



## George C. Springer, Sr.

November 9, 1932 - December 19, 2006

George C. Springer, Sr., 74, of New Britain, husband of Geraldine Brown-Springer, died Tuesday December 19, 2006 at Hospital of Central Connecticut. Born in Panama, he attended Teachers College of Connecticut now CCSU and received graduate degrees from the University of Hartford and CCSU.

He served as past president of the New Britain Chapter NAACP; the board of directors of Klingberg Family Center; a Trustee of the New Britain Foundation of Public Giving; He was a corporator for the New Britain Boys and Girls Club and the New Britain YMCA; And served on the Board of the New Britain Friendship Center. George has been the Northeast Regional Director for the American Federation of Teachers since July 2001. Prior to that appointment, he was president of the 20, 000-member Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees for 22 years. Springer was a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers from 1988-2001.

George taught graphic arts and African American history during his 20 year teaching career in New Britain from 1959 - 1979 where he was a coach of Baseball, Soccer and Volleyball. Throughout that period, he held various union leadership positions, including president of the New Britain Federation of Teachers.

George is a member of the National Commission for African American Education, board member and chairman of the education committee of

Amistad America Inc., and vice president of the John C. Rogers African American Cultural Center Inc.

George succeeded at the important things in life. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend; he was a family man extraordinaire.

He gave and shared his talents as an activist, a teacher, organizer and union leader and in doing so, became a great humanitarian. The breath of his accomplishments placed him in the March on Washington while he was a young man in his twenties and in South Africa as a monitor of the election of Nelson Mandela, in his sixties.

His understanding of the plight of the underprivileged and his legacy of fight for them made him a champion for justice and freedom here in the U.S. and throughout the world.

George was a moral and ethical man, whose motivation was simply the restoration of love, compassion, dignity and respect to all.

Besides his wife "Gerri", he leaves a son, Atty. George C. Springer, Jr. and his wife Laura of New Britain; two daughters, Rosina Audette and her husband Robert of Chicago, IL; and Linda Broderick and her husband Frank of Plainville; a step daughter, Joaquina A. Brown of New Britain; two brothers, Oswald Springer and his wife Ruth of Brooklyn, NY; and Berteley Springer and his wife Elaine of Chicago, IL; a sister, Ruth Mae Russell and her husband Frank of Tallahassee, FL; a loving and devoted sister-in-law, Latonya Thompson of New Britain; 10 grandchildren, five great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are Saturday 10 AM at Spottswood AME Zion Church, 25

Crestwood Lane, New Britain. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery. Calling hours are Friday 4 to 8 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Memorial donations may be made to the Gerri Brown-Springer Scholarship Fund, c/o OIC, 1 Grove Place, New Britain, CT 06051 or to the John E. Rogers African-American Cultural Center, P.O. Box 1931, Hartford, CT 06144. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Dear Linda, I was so sorry to hear of your father's passing. I have so many fond memories of our friendship in high school: hanging out at your house, kicking the lockers in gym class while we played "Get Christie Love", double dating to the senior prom and of course, singing together. My thoughts and prayers have been with you and your family during this sad time.

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**Melissa Bunn Balsam** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Gerri:

*I received the message from Carol Virostek you are asking for prayers to get through this horrible time. Please know I have been and will continue to keep you in my prayers. I can't fathom the pain of the holidays.*

*Gerri, I feel so fortunate to have known George. You both are role models for us all. As a couple, your marriage showed us how you both could be strong and yet a wonderful, caring couple.*

*I will be in touch with you in the New Year. In the meantime, my prayers and love go out to you and your family.*

*Ellen*

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**Ellen Perkins Simpson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ To George's family,

*Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for your loss.*

*I met George 15 or so years ago, when I was on the Hartford Board of Education. That was a troubled time for Hartford schools, and the relationship between the administration and Board, on the one hand, and the local AFT unit, on the other, was also troubled.*

*George, in his capacity as president of the state union, came in to help, and he truly did help. I remember clearly how evident it was that George kept foremost in his mind the need for the adults in the system, all of us, to focus on the interests and needs of the children we serve.*

*In the years since, I had the pleasure of seeing George only sporadically and for very short times, usually boarding or departing planes between Hartford and Washington. He was always ready with a smile, and always reading an interesting looking book or article. His focus on making schools work for children, while being fair to teachers and other employees, remained obvious.*

*We will all miss both his leadership and his gentle strength.*

*Sincerely,*

*Allan Taylor*

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**Allan Taylor** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ *To the Family of George Springer:*

*The members of the Washington Teachers' Union would like to express eternal thanks to each of you for allowing your husband, father, grandfather, brother and beloved relative to share his outstanding leadership, friendship, commitment and service with our members. George came to the aid of our Union in its darkest hour and guided it to the light with vision, compassion and wisdom. Our members are forever grateful for the brief, yet invaluable time that George shared with us all.*

*Word cannot express the special moments and memories that will forever remain in our hearts. Our prayers and thoughts are with you in your time of sorrow. May you find comfort in knowing that he left a spirit of hope for the hopeless, pride for the discouraged and confidence in the future for all of us.*

*Please know that we care.*

*George Parker  
President, Washington Teachers' Union*

*Nathan A. Saunders  
General Vice President, Washington Teachers' Union*

*Washington Teachers' Union Executive Board and Board of Trustees*

*Washington Teachers' Union Staff and Members*

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**George Parker** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I'd like to express my sincere sympathy to Geri and family. I worked at Slade when Geri was principal, and when I became active in the union I got to meet George. What a wonderful team! I feel so fortunate to have gotten involved with the union when George was at the helm. He was always available with advice or just friendship. He was a good man and he will be missed. Geri, you're in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Martello

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**Barbara Martello** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Dear Gerri and family,  
We are greatly saddened by George's passing. The warmth and caring that he shared with our family and his strong commitment to achieve fairness and equality touched us very deeply, and will always live on. He is our hero.

Love,  
Joelle Fishman and Art Perlo  
17 Hobart Street  
New Haven CT 06511

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**Joelle Fishman and Art Perlo** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Dear Gerri and family,  
George was an extraordinary human being. His leadership of the Coalition to End child Poverty in Connecticut was a great example. He was a leader both with his ideas and his organizational skills. He was able to bring a wide range of people together around a common goal because he had such a deep understanding and commitment to ending child poverty and inequality. He never stepped back from raising the most challenging questions. He said he loved our coalition because it was the place where we could tell it like it is. His loss is huge, but we will do our best to carry on this great work in his absence and in honor of all that he represented.

Joelle Fishman  
Coalition to End Child Poverty in CT

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Coalition to End Child Poverty in CT - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Dear Gerri and family,  
George was a great supporter of the programs at the New Haven Peoples Center, and always encouraged us as a site on the African American Freedom Trail. He spoke at the Center on many occasions, always raising the level of the discussion to new heights with his insights and projections for action to advance peace and social justice. We treasure those memories and contributions. He will be greatly missed. We will work even harder to achieve the goals we shared.

New Haven Peoples Center  
37 Howe Street, New Haven CT 06511

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New Haven Peoples Center - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Dear Gerri and family,  
We offer condolences and share your sorrow at the loss of George. He was a great pillar in the movement for peace, equality and social justice. He opened the doors of coalition to all who shared similar beliefs, thereby immensely strengthening the peoples movement for a better world. He helped think through and encouraged every initiative to overcome the inequalities of our society. He was an outstanding ally. We were overjoyed to present the Amistad award from the People’s Weekly World to George last year. He was determined to participate even though just returning from the hospital, and addressed the event by speaker phone, applauding our joint efforts and encouraging our continued struggles.

Connecticut Communist Party USA  
Joelle Fishman, Chair  
PO Box 1437  
New Haven, CT 06506

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**Joelle Fishman** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ George Jr. & the entire Springer Family,  
  
We were very saddened to here of the loss of your loved one. Our deepest sympathy goes to you and your family.

