

Traversing the Life of
ANDREW ELLIS MCNEIL SR.



SUNRISE **SUNSET**
APRIL 27, 1937 NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Friday, November 21, 2024

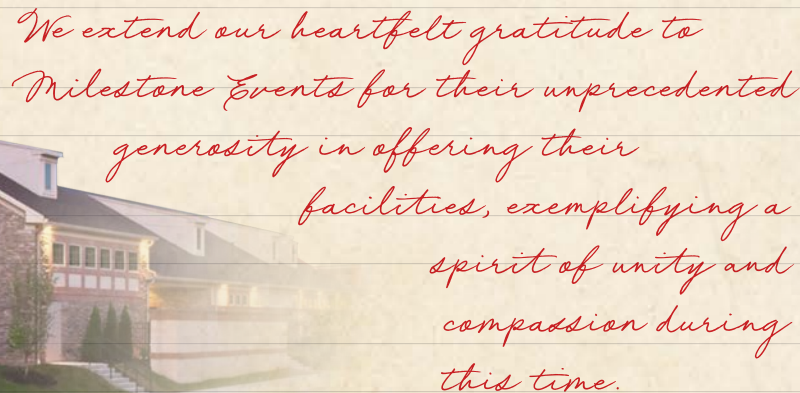
VIEWING **SERVICE**
9:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M. 11:00 A.M.

MILESTONE EVENTS

600 E. Market Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382

I obey your precepts and your

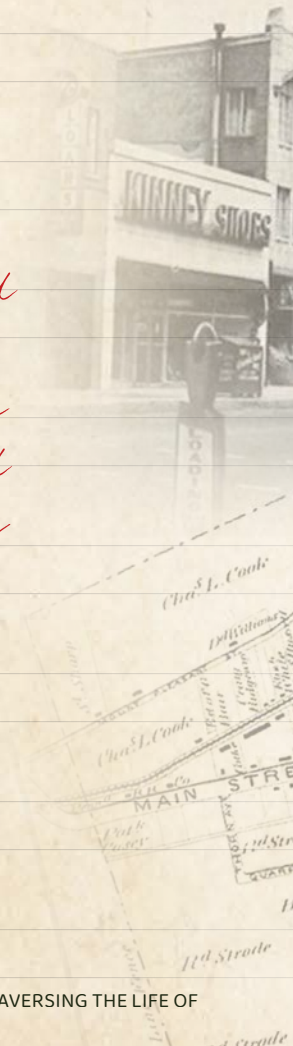
— Psalm 119:168
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Milestone Events for their unprecedented generosity in offering their facilities, exemplifying a spirit of unity and compassion during this time.



