuil
Selections from “The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh”	Davis Stanley Jones
I Corinthians 13	Brenda Williams
Musical selection: “Precious Lord”	
Selection from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá	George Simmons
Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh	Tom Rigell
Musical selection: “Nearer My God to Thee”	
Obituary	Jerome White
Announcements	Monya Ward
23rd Psalm	Wandra White
Baha’i Prayer for the Departed	Cheryl Johnson
Musical selection: “This Little Light of Mine”	

*All musical selections by Carla Baker

Sincere Thanks

Nat's wife and family offer our deepest appreciation for the many outpourings of love and kindness that have been showered upon us since his passing. No words can express how deeply you all have touched our hearts. Thank you—and, again, thank you and may God bless you.

Interment

Morning Star Baptist Church Cemetery
Raceland, LA

Repast

WOW (Woodmen of the World) Hall
Hwy 653, Raceland, LA

Directions

Take LA 1 (across the bayou from the cemetery) west
At the red light in Raceland go left on Hwy 182 toward Houma
Cross two bridges
Turn left on LA 653
Hall is green building on corner