

*William Sylvester*  
"BILL" *Minifec, Jr.*

MAY 13, 1931 – APRIL 3, 2025

*"We Are Family"*



*"He has told you, O man,  
What is good: and what does the Lord  
require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?"*

MICAH 6:8



MAY 13, 1931 – APRIL 3, 2025

*"I look back on my life like a good day's work,  
it was done and I am satisfied with it."*

## *Obituary*

William Sylvester "Bill" Minifee, Jr. (née Menefee), crossed into eternity on April 3, 2025, in Richmond, Texas, surrounded by the love of his family at the age of 93 years. Born into the "Silent Generation" on May 13, 1931 in Birmingham, Alabama (the same year the "Star-Spangled Banner" was officially declared the U. S. national anthem), to William Sylvester Menefee, Sr. and Gertrude Henry Menefee, he was anything but "silent." According to him, he was his grandmother's favorite child! He carried the values and teachings from his parents and elders throughout his life. He received his education at Council Negro Elementary School and Holy Family Catholic High School in Birmingham and proudly served his country.

William was a master storyteller, effortlessly captivating audiences with tales from his life, each one a vivid chapter in a grand, unfolding adventure. His words painted pictures, drawing listeners in and leaving them hanging on every twist and turn of his remarkable journey. His stories were hilariously entertaining, revealing how clever he had to be growing up in a society that was not so readily accepting of his race. One of his most fascinating stories was his retelling of how his last name came to be spelled differently from the rest of his family's. While serving in the U.S. Army, a clerical error resulted in his name being misspelled—something all too common in those days. Rather than correcting it, William decided to keep the change, making his version of the name uniquely his own. He was special like that. He stood out, never wanted to blend in.

Throughout his life, William was known as a true charmer—a natural people person who never met a stranger. During his time with Aramark Food Services, he thrived on connecting with people from all walks of life. Whether he was serving students and professors at the University of Houston - Downtown, interacting with officers working at the Houston Police Department's Westside Division, or working with young people at the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (Delta Boot Camp), he treated everyone with the same kindness and respect. His mission was simple: to feed people—and feed them well. Just don't step into his kitchen unless invited!

But William was more than just an employee—he was a passionate entrepreneur at heart. His business ventures were as diverse as they were impactful, ranging from owning a nightclub, running a cleaning service, diving into home improvement projects, and building a catering business. These ventures didn't just support his dreams—they created jobs for others, especially his children, who still have plenty of stories (and laughs) to share. In many ways, William was ahead of his time.

With his talent, and charisma, he could have easily had his own show on HGTV or the Cooking Channel. He was just that great. We learned a lot from him!

For over four decades, William remained a faithful member of Evangelist Chapel A.M.E. Church, where he used his talent of cooking to serve God's people. He was a devoted family man who provided for his large family in countless ways. When it came to his loved ones, he didn't play—his loyalty and protectiveness ran deep. Known for his strong will and determined spirit, he faced the challenges of declining health with unwavering mental strength. Even in his final days, his mind remained sharp and focused, a testament to the resilience that defined him throughout his life. He will indeed be missed.

William was preceded in death by his parents, William and Gertrude Menefee, bonus mom Osie Mae Menefee, his beloved children Adell "Princess" Miniffee, Darryl Miniffee, and Kimberly Miniffee Rankins; as well as his siblings Elijah "Earl" Menefee, Maxie Bell Lee, David Menefee, Jerome Menefee, Odessa Webb, Adell Robertson, and Lena Bell Smith.

