Mr. Blanton Shepherd, Jr. was a life time member of Blacks In Government. He was President of The Greater New Orleans Chapter for a number of years. In 2007, he was instrumental in forming The Crescent City Chapter of BIG and became its first President.

In 2008, Blanton was the National Training Conference Chair for the 30th NTC held in New Orleans, La. His federal career spanned 26 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, ending as a National Project Manager. Blanton received countless awards and accolades while at V.A. One of his most memorable awards received was Vice President Gore's prestigious Hammer and Scissors Award.

He was very active in the New Orleans Community and belonged to The Premiere Black Social and Civic Organization,
The Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Inc. and created its website. He unselfishly shared his talent in the information technology field ensuring and achieving success for the three organizations that were dear to him, V.A., BIG, and Zulu.

Lastly, during Hurricane Katrina, Blanton was trapped at the V.A. Medical Center in New Orleans for 6 days (running out of all that was essentially needed for daily living). Upon being rescued, he took with him the tapes containing thousands of veterans' medical records and delivered them to the V.A. Medical Center in Houston. Without his assertive action, those valuable records would have been destroyed.

Blanton's accomplishments can never be forgotten.