



# Bell-Ransom Family News

## WELCOME 2025!

January

### Sharing Family News



**Fredia Peele Wellman's** beautifully decorated Garysburg home, which was shared on Facebook, is an example of her talent and the **Décor4Joy** services she provides for events.



**Deborah Hill** of Lanham, Md. posed on her red car to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Deborah is an avid fan of the Washington Commander Football team. She has been featured on local television as one of the team's most loyal fans.



**Prince George's County Police Sgt. Erika Person** is shown in the PGCP Department Recruitment video airing on local television. Erika is the daughter of the late Dement and Sonya Person and a granddaughter of the late Sumner Bell, Sr. Erika resides in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Erika was honored to lay the wreath at her father's gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery on Wreath Across America Day.



**Randolph “RJ” Pyatt** (Back row, second on right.) and his Maryland Outlaws team won their AAU Championship game in competition on December 15 in LaPlata, Maryland. RJ is an eighth grader and is the son of Randy and Emily Pyatt of Bryans Road, Maryland



**Kyle Lockhart** is pictured with his mother, **Terry Bell**, at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte for the Dallas Cowboys vs Carolina Panthers Football game.



**Terry Bell** witnessed the Judicial District 7 Passing of the Gravel Ceremony honoring newly appointed **Chief District Court Judge Teresa Raquel Robinson Freeman**. The event was held December 13, 2024, at the Halifax County Courthouse in Halifax.

**Picture Perfect! The Gardner children**, Taylor, Ava and Aric, pose in their coordinating outfits. They are children of Brion and Takla Gardner and grandchildren of Beatrice Bell Gardner.



**Margaret B. Hawkins** and other family members attended the Christmas Concert at First Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids under the direction of **Augustus Cofield, Jr.**





**Sophia Pyatt** was first chair violinist at her middle school Winter Orchestra Concert on December 9. Sophia also participated in the Annual Holiday Skate Show at the Capital Clubhouse Skating Academy in Waldorf, Md. on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Sophia is an eighth grader and the daughter of Randy and Emily Pyatt of Bryans Road, Md.



**Florine and David Bell, Sr.** were treated to a birthday dinner to honor their 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays. David and Florine's children, grandchildren, their sisters, brother and several nieces and nephews attended the surprise event.

## And Other News We Are Talking About...

**Rudy Pyatt** was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift ticket to a Broadway show of his choice, on December 20<sup>th</sup> by the New York City Human Rights Commission in recognition of his 20 years of service in that office. Rudy continues to post his photographs of New York City and his musical instrument improvisations.

**Carole Strickland** of Berkeley, California visited her family in Durham for the holidays. Carole is the daughter of Linda Bell Strickland and William Strickland.

**New York City Ballet Corps de Ballet Member Olivia Bell** was featured in the Corps production of George Balanchine's The Nutcracker.

**Margaret McGee** is traveling with her husband, Rodney, on his long-distance truck delivery to New Mexico.

**Valencia Turnage** hosted Christmas dinner for her family at her Roanoke Rapids home.

**Catherine Bell** served her traditional New Year's Day soul food dinner to family and friends at her Garysburg home.

**Florine Bell's** latest local history article is in the ***Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald*** on the Formation of Halifax County's first jail.

The Christmas Dinner sponsored **Pastor Mark Barfield and Rev. Lou Barfield** for members and friends of Mt. Hope Baptist Church and Conway Baptist Church at Mt. Hope Church in Jackson.

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY



## January

7 Erika Person

12 Charles Lucas

16 Gary Bell

18 David Bell, Jr.

27 Amira Hawkins

27 Randolph Hawkins

And to all others with a January birthday

Enjoy your special day.



Keep the sick, shut-in and those recovering from various ailments in your thoughts and prayers. Those reported include **Mrs. Maxine Hill, Mrs. Arsine Cameron. Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Clarence Bell, Sr., Mrs. Diane Bell, and the names of others you know.**



## Honoring the Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through his quotes ...

“Everyone can be great because everyone can serve---You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”

“Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education.”



We extend our deepest sympathy to all who have suffered the loss of a loved one since the publication of our Holiday newsletter. The following deaths have been reported:

**Mr. Marvin Thomas** of Rocky Mount, son of the late Geraldine Pittman Clark

**Mr. Terence Wayne Blount** of Gaston, son of the late Herman Blount, Sr. and Bertha Blount

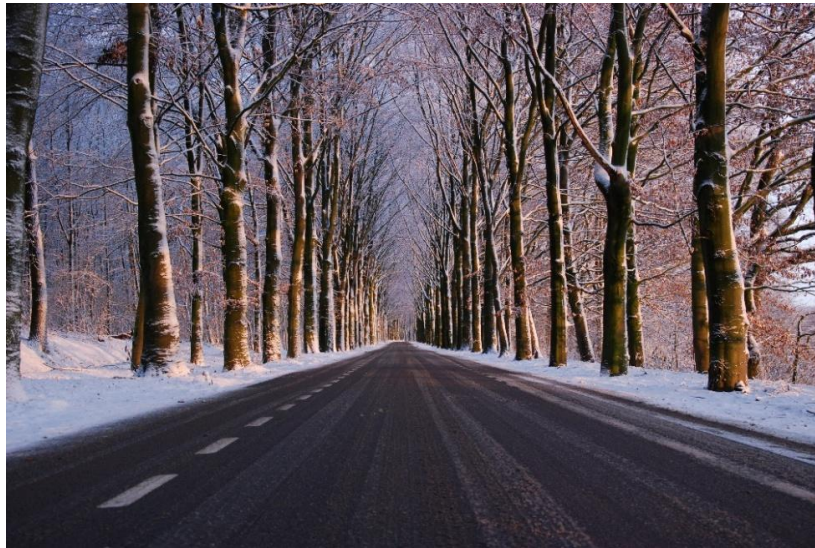
**Ms. Regina Robinson Moody** of Garysburg, N.C. daughter of the late of Joe and Eva Robinson and Aunt of Cheryl Bell

**Mr. Ralph Ransom, Sr.** of Hampton, Va., son of the late Lester E. Ransom and Melinda Davis Ransom

**Mrs. Bonnie Hardy Bracy** of Enfield, cousin of Ozette Pittman Bell



*“God is our refuge and our strength.” Psalm 46:1*



### **The Road Ahead**

The road is ahead and where does it lead?

The cold of winter and making decisions?

A new format for Bell-Ransom Family News?

The warmth of spring and planning?

Who will share fresh reunion ideas that involve all?

Who will take on the task of continuing our reunion tradition?

The heat of summer and a family reunion?

Who will travel this road?

**Will you?**

**Would you like join me on Zoom to share family news and to map a course for reunion 47?**

*The Bell-Ransom Family Tree*



*Deeply Rooted in Love*

**Save the Dates August 8-10, 2025, for the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Bell-Ransom Family Reunion**