He leaves to cherish his memory his personal "angel", a loving and devoted wife of almost 45 years, Walterine B. Miniffee; sons: William Miniffee III, Reverend Ralph (Brenda) Miniffee, John (Carolyn) Miniffee, Malcolm Miniffee, Sr., and Ronald (Valerie) Miniffee, Sr.; daughters: Cynthia Miniffee Long, Tracey Smith, Tiffany Smith, Dr. Tara (William) Smith Green, Nicole (Julius) Cox, and bonus daughter, Dr. LaChounda Johnson; his siblings, brothers: Eddie Menefee, Benjamin (Karen) Menefee, Ernest (Michell) Menefee, Reuben Menefee, and Gregory Menefee; sisters: Esther Simmons, Emma Wood, Naomi Menefee, Patricia Menefee, Elizabeth Menefee, and Benefrida Smith; along with a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends who were blessed to know him, including his best friend, Mr. Edward Sanders.

The legacy of William's life reminds us that faith, family, and service create a life well-lived. Though we mourn his passing, we celebrate the gift of his life. He was indeed not a perfect man, but as our Heavenly Master has the final word in each of our lives, please let Him say of William Sylvester "Bill" Miniffee, Jr., "Excellent. You've proved yourself not only clever but loyal. You've executed a rather small task masterfully, so now I am going to put you in charge of something larger. But before you go back to work, come join my great feast and celebration." (Matthew 25:21 [The Voice]).

*So... may he celebrate eternally with the Master.*



# Order of Service

EVANGELIST CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH

Pastor Mark Jackson  
OFFICIATING

MUSICAL	Prelude
PROCESSIONAL	Family
HYMN OF PRAISE	Elder Isadore Jackson
PRAYER OF CONSOLATION	Pastor Mark Jackson
MUSICAL SELECTION	Aja Domonique Miniffee
SCRIPTURE READINGS	
<i>Old Testament</i>	Reverend Janet Howard
<i>New Testament</i>	Wanda Broussard
MUSICAL SELECTION	Krystal Baskin
RESOLUTIONS	Evangelist Chapel A.M.E. Church
REFLECTIONS	Grandchildren
SONG OF COMFORT	"Precious Lord" Melton Finley and Melanie Gordon
EULOGY	Reverend Ralph Miniffee
RECESSIONAL	Music



*My dearest love, though words may fail,  
To capture the love that we did sail,  
I know your spirit soars on high,  
A guiding star within the sky.*

*I'll carry your heart within my own,  
And share our love, a seed has grown.  
Though sadness lingers, I will find,  
Strength in memories, time entwined.*

*I'll love you always, in every way,  
And find my joy in every day.  
Your legacy will live on, you see,  
In all the love you gave to me.*

*-Your loving wife...*









## *Active Pallbearers*

Malcolm Minifee, Jr.  
Devon Minifee  
Andrew Traylor

Ronald Minifee, Jr.  
Michael Minifee  
Dale Campbell

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

William Minifee III  
John Minifee  
Ronald Minifee, Sr.

Reverend Ralph Minifee  
Malcolm Minifee, Sr.  
Eddie Menefee  
Benjamin Menefee

Ernest Menefee  
Reuben Menefee  
Gregory Menefee

## *Family Acknowledgement*

The family of William Sylvester "Bill" Minifee, Jr. wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, love, and support during this time of loss. Your kind words, comforting presence, and thoughtful gestures have given us strength and peace. We would also like to thank the staff at Cambridge Health & Rehabilitation Center in Richmond, Texas for the care provided to our loved one, especially his nurse Mary.

## *Special Thanks*

A special thanks to Evangelist Chapel A.M.E. Church and all those who provided special assistance to the family during our time of need and to Mike and Quanna Minifee-Winzer (granddaughter) Southern Taste Food Truck, (346) 814-4210 | [chefq@southerntaste.com](mailto:chefq@southerntaste.com)

## *Interment*

HOUSTON MEMORIAL GARDENS  
2426 Cullen Blvd.  
Pearland, TX 77581

## *Final Arrangements Entrusted to*



TROY B. SMITH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
9013 Scott St. | Houston, TX 77051  
713.734.TROY(8769)  
[WWW.TROYBSMITH.COM](http://WWW.TROYBSMITH.COM)