

CELEBRATING
THE

Life
AND
Legacy

OF



✦ DEACON ✦

Willie Perry Davis, Sr.

DECEMBER 27, 1933 - JANUARY 28, 2022

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 • 10:00 A.M.

New Salem Church of Christ & Holiness

1540 MANSFIELD DRIVE • MARRERO, LOUISIANA 70072

ELDER GEORGE TAYLOR, OFFICIATING

Host Church

ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1738 L.B. LANDRY AVENUE • NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70114

REVEREND DOCTOR NORMAN N. FRANCIS, PASTOR

Obituary of WILLIE PERRY DAVIS, SR.



"God saw the road had gotten rough and the hills were hard to climb. He gently closed his loving eyes and whispered "PEACE BE THINE." The worried hours, the days of pain and sleepless nights are past. The ever-patient worn out frame has found sweet rest at last."



Willie Perry Davis Sr.

THE MAN • THE MYTH • THE LEGEND

The life of Willie Perry Davis Sr. began on December 27, 1933, in Copiah County, MS. He was the fifth child of fourteen children born to the union of Willie Garner Davis and Emma Lee Torry Davis of Utica, MS.

WILLIE THE *Christian*

His belief in Christ and his desire to live a Christian life was instilled in him at an early age. He was baptized at Little Zion Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A. in Hermanville, MS and later joined White Oak Church of Christ Holiness in Carpenter, MS. After relocation to Marrero, LA he united with New Salem Church of Christ Holiness. He took his Christian duties seriously serving in various capacities including deacon, Sunday school superintendent, Sunday school teacher, financial clerk and treasurer. He also held various leadership roles in church functions.

WILLIE THE *Student*

Willie, affectionately known as Perry, realized at an early age while working on the farm with his father that he aspired to be a businessman and mortician. He was taught the importance of education, graduating from Utica Institute in 1952. Having a thirst for knowledge he continued his education at Alcorn A&M College in Lorman, MS earning his Associates Degree in Architectural Engineering and later furthering his studies at Tulane University. While in the military, he attended Aberdeen Community College in Aberdeen, MD. Fueling his desire to open his own funeral home, he studied Mortuary Science at Delgado Community College.

WILLIE THE *Serviceman*

The career path that Willie chose took a detour in 1956 when he was drafted by the United States Army to serve his country during the Korean War. During his tenure as a serviceman, he received numerous commendations for his bravery. He was honorably discharged ending his military service.

WILLIE THE *Family Man*

Upon completion of his military duties, Willie returned to the Westbank of Jefferson Parish and soon met his soulmate, Ada Neal. On September 13, 1963, the two entered into holy covenant of marriage and became one. This union was blessed with four children Reena, Montrice, Willie Jr., and Javar. He also has an older daughter Antoinette. Willie was also blessed with eight grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild. According to Proverbs 13:22, a good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children, Willie has heeded to this scripture and left his children far richer than gold, when he instilled in them the importance of a good education, excellent work ethics, kindness to mankind and respect for both the living and the dead.

WILLIE THE *Businessman*

Although he still aspired to own his own mortuary, the need to support his family became paramount. Willie then began a 26-year career as the first African American architectural engineer with Avondale Shipyard. Utilizing his knowledge in engineering, he drafted many designs of ships mainly for the United States military. In addition, he also designed several local churches which include New Salem Church of Christ Holiness, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, and St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church to name a few. While during designing of churches, he also assisted many families and friends with constructing residential blueprints.

Believing that he could do all things through Christ that strengthen him, Willie never strayed from his goal of owning his own mortuary. In March of 1983 his dream became a reality opening the first Davis Mortuary Service, Inc. in Gretna, La. In 1987 he designed and built the second location in Marrero, La and has continued to serve the needs of families on the Westbank in both Orleans and Jefferson Parish. With so many families in the Greater New Orleans area requesting his services, in 1998 a location was opened in eastern New Orleans. Although Willie was the successful owner of three mortuaries, being a pillar in the community drove his desire to help his clients further. Leading to the birth of Woodlawn Park Memorial Cemetery in August 2004. Willie has worked tirelessly to assist all the families that walk through his doors with professionalism, patience, understanding and even financial assistance when needed. For three generations Mr. Davis and his descendants have carried out The Davis Mortuary motto "We Do What Other's Promise". Willie was also a member of the Crescent City Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association.

