

## NATIONAL

# IRS reminder: For many employers and self-employed people, deferred Social Security tax payment due Jan. 3

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded employers and self-employed individuals that chose to defer paying part of their 2020 Social Security tax obligation that a payment is due on Jan. 3, 2022.

Most affected employers and self-employed individuals received reminder billing notices from the IRS. The agency noted, however, that those affected are still required to make the payment on time, even if they did not receive a bill.

As part of the COVID relief pro-

vided during 2020, employers and self-employed people could choose to put off paying the employer's share of their eligible Social Security tax liability, normally 6.2% of wages. Half of that deferral is now due on Jan. 3, 2022, and the other half on Jan. 3, 2023.

Under separate COVID relief, employers could choose to forgo withholding Social Security taxes from eligible employees, and instead withhold tax this year and then pay those amounts to the IRS. For details, visit [What employers need to know about](https://www.irs.gov)

repayment of deferred payroll taxes on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

How to repay the deferred taxes

Employers and individuals can make the deferral payments through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System or by credit or debit card, money order or with a check. To be sure these payments are credited properly, they must be made separately from other tax payments.

EFTPS has an option to make a deferral payment. On the Tax Type Selection screen, choose Deferred Social

Security Tax and then change the date to the applicable tax period (typically, the calendar quarter in 2020 for which tax was deferred). Visit [EFTPS.gov](https://www.eftps.gov), or call 800-555-4477 or 800-733-4829 for details.

Individual taxpayers can also use Direct Pay, available only on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). Select the "balance due" reason for payment. If paying with a debit or credit card, select "installment agreement." Apply the payment to the 2020 tax year where the payment was deferred.

## North Carolina Black Santas Bringing Diversity to Christmas

By Chris Lumsden via, GMA

A North Carolina man is on a mission to spread Christmas cheer in a diverse way.

Photographer Stafford Braxton founded Santas Just Like Me in 2013 to help bring a more diverse pool of Santas to the region and "add a little color to your Christmas."

"Growing up, most of the Black characters that I saw on television were painted in an unfavorable light," Braxton told "Good Morning America." "Having a Black Santa experience allows us to show how diverse America truly is."

Braxton said it's important for children of color to see themselves represented in all facets of life — and yes, that even includes Santa.

Braxton said his main goal is finding Santas who truly cherish the joys of the holiday season and can connect with families in a special way. After finding the right person for the job, Braxton trains them over the course of several weeks and serves as the lead photographer at each holiday event.

Though his business currently consists of Black Santas, Braxton said he hopes to eventually add Santas from other cultural backgrounds and those who speak different languages. "Christmas should be the most inclusive time of the year," he said.

Braxton said seeing the look on a child's face when they first encounter his Black Santas makes the job all worth it.

"At a recent Christmas tree lighting event, a little girl saw one of our Santas in his sleigh so she got out of her car and quickly ran over to hug him," he said. "It was a beautiful thing to see." MORE: With 1.5 million lights, grandfather continues to build on granddaughter's wish

Camille Kauer, who lives in Cary, North Carolina, with her husband and daughter, said the experience of having her family take photos with Santa is a major highlight of her holiday season each year and her daughter is always happy she gets to meet with her "true Santa."

Courtesy Stafford Braxton: Camille Kauer and her family take a photo with Santa Warren of "Santas Just Like Me."

"Having a Santa that feels like family has changed the holidays for us," Kauer told "GMA." "We truly enjoy our annual pictures with them and even though my daughter is now 13, she still looks forward to it."

Due to the pandemic, Braxton's team of Santas are offering virtual visits and non-contact "sleighbys" for those who aren't local or prefer to social distance.

William Grogan, 59, is the newest Santa to join the team and said it's amazing to connect with children from different backgrounds.

"When they first approach me, they're often hesitant. But as I start talking to them, they become



more receptive," Grogan said. "Just to see that transformation from skepticism to that comfort level has been a joy."

Braxton hopes to grow Santas Just Like Me into a non-profit so he can bring Christmas joy to underrepresented communities without them having to worry about affording the experience. He said he has no plans of slowing down in the foreseeable future and will continue doing what he loves the most: bringing joy and diversity to the holiday season.

"In the future, I'd love to do a Santa's workshop bus tour so we can travel to different regions and have communities to see a Santa that looks like them," Braxton said. "We're family-oriented. That's how we started and that's how we're going to stay."

(This story was first published by ABC News.)

## Kwanzaa's History and Etymology

American Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 during the aftermath of the Watts riots as a specifically African-American holiday. Karenga said his goal was to "give blacks an alternative to the existing holiday of Christmas and give blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society."

For Karenga, a major figure in the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s, the creation of such holidays also underscored the essential premise that you must have a cultural revolution before the violent revolution. The cultural revolution gives identity, purpose, and direction.

According to Karenga, the name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits". First fruits festivals exist in Southern Africa, celebrated in December/January with the southern solstice, and Karenga was partly inspired by an account he read of the Zulu festival *Umkhosi Wokweshwama*. It was decided to spell the holiday's name with an additional "a" so that it would have a symbolic seven letters.

During the early years of Kwanzaa, Karenga said it was meant to be an alternative to Christmas. He believed Jesus was psychotic and Christianity was a "White" religion that Black people should shun.

As Kwanzaa gained mainstream adherents, Karenga altered his position so practicing Christians would not be alienated, stating in the 1997 book *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community, and Culture* that "Kwanzaa was not created to give people an alternative to their own religion or religious holiday."

Many African Americans who celebrate Kwanzaa do so in addition to observing Christmas.

After its initial creation in California,



*Kwanzaa is an annual observance of African-American culture that begins on December 26 and runs through January 1. According to Karenga, the name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase matunda ya kwanza, meaning "first fruits".*

Kwanzaa spread outside the United States.

The Seven Principles

1. Umoja means "unity." On his Kwanzaa website, Karenga defines this as: "To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race."

2. Kujichagulia means "self-determination." "To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves."

3. Ujima means "collective work and responsibility." "To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together."

4. Ujamaa means "cooperative economics." "To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together." Similar to Ujima, this principle

refers to uplifting your community economically.

5. Nia means "purpose:" "To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness."

6. Kuumba means "creativity:" "To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it."

7. Imani means "faith:" "To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle."