

Remembering Bill Broadnax

It is with profound sadness that the library mourns the loss of longtime librarian William T. "Bill" Broadnax.



Bill Broadnax was a singular sensation, serving the Ossining community for more than five decades with his signature smile, boundless enthusiasm, and deep love for his library, his town, and his profession. He was a joyful presence at the Information and Adult Services desk, a smile lighting up whenever he answered a question, looked for a book, or made conversation with a new friend. For his colleagues, he was the life of the party: the first person on the dancefloor--and always the best dressed--and a forever optimist, quick with a compliment and supportive advice when we needed it most.



"I consider it a true blessing to have had the opportunity to work with Bill. He was a joyful and welcoming presence in our library and he is missed."

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR
KAREN LAROCCA-FELS**

Born in Alabama and raised in Georgia during the Jim Crow era, Bill wasn't welcome in his home library as a child, making his illustrious career all the more remarkable. With a Master's of Science in Library Science from Villanova University, Bill's career spanned 52 years and was marked by his unwavering commitment to his community.



As Library Media Specialist for Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, Bill transformed the school's library in to the welcoming, nurturing center of campus, where he worked to connect with his students over art and decorations. At the Ossining Public Library, where he started working in 1968, Bill forged connections with his patrons, and delighted in the opportunity to learn more about them.

Dedicated to community, Mr. Broadnax made service a cornerstone of his life. After being gifted a lifetime NAACP membership by his parents as a child, he served in leadership roles in the Peekskill, Ossining, Camden, and national NAACP organizations and hosted "A Symphony of Fashions and Luncheon", the Ossining branch's premier fundraiser, for over 20 years. His devotion to serving his community was an inspiration, and his colleagues at the library hope to continue his legacy of service, selflessness, and joy. He is already missed tremendously, but his memory will forever be treasured.