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**Kerry & Nadine Cloukey** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Teachers in Puerto Rico have lost a dear friend. We will never forget his kindness and solidarity.  
Lucy Sanchez, Migdalia Torres, Silvia Rodriguez, Felix Iram Rodriguez and Renan Soto

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**Lucy Sanchez** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ George was a consummate advocate for teachers and other public employees. Not only was he a powerful voice for their interests, he was a true statesman for the institution of public education. He was possessed of enormous integrity and continued to grow in his knowledge and thinking. His kindness for those with whom he worked was palpable. I will miss him greatly. To his family, I offer my deepest sympathy.

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**John Yrchik** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. It will be the little things that you will remember, the quiet moments, the smiles, the laughter. And although it may seem hard right now, it will be these little things that help to push away the pain and bring the smiles back again. If I may share my fondest memory. As a member of the Gospel Ensemble Choir, One of his George's favorite songs. "I Shall Wear A Crown" expressed his belief of the faith, of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May the love of friends and family be a source of comfort to you at this time with God's grace and Mercy. With sincere Sympathy in Your Loss.  
The Pina Famil

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**Douglas @ Bonnie Pina, Family** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ It was a great honor to know George Springer, if briefly, during his tenure as Administrator of the Washington Teachers Union. Only a man of his wisdom and integrity could resurrect the WTU after its ordeal. He will be greatly missed by all who revere justice and the teaching profession.

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**Anton Hajjar** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MQ

“ As such things usually do, the passing of George Springer brought to mind images from the past. Although I knew of his altruistic nature, I knew him mainly as Mr. Springer, the father of my friend Linda. My memory of him is stuck in the early seventies, when Linda and I listened to music on eight-track tapes, and wore those pink, crushed-velvet madrigal costumes. Back then, I knew Attorney George Jr. as a little brother called Champy. Our parents’ connection through the AFT made us fellow ‘teacher’s union kids’, a job that required, in my memory, a lot of collating and taking of telephone messages.

*Mr. Springer was a good and decent person; one could actually hear the man’s kindness in his distinctive voice. He will be sadly missed by his family, and remembered fondly by all who knew and loved him.*

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**Mary Doyle Quigley** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ To: Gerri Brown-Springer and Family of George Springer

*Dear Gerri & family,*

*I feel I know you all from the loving way he spoke of you, his granddaughter and all his children. Gerri, I know you were the love of his life as we often spoke of how lucky we both were to have such wonderful spouses. My husband, Rafa, and I always looked forward to his visits to Puerto Rico. We both will miss his wonderful smile, his wisdom, warmth and compassion.*

*He was tireless, although he did sleep through a few sessions on NCLB. He gave of himself unselfishly and sought to resolve conflict with a smile. He never lost his Caribbean soul and was loved and respected by all who knew him in Puerto Rico.*

*It hurts me that I can't be there to say goodbye to my dear friend George. Please give him a kiss goodbye from Nancy and Rafa. He will remain always in our hearts and our prayers.*

*Warm regards,*

*Nancy and Rafael Benitez*

*210 Seaview Dr. Apt. 611  
Key Biscayne, FL 33149  
305-361-1526  
Cell: 787-396-8507*

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**Nancy Morales & Rafael Benitez** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BZ

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of George's passing. I worked with him in Washington, DC when he served as Administrator of the Washington Teachers' Union. George was one of the most honorable people I have ever met. He was brilliant and kind, personable and fair. George cared so deeply about his work and about the education of children. I will miss him. My deepest sympathy goes to his family. All of you will be in my prayers.

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**Brenda C. Zwack** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ George Springer

*George Springer is a revolutionary. Like Salvatore Allende, he lives. His fine gracious character expanded into every role he assumed, mostly confined to our small Yankee state in this wretched era. Else he might have been an Allende or a Mandela.*

*George was comfortable with everyone from communists to Republican moderates. And he made US comfortable. At the same time he nursed a slow-burning intensity that inspired almost at the moment he soothed us.*

*What is important now, however, is not the memory of George, but the LIFE of George still coursing thru us, his family, his friends, his comrades. We gather about his physical remains, not to fulfill a social obligation, but to meet each other's eyes, to rededicate the George Springer within us, and to ensure that his revolutionary spirit blossoms and proliferates in this still backward, but promising period.*

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**Bill Shortell** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

“ It is with great sadness that I have learned of the passing of a valued friend and colleague, George Springer.