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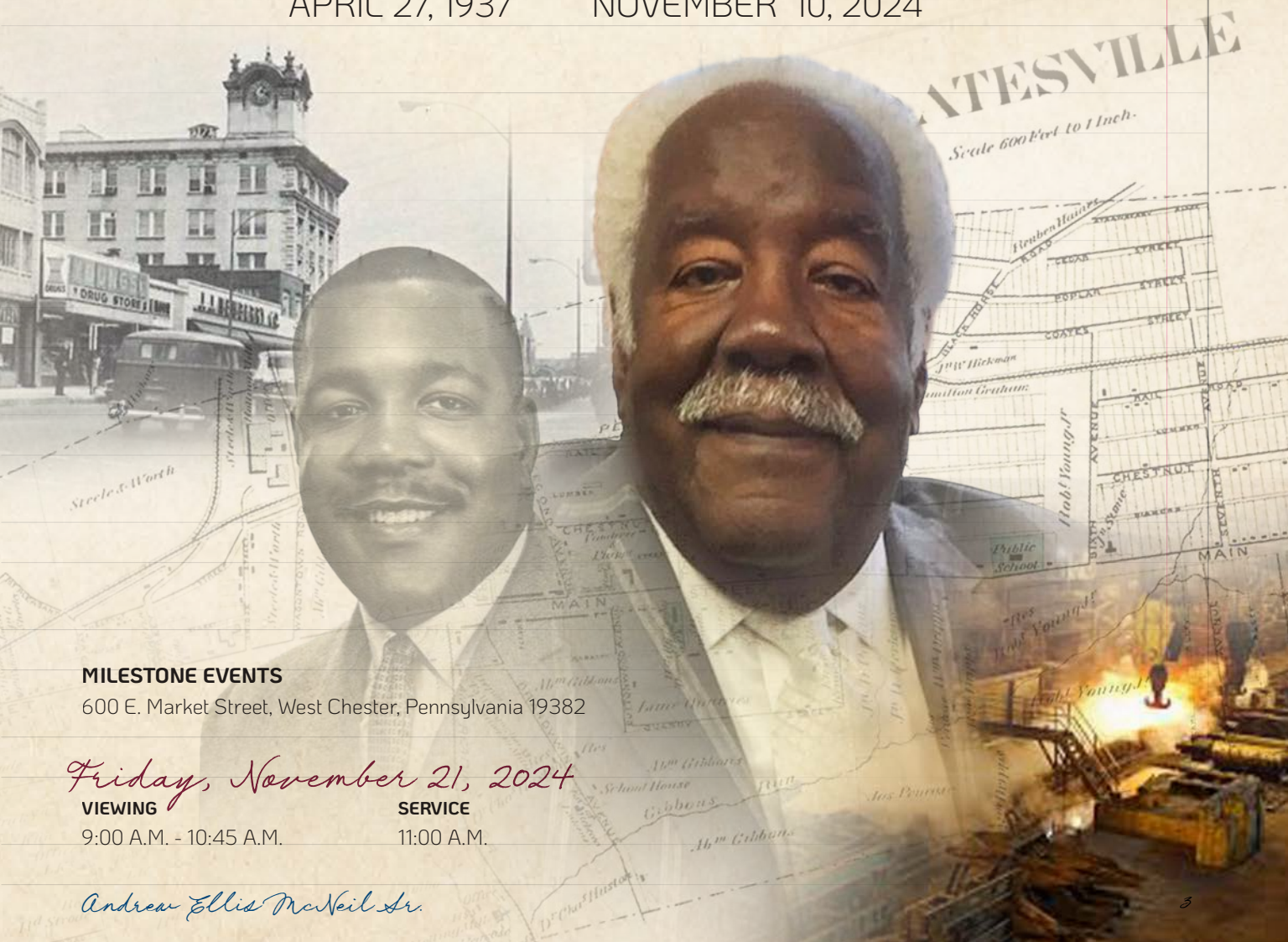
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Andrew Ellis McNeil Sr.

THE LIFE SKETCH

"Only the recording of Heavenly Angels can adequately express the life of this giant of a man who humbly served humanity."

—Minnie McNeil

Andrew Ellis McNeil, Sr., affectionately known as Miffy and Pop Miffy, was born on April 27, 1937, in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, to the late John Clarence Sr. and Eudora Oceola McNeil. Andrew, the fourth of six children, was raised in a home deeply rooted in faith, hard work, and family values that would define his extraordinary life.

Even in his youth, Andrew showed an aptitude for financial management. As early as 8 years old, he was entrusted by his grandmother to cash her checks and manage her finances. These early experiences foreshadowed a lifetime of financial stewardship. Over the years, Andrew managed the finances of many family members and, later, the W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center, Inc., where he applied his skills as the Fiscal Manager.

Andrew's formative years in Carver Court taught him resilience and responsibility. At the age of ten years, he was tasked with waking early to start the coal fire for the family, a chore he managed until age 17. This experience left a lasting impression, and he steadfastly refused to touch the thermostat when the family later moved to a home with a furnace.

Andrew's happiest day as a young man came when his father gave him a black, four-door 1941 Chevy at age 16. Like most teens, Andrew longed for something to call his own and was



*...United States
Army Sergeant*

overjoyed with the gift. However, the car's real purpose was to ensure that his mother had reliable transportation, with Andrew as her chauffeur. He bought his own gas, paid for insurance, and managed repairs. Andrew did not realize at the time that these trips would become a classroom on wheels, filled with life lessons from his mother that would guide him for the rest of his life.

