



*"The Maker's Hands"*

He dreamed in bolts and crafted light; with every thought, he gave wings flight  
An inventor's mind, a faithful soul, each piece he touched, he made it whole.  
In quiet hours, he'd seek God's face, designing life with humble grace  
His tools were worn, his Bible too, both built the world he journeyed through.  
He saw the world not as it was, but as it could be just because  
He shaped with purpose, served with love, Guided by wisdom from above.  
Now heaven's gates have opened wide, The Master Builder at his side  
No need for blueprints, wires, or gears He's home, beyond the veil of years.  
His legacy, both kind and wise, lives on in hearts, in hopeful eyes  
A child of God, inventive, true His work on Earth was never through.  
But now he rests, his race well-run, His faith complete, his labors done  
Where light is endless, skies are broad an inventor now walks with his God.

*My Dearest Daughter*

From the moment you came into my life, I knew I was meant to be your father, and we have an unbreakable bond. You gave my life meaning in ways I never imagined. Watching you grow, learn, stumble, and rise again was the greatest honor of my life. You gave me the gift of fatherhood, and I will forever be grateful. Even though I'm no longer where you can see me, I am still with you. In your strength I see the courage that always amazed me. In your kindness I feel the love we shared. Never doubt who you are or where you belong. You are my daughter, in every way that matters. I chose you, and I would choose you a thousand times over. Carry my love with you, wherever life takes you. I'm still here in the memories we made, in the lessons we shared, and in the love that never dies.

With all my heart, Love Dad

*Pallbearers*

Khyale Britton ~ Kevin Brown ~ Justine Hopkins  
Brandon Nowlin ~ Phillip Nowlin ~ Larry Smith

*Acknowledgment*

We offer our deepest gratitude to Bishop Timothy Clark and the entire First Church of God family, Marlan Gary Funeral Home for the exceptional care and support shown during our time of loss. Your kindness has brought comfort to our hearts and lightened our burden. Though the path has been difficult, our faith has been a source of strength. We are truly thankful for every gesture of compassion extended to us. May God bless each of you richly, and may His grace continue to shine upon you always.



A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

*William E.*  
**NOWLIN JR.**

SEPTEMBER 2, 1932 — JULY 31, 2025



**MARLAN GARY FUNERAL HOME**  
1 FUNERAL HOME | 4 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

<b>NORTH CHAPEL</b> 2500 CLEVELAND AVE., COLUMBUS, OH 43211 614-267-8310	<b>EAST CHAPEL</b> 5456 LIVINGSTON AVE., COLUMBUS, OH 43232 614-604-8774
<b>MANSFIELD CHAPEL</b> 753 MCPHERSON ST., MANSFIELD, OH 44903 419-524-6999	<b>SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL</b> 823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST., SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506 937-325-1447

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# Obituary

## A Time to Be Born

William Elbra Nowlin Jr. was born on September 2, 1932, in Matawan, West Virginia, to William Elber Nowlin Sr. and Irene Harmon-Heard.

## A Time to Live

William loved the Lord with all his heart and was a member and Deacon at the First Church of God under the leadership of Bishop Timothy Clark. He proudly served in the United States Air Force and went on to earn his Electrical Engineering degree from The Ohio State University. He had a brilliant and creative mind; he worked at Western Electric until his retirement. During his time there, he invented the Mitergag and the Smoke Removal System for house fires and was developing a third invention before his passing.

William was passionate about many things. He was an avid fan of NFL football, baseball, and especially OSU football his favorite college team. He loved inventing, had a deep appreciation for teaching, and shared his knowledge with students at Columbus State Community College. He also enjoyed western movies and had a lifelong dream of learning to play the electric guitar, so his family made sure he got one. William treasured memory rides and had a fondness for dining at Texas Roadhouse and MCL Cafeteria.

## A Time to Love

William was blessed to have shared his life with two great loves. He was married to Margaret Nowlin for 32 years until her passing in 2000, and later to Mary Doretha Brown, with whom he shared 22 wonderful years before her passing in 2023.

He is lovingly survived by his cherished daughter, Shelley Hopson; granddaughters Alicia (Justin) Hopkins and Elianna Hopson; and great-grandchildren Maliyah Britton, Khyale Britton, Nyla Hopkins, Zaria Hopkins, Zaleah Hopkins, and Justin Hopkins; nephews: Phillip and Paul Nowlin; Niece: Karen (Regan) Steven's, cousin Mrs. Geneva Hollomon, of Rochester, New York; two special cousins: Dr. William A. Nowlin, Dover, Delaware & Miss M. Delores (Lora)Davis, Webster, New York.

William was preceded in death by his parents, William Elber Nowlin Sr. and Irene Harmon-Heard; stepfather Herbert Heard; his brother, Charles Nowlin; his first wife, Margaret Nowlin; and his second wife, Doretha Brown Nowlin.

## A Time to Depart

On June 31, 2025, William peacefully passed away in Columbus, Ohio, and entered eternal rest. He is now reunited with his loved ones in glory a place where peace knows no end, the music plays on, and joy lasts forever...

## Interment

Friday, August 29, 2025 | 9am

**Dayton National Cemetery**

4400 W Third St, Dayton, OH 45428

# Order Of Service

## Celebration Of Life Service

Thursday, August 28, 2025 ~ 11:00am

**First Church of God**

3480 Refugee Road, Columbus, OH 43232

**HYMN OF FAITH**  
Blessed Assurance"

**READING OF THE WORD**  
Old Testament Psalms 23 KJV  
New Testament John 14:1-6

**PRAYER OF COMFORT**  
First Church Clergy

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**  
Nyla Hopkins

**WORDS OF COMFORT**  
Ministerial Clergy

**SILENT READING OF THE OBITUARY**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**  
Quan Howell

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**  
Bishop Timothy J. Clarke

**BENEDICTION**  
Clergy

**RECESSIONAL**  
Family and Clergy

## Repast

Immediately following service  
**FIRST CHURCH OF GOD**  
3480 Refugee Road, Columbus, Ohio 43232