*George C. Springer was a great human being. He was great in talent and achievements; great in the rigor and depth of his service as an educator, community activist and labor leader; great in the influence he exerted quietly on the community at large.*

*History will eventually shape a clear critical, conceptual and contributor picture of George Springer. A human history will accompany it, but George’s human qualities will inevitably be abstracted from the ambiguous and intricate weave of human nature. The man whom history will honor cannot incarnate the feeling and tone of the man whose death affects so many, the human qualities of character and mind that gave substance to the public figure.*

*The public person is the George Springer whose biography is better known with every passing year. There is the historical George Springer, who attended Teachers College of Connecticut, formerly Central Connecticut State College now CCSU who received graduate degrees from the University of Hartford and CCSU; educator who taught graphic arts and later African American history in New Britain from 1959 to 1979; served as past president of the New Britain Chapter of the NAACP, on the board of directors of Klingberg Family Center and as a trustee of the New Britain Foundation of Public Giving; a incorporator of the New Britain Boys and Girls Club and the New Britain YMCA; served on the board of the New Britain Friendship Center; past president of the 20,000-member Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees for 22 years; past vice president of the American Federation of Teachers from 1988 to 2000; past president of the New Britain Federation of Teachers; a member of the National Commission for African American Education, a board member and chairman of the education committee of Amistad America Inc.; vice president of the John C. Rogers African American Cultural Center*

*Inc.; Northeast regional director for the American Federation of Teachers since July 2001.*

*Behind these historical facts was a deeper and even more complex figure than even these facts suggest. He was cut of the same cloth as great leaders who made a difference in history, the great humanists and facilitators of our day. This is a real loss to the people of New Britain, Connecticut, region and the nation as a whole. In George Springer, he may have had many degrees but he always maintained a common touch with people throughout the community. George loved the community and loved to serve.*

*It was a privilege to work closely with George as a past president of NAACP New Britain Branch, facilitator and community activist over years. George possessed a powerful combination of policy expertise and political acumen. He was unfailingly courteous, self-deprecating and modest. Many of us will miss his counsel, and his friendship.*

*It will be a monumental task to fill the many roles he played in the labor movement and in the community, as an advocate for equity, fairness and justice. He will be dearly missed by all. Our thoughts now are with his wife, Gerri and family, and I offer my support and best wishes to her and the rest of the Springer.*

*William J. Hunter,  
Largo MD*

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**William J. hunter** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ I have the fondest memory of George as a kind, gentle and honorable man who represented Connecticut's teachers with class and dignity for so many years. He will sorely be missed, but I am confident that he has set a prime example for all to follow, and that his life, his work and his message will live on for a very, long time.

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**Patti Avallone** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I knew George through my association with his son George Jr. and I never failed to find pleasure in a conversation with him. We generally had diametrically opposed political views but that only made our conversations more interesting. Even with that, I had a lot of respect for George Sr. due to his gentle way of explaining his views and not degrading my beliefs. I really appreciated the love that he had for his children and grandchildren and hope that I can be the kind of father that George was to his family.

*My sincerest condolences to the family and their loss. Our friend George Sr. though does not need them as he is at peace with our heavenly Father.*

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**Jon Davis** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Dear Geri,  
I was so sorry to hear about George. I never got to work with him as treasurer of the Paras Union but heard nothing but great things about him. Our union is stronger because of George. Working with you at Slade made me realize that any part of your family had to be strong. I know you will find a way to make it through these times and become even stronger because of it.

Paula Paskov  
Treasurer  
Local #2407

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Paula Paskov - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ George was a true "gentle" man. He was an extraordinary union leader. He will be greatly missed. My sincere condolences to his family.

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Carol Pacheco - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ George was a true gentleman -- a quality which is unfortunately growing rare. He was "old school" in the best sense -- gracious, generous, warm and unfailingly polite. His wisdom was considerable and we are all grateful that he used it in service to the labor movement. It was a pleasure to seek his counsel and to work with him. He will be sorely missed.