Willie's *Legacy*

On Friday, January 28, 2022, he transitioned peacefully to his heavenly home, at the age of 88. Cherishing his memories are his loving wife of over 58 years, Ada Neal Davis; his children Reena (Joseph) Jackson, Montrice (Jonathan) Preatto, Willie Perry (Alesha) Davis, Jr., Javar Davis (Kayla), and Antoinette (Robert) Williams. Also carrying on his legacy are his grandchildren, Damar Jackson, Jada Davis, Ronnie Briggs, Jr. (Christie), Willie Perry Davis, III, Jamari Preatto, Shernisia (Michael) Lewis, Renisia (Liference) Clark, and Jonisha Preatto; his loving great grandchildren Carter Briggs, Jasmine Lewis (Gary), Aubrey Lace Clark, and Luke Clark; great great grandchild Christianne Marie Lockett. Also treasuring lasting memories are his siblings Melodis Divinity, Shirley Jean King, Clemistine Belton, James Davis, Gerald (Diane) Davis, Lennette Watts, and Samuel (Shirley) Davis; Godchildren Robert Torry and Cierra J. Veal; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie Garner Davis and Emma Lee Torry Davis; siblings, Natalia Robinson, Reuben Davis Sr., Stella Robinson, Elvia Wofford, Geraldine and Ruthene Davis; Father and mother-in-law, Joseph and Grace Taplin.

Willie Perry Davis, Sr. is already missed by family and friends. His life and legacy will remain in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. Let us take comfort and celebrate his absence from the body and his presence with the Lord.

Celebration of Life

| | |
|---|---|
| Organ Prelude..... | Brother Norris Byas |
| Processional..... | Elder George Taylor/Family |
| Selection..... | Mt. Calvary International Praise Team |
| Old Testament Reading.....Psalm 27:1-7..... | Reverend Orin Grant |
| New Testament Reading.... 2 Corinthians 5:1-8..... | Reverend Gregory Davis |
| Meditation Prayer..... | Reverend Norman Francis |
| Chant | |
| Selection..... | Mt. Calvary International Praise Team |
| Mistress of Service..... | Sister Kathy Patterson |
| Obituary/Acknowledgement..... | Doctor Bertha Daniels |
| Church Condolence..... | Deacon Leroy Divinity, Sr. |
| Solo..... | Sister Lisa Cole |
| Family Tributes..... | Brother Willie Davis, Jr. (Son) Sister Melodis Divinity (Sister) |
| Words of Comfort..... | Sister Joyce Henderson |
| Reflections | |
| Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors..... | Reverend Rodney McFarland |
| Crescent City Association of Embalmers and Funeral Directors..... | Sister Belva Pichon |
| Jefferson Parish, District 13..... | Councilman Byron Lee |
| City/State Officials | |
| Condolences..... | Visiting Ministers |
| Solo..... | Brother Norris Byas |
| Eulogy..... | Elder George Taylor |
| Recessional..... | Mt. Calvary International Praise Team |

Messages from Willie Perry Davis, Sr.

Rejoice With Me In Death

*Wipe away your tears
and don't cry
Because I had to die.
I couldn't choose the time
nor type of death,
But where I've gone,
I have no regrets.
I've talked to the Master
And He's never been a forsaker.
He brought me up from the
midst of my trials
Removing all doubts and denials.
Rejoice with me as I sleep,
My body is gone
but now my spirit is with the
Lord to keep.
Even though my body
will turn to debris,
My soul is free.
I have gone to a new city
where I won't have
to grieve in pity,
Rejoice with me.
I've gone to see Heaven,
Where I don't have to suffer pain
anymore in this land.
For my soul is now at rest
In God's eternal hands.*

Dear Family and Friends

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles
when the day is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering
softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve
to dry before the sun,
Of happy memories that I leave
behind when life is done.*

"I Am Now In Heaven"

