



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Acknowledgement

The family of William "Bill" Bennett, Jr. would like to express their sincere appreciation for the numerous expressions of love and sympathy shown during our time of bereavement. Your phone calls, visits, food, and most certainly your prayers have been most comforting. Special Thanks to dad's friends from Cincinnati who remained family until the end, All the brothers and sisters from the Local 479. excellent colleagues, friends, and mentees, Local 479 members, Balaji Baily, Nat Kendrick, and Mike Aikens, Black Film Technician Society, thank you for partnering as a pioneer with our dad to build a legacy of Black Film Technicians and Alice who is a lifetime friend, but also became my dad's best friend and positive spiritual influence over the last several years. Friendship creates a family and is a chain of love and dedication to one another. It is our earnest and sincerest prayer that the richest blessings of God be yours.



Scan QR Code or TEXT: FUN GM TO: 797979 to sign the family registry book



Goolsby Mortuary, Inc. & Cremation Services
1375 Jonesboro Road, S.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315 | 404.588.0128

William "Bill" Bennett, Jr.

SUNRISE: DECEMBER 25, 1946

SUNSET: JULY 5, 2022

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2022
~11:00 a.m.~

GOOLSBY MORTUARY, INC.
1375 Jonesboro Road, SE | Atlanta, Georgia 30315
Pastor Richard B. Berry, Officiating

His Legacy...

William "Bill" Bennett Jr. was born Wednesday, December 25, 1946, at General Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio to William, Sr., and Eleanor Wilson Bennett. William was the second of five siblings. Carole, Gary, Wanda, and Alicia.

Bill's family curated his love of animals. They grew up with dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs and even a monkey. Bill was close to his siblings, and enjoyed giving his younger sisters, Wanda and Alicia, piggyback rides.

Bill's father taught him about construction and together they built the family residence in Wyoming, Ohio. These skills would prove to be very helpful in his career as an adult.

Bill attended Wyoming High School and Xavier College; it was there he studied chemistry. Bill was married in 1966 to Jennifer Clay and from their union they had one son, William Todd Bennett. In 1980 Bill married again to Sheryl Preston of 20 years and to their union they produced three children: Jillian, William Christopher, and Charles.

In the mid-seventies Bill moved from Cincinnati, Ohio and headed south to Atlanta, Georgia. For a few years he worked in rehab clinics as a counselor, but he had a love for the entertainment industry. He started his career in the audio-visual business in the late seventies for conventions and later ventured into stage and theater production as a stagehand for both the Fox Theater and Civic Center.

Over the next 35 years Bill would establish a thriving career in the several facets of the entertainment industry, including theater, television, and film. He will be remembered for his leadership, training, and mentorship of many black men and women who aspired to be a film technician. A legacy he has passed on to William Todd and William Christopher. You may not have seen his face on screen, but he was a crew member on blockbuster productions like: Spike Lee's School Daze, Robo Cop, and the Hunger Games just to name a few.

In 1987 Bill and six colleagues in film production would come together to discuss concerns regarding the lack of opportunity for them in film and commercial production in Georgia. Having just worked on Spike Lee's "School Daze" these young men were excited and wanted to work. Recognizing the need to be the catalyst for change these young aspiring film producers organized and became the "Black Film Technicians Society" a.k.a. BFTS.

Over the next two years BFTS which was housed in the Mass Communications Department at Clark Atlanta University would meet weekly. BFTS had fundraisers and offered seminars and workshops with industry directors and producers. It wasn't long before this caught fire and many Clark Atlanta University Mass Media Students became members as well. Today several of the members of BFTS have established their own production companies.

The family of William "Bill" Bennett are saddened that he passed on July 5, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was 76 years old. He was loved and will forever be remembered.

Bill is survived by his four children William Todd, Jillian, William Christopher, and Charles. His grandchildren: Harley, Beatrice, Selah, and Grayson. His siblings Carole, Gary, Wanda and Alicia and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional....."Here I Am, Singing My Way Home"

Prayer.....Rev. Michael E. Sutton Sr., Pastor
Dixie Hills First Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Reading of Scripture
Old Testament: Psalms 37:23-26; Proverbs 24:16.....Jillian Bennett
New Testament: I Corinthians 13: 1-8.....Sheryl Bennett

Musical Selection....."Psalms 23" - Allan Bynoe

Family Reflections..... William Todd Bennett
Sheryl Bennett, William "Billy" Bennett, Charles Bennett, and Jillian Bennett

Black Film Technician Society Tribute.....A.B Cooper
(Read by Bolaji Baily)

Obituary (silent reading) and Family TributeDigital Presentation

Friends Tribute.....Nat Kendrick, Bolaji Baily, Alice Jones

Selection....."It is Well with My Soul" - Allan Bynoe

Eulogy.....Pastor Richard B. Berry

AcknowledgementGoalsby Mortuary Staff

Committal

Benediction

Recessional

Internment
Spring Grove Cemetery
4521 Spring Grove Ave, Cincinnati, OH
July 20, 2022, 1:00pm