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Mary Lehman MacDonald - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Dear Gerri and Family,  
Please accept our deepest and sincerest sympathy on your loss. George was one of the most humble, honorable and interesting men we have ever known. George always had a smile on his face and gave a hearty "Good Morning!" to anyone and everyone he saw. He will be sorely missed by us and everyone whose life he touched, and as you know, there were many whose lives he touched. May God bless you and give you strength with the help of family, friends and even strangers, as he guides you through this journey. Love,  
Gary and Gail

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**Gary and Gail Ferreira** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ On behalf of the Norwalk Federation of Teachers and its chapters I send our deepest regrets to the Family of our colleague, friend and brother. George was a very special person and the lessons he taught us, his gentle ways and his smile will be remembered forever. In Unity Always

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**Bruce LeVine Mellion** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ My sincerest condolences to the family of George Springer. I was privileged to spend many years with George as a fellow Vice-President of AFT. I admired and respected his keen intellect, his dedication to humanitarian causes and his deep commitment to the members he served. He made an enormous contribution to the American Federation of Teachers, both as a Vice-President and as the Northeast Regional Director. George made a significant difference in the lives of those he served.

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**Herb Magidson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Gerri and Family,

*I was saddened to learn of George's passing. George was a quietly powerful man of great wisdom who always represented members of the AFTConnecticut with eloquence and dignity. In the years he served as our President, he moved AFTConnecticut forward in so many ways. In his lifetime of fighting for people's rights and for social justice, he made a difference in the lives of so many.*

*I will miss his genuinely warm greeting each time we would meet, and the knowledge and insight I gained each time I listened to him speak on an issue. And whenever I hear "I Hope You'll Dance" I think of George and how his philosophy is expressed in those words.*

*I feel honored to have worked with him for so many years, and because of that, I have many dear memories that will keep him alive in my heart.*

*My deepest sympathies,  
Mary Moninger-Elia  
West Haven*

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**Mary Moninger-Elia** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Gerri, George Jr. and the Springer Family:

*I wanted to express my sympathy on George’s passing. Unfortunately, Audrey and I will be out of state for Christmas, and I may not be able to attend the wake or funeral. I do want to share with you that George was someone who was a great influence on me and on my values.*

*I can’t remember the first time I met George, but it must have been at a family gathering at my aunt and uncle’s home. George was a good friend and ally of my uncle, Laddie Michalowski. Together, they fought many battles in the struggle for social and economic justice. They did not prevail in all of those fights, but they made a great difference in the lives of many people, and they never wavered from standing up and doing the right thing. George and Laddie took on those fights at a time when it wasn’t always easy to stand up to powerful interests. It was a time when the consequences were extremely harsh for those who didn’t go along to get along.*

*George made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands &#150; if not millions &#150; of people. He fought for labor rights to ensure proper wages and benefits for thousands of teachers and other professionals in our state. He fought to make our educational system better and fairer for all of the children in our state and country. He was a soldier in the struggle for civil rights and economic justice, and a pillar in the progressive movement in Connecticut and across the nation.*

*My last meeting with George was at my house about a year and a half ago. He had put together a meeting to discuss the issue of child poverty. George brought to that meeting, and to that cause, a passion and a willingness to fight the fight on behalf of poor children. George couldn’t understand how in this day and age we’d allow so many children to fall through the cracks when there are proven solutions. I remember him talking about this with*

*the same passion and urgency as he did on so many other issues over the years.*

*George's life and passing should be a call to action for all of us. When I think of George's life and his work, I remember the words of Senator Edward Kennedy at his brother Robert's funeral when he described activists for justice by saying, "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Senator Kennedy further went on: "My brother need not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life, to be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it. Those of us who loved him and who take him to his rest today, pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will some day come to pass for all the world." Those words are an apt description of George's life and his work.*

*I'll miss his keen wit, sense of humor, the twinkle in his eye and his willingness to serve as a guiding light for all of us who fight on in the struggle for social and economic justice. I can't overestimate how much he meant to us. We've truly lost a hero. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

*John C. Geragosian*

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**John C. Geragosian** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ George was a true friend who would quietly and humbly give you the advice and inspiration you needed during your time of need. He will be greatly missed. I am very sorry to hear that he will not be with us anymore to give us guidance. My feelings of sorrow go out to his family during this trying time.

