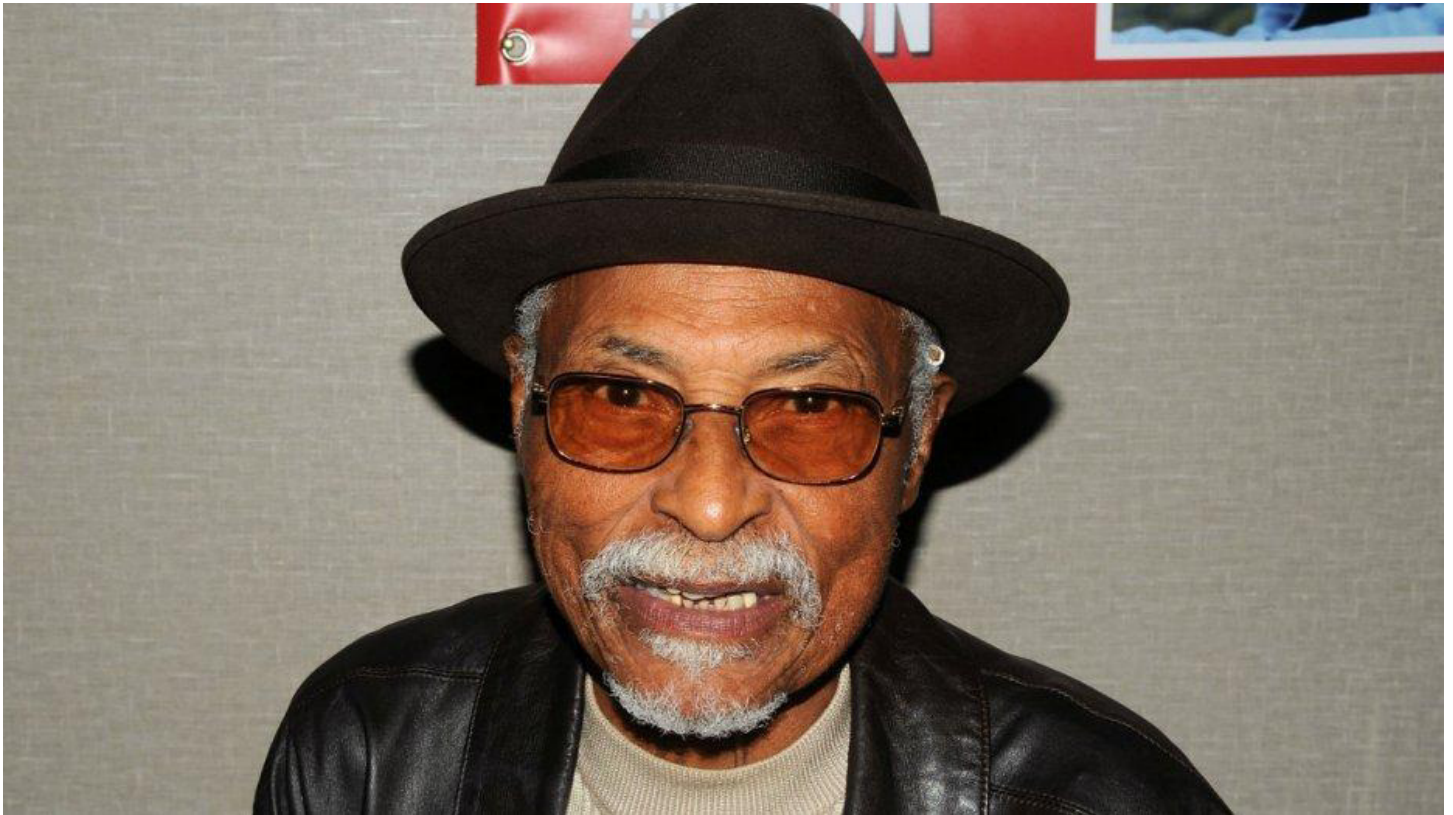




[Live Feed](#) [TV Reviews](#) [Premiere Dates](#) [TV Top 5 Podcast](#) [Scorecard](#)

Nathaniel Taylor, Actor on 'Sanford and Son,' Dies at 80

12:19 PM PST 3/2/2019 by the Associated Press



Bobby Bank/Getty Images

Nathaniel Taylor

Taylor played Rollo, a fast-talking but good-hearted friend of Lamont Sanford who dressed in colorful suits and hats.

Nathaniel Taylor, the actor best known as Rollo Lawson, the street-smart best friend of the son on the 1970s sitcom *Sanford and Son*, has died. He was 80.



[Live Feed](#) [TV Reviews](#) [Premiere Dates](#) [TV Top 5 Podcast](#) [Scorecard](#)

the skepticism of TV patriarch Fred Sanford, played by comedian Redd Foxx, who thought Rollo was a bad influence on Lamont because he'd spent time in jail. The fast-talking but good-hearted Rollo dressed in colorful suits and hats and called Fred "Pops."

Taylor went on to act in other shows and movies, later opening a performing arts studio for young actors. But his son said Taylor never tired of people recognizing him as Rollo.

"It was a time and an era — just to be on TV as a black man, it was an honor," said Kaedi, who works in show business behind the scenes. "It was an honor for people to remember him."

Nathaniel Taylor also appeared on *The Redd Foxx Show*, *Police Story* and *What's Happening!* and in blaxploitation films such as *Dynamite* and *Trouble Man*. He reprised his role as Rollo on the 1980s spinoff *Sanford*.

Hip-hop music promoter Alonzo "Lonzo" Williams, one of Taylor's longtime friends, said the actor was a mentor to many. "He was always there with a wise word and a kind word and a joke to put a little icing on it," he said.

Taylor is survived by his wife, Loretta, four daughters and three sons.

SEE MORE

[Hollywood's Notable Deaths of 2019](#)

BUSINESS

BBC, ITV Bosses Tout Planned BritBox U.K. Streaming Service