*I am now in Heaven, the gates have opened wide,
And now I have the privilege of walking by His side.
The angel choir is singing and the music is so sweet;
I'll join them just as soon as I have worshipped at His feet.
I am now in Heaven; the blood washed throne is here.
I recognize a lot of them, there's not a single tear.
There's a joy beyond description and reunions by the score;
There'll be no separations, for we'll be here forevermore.
I am now in Heaven; please wipe away your tears.
I've fought the battle, run the race; I'm rid of all my fears.
There is no pain or sorrow here; the heartaches now are past;
I've read and sung of Heaven and now I am here at last!
I am now in Heaven, and oh, this Place is grand!
No one could ever tell me of all the beauties of this land.
Since I cannot describe it, you'll have to come and see
That it was worth the trials on earth to live here eternally!*

**Until We Meet Again,
WILLIE P. DAVIS, SR.**

In Loving Memory

My Dearest Husband,

*I thank you with all of my heart
For sharing this journey we called life.*

*I'll be forever grateful
That I was blessed to be your wife.*

*Grateful to have held your hand
To have loved you throughout the years.
Amidst life's joys and challenges
In times of happiness and tears.*

*Blessed to have built a life with you
To have created a family.
For our love, and that of our children
Means everything to me.*

*I can hardly accept you've been taken away
I can hardly bear the thought.
Of facing the future without you next to me
But, with God, I'll get through this loss.*

*I'm comforted knowing how much you love us
And I'm certain you're still watching o'er.
Staying nearby and caring for us
As faithfully as before*

*And though you may be gone for a season
I'll carry on...trusting to see you again.
Waiting 'til God reunites us in heaven
And brings me back to you, Sweetheart and Friend.*

*Until then...I thank you, Dearest Husband
For all you've meant to my life.
I'm so grateful God made us a family
And for the blessing of being your wife*

**With Eternal Love,
Ada Neal Davis**



Family Tributes

Our Gift - Our Earthly Father

**Our hearts are heavy today and the tears flow freely.
It's only because you were such a loving and devoted father,
And we will miss you dearly.**

**When God chose you to be our earthly father,
He blessed us with the greatest gift from above.**

**Words cannot express how thankful and grateful we are,
For the gift of our father's love.**

Yes, we are weeping and our hearts are saddened.

But don't worry, our spirits rejoice.

For now, you're free from all pain.

**God simply called you home to rest among the angels,
So, for our great loss we won't complain.**

**Your journey with us on earth has come to an end,
Be at peace and enjoy your rest.**

You entered into God's arms with the fullness of joy and happiness.

We, your children, know you have given your best.

You were our Special Gift,

Now you are God's Angel.

With Love Always,

Reena Jackson, Montrice Preatto, Willie, Jr., and Javar Davis and Antionette "Toni" Williams

Our Grandfather's Wonderful Legacy

*There is a wonderful legacy of which we wish to tell,
about a wonderful man that we loved so well.
His strength lives within us and grows stronger each day,
His honor still lingers though his life has slipped away.
We miss the sound of his laughter and his stern lectures
too.*

*We miss hearing him say, "I love you!"
He fought a good battle then gave up the fight,
To rest in the arms of Jesus; what a beautiful sight!
In our hearts his memory will always stay.
Nothing can ever take his remembrance away.*

**Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren &
Great Great-Grandchild**

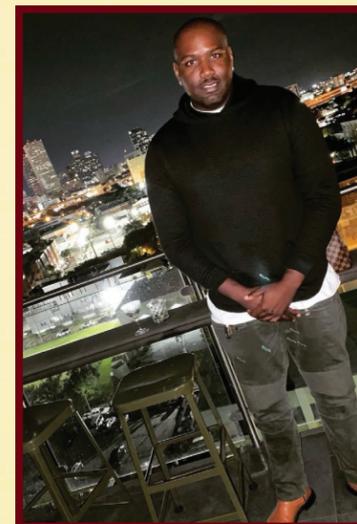
In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Brother