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**David S. Gifford** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Dear Geri and Family,  
Words cannot express my sadness in hearing of George's passing. You have my very deepest sympathies. All of us who knew him were graced with his wisdom, dignity, compassion and leadership. The world is a dimmer place without the light of his energy and personality.

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**Joyce Krinitsky** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ i was saddened to read of mr. springer's passing. he was my industrial arts teacher at nathan hale jr. high school, new britain. this was in 1960-61. i've never forgotten him.  
i remember a quiet, energetic man.  
for many reasons he was a positive influence on me.  
i would like to extend my condolences to his family.  
andy gimma

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**andy gimma** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ George became an AFT vice president the same year I came to work at the AFT. I sought him out because I grew up in Connecticut and I loved hearing his words of wisdom on what was happening in my old home state. Many years later, George stepped into the hornet's nest that was my children's school system in Washington, DC. With his keen listening skills and calm, upbeat manner, he proved to be a diplomat and an incredible problem solver. I don't think anyone could have managed that situation with more aplomb and integrity. The students and teachers in the DCPS system are the beneficiaries of his energy. I am personally grateful and so saddened by his loss.

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**Barbara McKenna** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ To the Springer Family,  
George Springer was an inspiration to me and to all who came into contact with him. He was a gentle, yet very strong man, kind and caring. You could always count on a smile, a hug and a kind word from George. He taught me so much about what is important in life just by his example. I remember getting thick packets of information on many different issues to read--George never forgot his passion for teaching even when he had left the classroom. He knew so much and cared so much about very important issues, poverty, homelessness, and making the world a better place. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for sharing him with us for so many years.

One of the fondest memories I have of George is at his Retirement party from AFT CT, where he had his entire family present. The love and family bond you shared that night will help sustain you through the days ahead. You will be in my thoughts and in my prayers.

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**Patti Fusco** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ George was a wonderful and wise man. When he spoke we all listened because we knew that he always had something to say worth hearing. He spent his life building the labor movement, a work many of us are lucky enough to share. His accomplishments speak for themselves. May you, his family, be comforted by many loving memories. George will live on in the gifts he gave you and so many of us who were fortunate enough to know and work with him.

*Sincerely,*

*Frank Stella, AFT Organizing*

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**Frank Stella** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Gerri  
*My condolences to you and your family. George was a very good person. He will be missed.*

*Betty Ann*

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**Betty Ann Atkinson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Deepest sympathies to Gerri, Rose & Bob, Linda & Frank, Champ & Maria, and Quina--and all the kids. Words simply cannot express my gratitude for having been blessed with the privilege of knowing George. I learned so much from this wonderful man; about labor unions, social justice, children in poverty, public education, music, theater, comedy...so many memories, but mostly that "family ALWAYS comes first." George fought the good fight, he won the race, he kept the faith.  
May God bless and comfort all of you at this sad time.*

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**Betsey Grady** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ George was a true "mensch"-- a kind and caring person who showed his compassion in many ways. We remember him fondly and particularly in his role as the head of LEAP, the Legislative Elctoral Action Program, where he maintained a steady helm over this coalition as we lent support to progressive candidates who espoused all the values that George believed in.

*We will truly miss him -- his warmth, his intelligence and his compassion.*

*--Win & Carol Heimer*

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**Win and Carol Heimer** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ As a graduate of the class of 1972, I was never in any of his clases. I had met him when I was purchasing business cards and stopped to watch the printing presses in action.

*George treated me like I was his son and not just a student. I felt honored to meet him.*

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**Edward Borkowski** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ It is with great sadness I learned of the passing of George Springer. It was indeed an honor to have known George Springer through AFT if only on a limited basis. Georgee inspired those with whom he came into contact and reminded us all of our sense of greater purpose and the importance of the work we are privileged to do. I extend my sympathies and condolences to George's family.

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**Terri Donovan** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ To the family and friends of George Springer, May God comfort you during this time of grief. I really enjoyed working with George when I had the opportunity to as a building representatives for the Washington Teachers' Union in Washington, DC. He was a wonderful person to work with. He was always very pleasant and he had a great sense of humor! George struck me as a very fine leader who really loved working for the union. His positive attitude was impressionable and will never be forgotten. May George rest in peace.