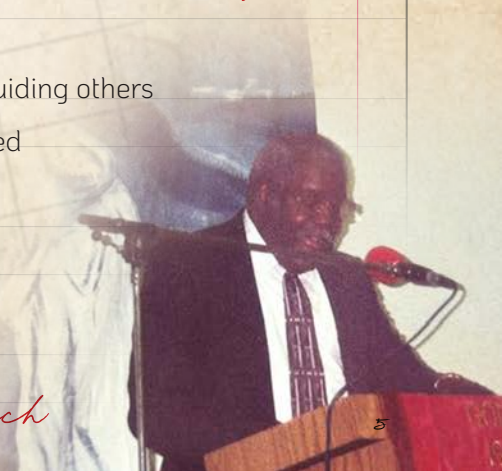
Andrew was a graduate of S. Horace Scott Senior High School. Afterward, he was drafted into the United States Army, during which time he gained a greater appreciation for the importance of obedience and discipline. He later stated, "I learned to obey man, and now find it easier to willingly obey all that God requires." During this time, he also developed a love of travel. He was honorably discharged in 1964, and later that year, he and Minnie Maddox married. During their marriage, they toured most states in the USA, including Hawaii. They also enjoyed travel to Bermuda, various European countries, the Holy Land, and the continent of Africa. They celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 2, 2024.

Andrew received his early Christian training at the Tabernacle Baptist Church, where, as an adult, he served on the Trustee Board. In 1978, Andrew became a Coatesville Seventh-day Adventist Church member, serving on the Church Board, and as Head Elder, Sabbath School Teacher, Personal Ministries Leader, and more.

Andrew discovered a God-given gift for teaching the Bible. He loved guiding others in their spiritual journeys and conducted weekly Bible studies with an inspired depth of knowledge. His favorite response to questions was, "Let's see what the Bible says." He inspired countless people with his ability to deliver scripture-based lessons entirely from memory, as he encouraged the listener to follow in their Bible. He routinely gifted



*Andrew and
wife, Minnie
on August 2, 1964*



Andrew Ellis McNeil Sr.

teaching in church

A photograph of a man wearing a red hard hat and safety glasses, working in a steel mill. He is holding a large metal pipe or tool. The background is filled with molten metal and industrial equipment.

*working at the
Lukens Steel Company...*

devotional books along with the Sabbath School Study Guide to some 40 individuals annually. He was privileged by God's grace to witness the baptism of many individuals with whom he studied.

Andrew retired from the Lukens Steel Company after 44 years of perfect attendance. His post-retirement years were spent as a volunteer in developing, overseeing, and managing the W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center, Inc. The Center's campus offers eighteen affordable apartments, a twenty-two-bed men's shelter, eight Supportive Permanent Homes and Resource Center. Andrew served on the Center's board of directors until his passing.

Andrew's life of service earned him countless awards and accolades, including induction into the Coatesville Hall of Fame (1995), the establishment of the Andrew McNeil Men's Project (2005), the Men of Honor Chosen Vessels Award (2012), the Real People Award for over 32 years of community service (2015), the NAACP Pathfinder Award (2018), and other awards that he gratefully appreciated.

Above all, Andrew cherished his role as husband, father, and grandfather. He was a devoted partner to Minnie, supporting her dreams and sharing a ministry that touched many lives. As a father, he gave his children unconditional love, mentorship, and a strong example of faith. Like the biblical patriarch Jacob, at his life's end, he gathered his children to his side to charge and encourage them.

At the break of dawn on November 10, 2024, as the first rays of sunlight kissed the earth, Andrew Ellis McNeil, Sr. gently took his final breath. His passing, as serene

A photograph of a street sign dedication. The sign is blue with white text that reads "DEDICATED TO Dr. Whittier C. Atkinson". Below it is a green street sign that reads "N 8th Ave". At the bottom is a red octagonal stop sign.

*Dr. W.C. Atkinson street
sign dedication...*

as dawn, marked the end of a well-lived life, and the very next voice he will hear is that of His Savior calling his name.

Andrew leaves behind a legacy of humility, tenacity, and unwavering dedication. He is survived by his wife Minnie; daughter Denise Campbell (Devon); sons Andrew Ellis Jr. (Raelyn), John Clarence III (Deeaitte), Mark Wellington (Jennifer), and grafted son Eric Knight; 4 god-children; 15 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; sisters Edith Elzey (George) and Elaine McNeil; uncle Wastell McNeil; and a village of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Preceding him in death are his parents, and siblings John Clarence McNeil Jr., Serena McNeil Hunter, Lillian McNeil Campbell, and Bobby Sheppard.

*Andrew's loving family—wife,
children and grand children*



Andrew Ellis McNeil Jr.

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Honoring a Life of Love, Legacy, and Light...

Pastor Frank Legette, *eulogist*

Pastor E. Earl Blackwell, *officiating minister*

Processional

Opening Hymn

Congregation

“I Surrender All”

Scripture

Old Testament

Elaine McNeil, *sister*

Psalms 1:1-3 **NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)**

¹ Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,

and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither—

whatever they do prospers.

Revelations 21:1-7 **NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)**

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Prayer of Comfort

Dr. Robert Kennedy Sr.

Musical Selection

Alan Rias

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Reflections

Derrick Lea, *director*, ACS
North American Division of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Dr. Trevor Kinlock, *president*
Allegheny East Conference
Dr. Marcelus Robinson, *president*
Columbia Union Conference

Musical Selection

Harmonairs

Reflections

Senator Arthur Haywood, Esq., Pennsylvania
Josh Maxwell, *county commission*
Linda Lavender Norris, *president*
Coatesville City Council
Pat Bokovitz, *director*
County of Chester

Musical Selection

Clinton M. Jackmon, *family friend*
“My Soul Is Anchored In The Lord”

Reflections
Pastor Tyrone Carter, *best friend*
Henry Edwards
Dr. Charles Ochola, *board president*
W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community
Service Center, Inc.

Obituary
silent reading

Acknowledgment
Dr. Ruth Maddox, *sister-in-law*

Reflections
Andrew E. McNeil III and grandchildren

Musical Selection
Melissa Weathers, *family friend*
“I Go To The Rock”

Eulogy
Pastor Frank Legette

Musical Selection
Alan Rias, *cousin*
“Midnight Cry”

Prayer of Comfort
Pastor Aaron Thompkins

Family Response
Parris Hall, *nephew*

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMOIRS

the images that tells the story...





Andrew Ellis McNeil Sr.

PARTICIPANTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pallbearers

Corey Fields

Brian Ward

James Weathers

Sean McNeil

Mark McNeil, II

Derrick McNeil

Walter Richardson

Isaiah Bush

Honorary Pallbearers

Pastor Tyrone Carter

Henry Edwards

George Elzey

James Johnson

LeRoy Maddox

Thomas Murphy Sr.

Artie Richardson

James Smith

Phillip Washington

LaMont Wilson

Flower Girls

Granddaughters and nieces

Interment

Philadelphia Memorial Park

124 Phoenixville, Pike

Frazer, PA 19355

Repast

Milestone Event Center

600 East Market Street

West Chester, PA 19382

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With Grateful Hearts:

Acknowledging your love and support

If there is one thing that Andrew Ellis McNeil Sr. cherished it was his family, and whether you are related by blood or through Christ, he appreciated every one of his family members; he also very much appreciated his many friends. And we, his family would like to express our gratitude for your help and support during this time of grief. Your thoughts, prayers, and actions of support and love have not gone unnoticed. Whether it was through a card, a gift, a prayer, or even through a hug, our family is truly blessed to have someone like you in our corner.

Thank you for taking the time to be here with us to give our husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, mentor, neighbor, and friend a proper goodbye. Above all else, may God bless you and keep you, and keep acting with His love in your hearts.

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Andrew Ellis McNeil Sr.



SCAN ME

FOR THE ELECTRONIC
VERSION OF THIS
TRIBUTE BOOK.

In memory of Andrew Ellis McNeil Sr., donations to
W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center, Inc.
can be made via the website www.wcatkinson.org.



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ANOTHER veJov DESIGN