WILLIE DAVIS, SR.
*In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still
In our heart, you hold a place
No one can ever fill.
You were our brother and friend,
a bond we shared; laughter, cries and kisses.
The treasured times, from youth till
old, we will truly miss.
Some may think you are forgotten,
though on earth you are no more,
But in our memory you are still with us
as you were before.
Forever in Our Hearts,
James, Gerald and Samuel "Wendell" Davis, Melodis
Divinity, Shirley King, Clemistine Belton
and Lennette Watts*



Precious

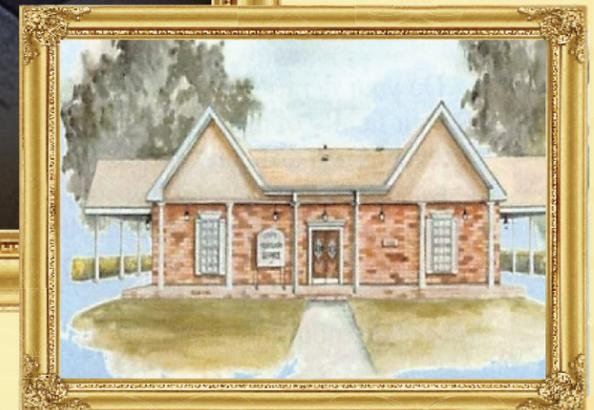
Memories



Willie's

TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

The Lord is Willie's Shepherd -
They have a special **RELATIONSHIP!**
He shall not want -
He **SUPPLIED** his every need!
He maketh him to lie down in green pastures -
There He gave him **REST!**
He leadeth him beside the still waters -
He gave him **REFRESHMENT!**
He restored his soul -
That's **HEALING!**
He leadeth him in the path of righteousness -
He **GUIDES** him!
For His name sake -
That's **PURPOSE!**
Yea, though he walked through the valley of the shadow of death -
It was just his **TEST!**
He feared no evil -
He was **PROTECTED!**
For He was with him -
That's **FAITHFULNESS!**
His rod and His staff comforted him -
That's **DISCIPLINE!**
He prepared a table before him in the presence of his enemies -
That's **HOPE!**
He anointed his head with oil -
That's **CONSECRATION!**
His cup runneth over -
That's **ABUNDANCE!**
Surely goodness and mercy followed him all the days of her life -
That's **BLESSING!**
Now he will dwell in the house of the Lord -
That's **SECURITY!**
Forever -
That's **ETERNITY!**



Turning Ideas Into Reality

Professional Arrangements Entrusted to:

Davis Mortuary Service, Inc.
230 Monroe Street
Gretna, Louisiana 70053

Interment

Woodlawn Park Memorial Cemetery
9820 Nine Mile Point Road West
Westwego, Louisiana 70094

Active Pallbearers

Bennie Davis
Edward Davis
Marcus Davis
Michael Davis

Reuben Davis
Del King
Nicholas Jones
Robert Torry

Honorary Pallbearers

Deacons of New Salem Church of Christ Holiness
Crescent City Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association
Staff of Davis Mortuary Service, Inc.

Willie P. Davis, Jr.
Ronnie Briggs
Joseph Jackson
James Davis

Javar Davis
Willie Davis, III
Jonathan Preatto
Gerald Davis

Damar Jackson
Jamari Preatto
Robert Williams
Samuel Davis

Acknowledgement

During these trying times, the presence of our family and friends have been one of our sustaining element. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your expressions of sympathy caring and compassion shown us during this difficult period.

Your prayers have increased our faith, your kind words and deeds have encouraged our hearts. Your presence has given us a shoulder to lean on.

Because of your caring and sharing, you have made our burdens much lighter. Please continue to pray for us and may God's blessings forever shine on each of you.

The family is forever indebted to the Davis Mortuary Service Staff, Woodlawn Park Memorial Cemetery, New Salem Church of Christ Holiness Church family and caregivers, Giselle Rogers, Sleeker Bell and Shawn Bazile, your love and caretaking skills are greatly appreciated. Garland White, thank you for going out of your way to make sure he stayed freshly groomed at all times.

The Davis Family

Repast

Due to the risk associated with the COVID-19 pandemic,
NO REPAST will be held.