-Dorothy Egbufor, WTU

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**Dorothy Egbufor** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ George was an honorable man, a solid leader in difficult times and a dependable support while I was working in Hartford. His understanding of the challenges our members and leaders faced marked his time as president and served all of us well in his capacity as a Vice President of the AFT.

He was a good man.

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**Don Kuehn** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ I worked for George during a very turbulent time at the Washington Teachers' Union in Washington, DC. George was ever the voice of patience, tolerance and wisdom. He lived unionism and he represented the best and noblest of what the labor movement was all about. Even so George was much more than that he was a teacher, mentor and one of the great men to come out of the Caribbean diaspora.

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**Derek E. Knights** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *Mr. Springer was one of the finest men I had the opportunity to work for. He was fair, compassionate and had a true heart for fellow man kind. He was always informed and kept his staff informed. He was a good listener. He really cared about people. I will truly miss him. Gerri, thank you for letting him touch my life. Heaven has another angel. Deepest sympathy.*

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**Amy J. McDew** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *George was one of a kind--honest, kind, supportive and understanding to everyone he came in contact with. Gerri, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. Cindy , retired certified nurse assistant instructor New Britain Senior High School.*

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**Cindy Pavano** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Although I was introduced to George only weeks ago when he came back to work at the AFT NE Regional Office, I was struck by his unassuming, kind and compassionate manner. I only wish that I, too, could have had the privilege of knowing him longer.*

*God Bless you, George.*

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**Barbara Corcoran** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *Gerri, I am so sorry to learn of George's death. I remember him as always smiling, always ready to help, and always thoughtful. My prayers are with you. Karen A. Grava*

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**Karen A. Grava** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

YF

“ George, thank you for passing through the AFT and this world and for leaving such a lasting impression upon all of us. Thanks for being the positive role model that you were... You have surely done your part in making this world a better place!

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**Yvonne Freeman** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ George, as we affectionately knew him was beyond the VP extrodinaires. He was different and certainly, it has become evident that he was a fellow zionite. Not because of his affiliation with the AME Zion Church, but because he was one whose light SHINED! Since my joining the staff at AFT, George's visits were ones that I welcomed. I've always appreciated Georges warmth to ALL the staff and as support personnel, that meant a lot. Words can never express our gratitude for his work. His life was his testimony--a Great Testament, indeed; and I can say from observation and have confidence in knowing that he only sleeps. That's greater than being termed a Good Man. He is indeed Justified.

*My sympathy for the bereaved--but Rejoice in knowing he is at Peace.*

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**Regina Bracey** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *To the Springer Family,*

*I am deeply saddened to hear of George's passing, but grateful to have known him. I felt an immediate kinship to George, as his gentle mannerisms and quiet strength reminded me so much of my grandfather. He will be greatly missed by so many, including everyone in his AFT family. Thank you for sharing George with us for so many years. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Angela Callahan*

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**Angela Callahan** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ *GERRI AND FAMILY; "MR. SPRINGER" EXEMPLIFIED THE WORDS TEACHER, LEADER AND WAS A WONDERFUL MAN. MY HEART IS WITH YOU AT THIS TIME-HE WILL TRULY BE MISSED...*

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**NANCY ST. PIERRE** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *George Springer was one of the gentlest, thoughtful union leaders in our organization. He was a deeply caring, loving man whose life goal was justice for all working men and women.*

*It was a pleasure to be working with him as we fought for teachers and paraprofessionals, public employees and nurses. He approached everyone as a friend. He was a mentor to many of us, and I considered him a good friend.*

*You have my deepest sympathy.*

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**Joan Devlin** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ To Geri and family,  
May my thoughts and prayers be with all of you. George was special to all of us. He was a mentor to me as a para, he showed respect for what I do. He will be greatly missed! Keep the faith going. Geri, I know you are a strong women and will keep alot of George alive for all of us.

Bless you,

Juanita Santana, PARA

Northend School

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**Juanita Santana** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM