

"When I Must Leave You"

When I must leave you for a little while,
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

- The family of William Graham



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*In Loving Memory
of*



William Graham

May 12, 1950 - December 23, 2024

January 11, 2025

Visitation: 10:00am

Memorial Service: 11:00am

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

866 Congress Ave.

Lincoln Heights, Ohio 45215

Rev. Oliver D. Williams, Officiating

Obituary

William Vernon Graham, known as “Bubble,” was born on May 12th, 1952, in Gaffney, South Carolina, to the late Claude and Catherine Graham. On December 23rd, 2024, he peacefully passed away, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and countless unforgettable moments.

If you knew Bubble, you felt his presence before you saw him. He was always the loudest voice in the room, overflowing with energy and stories that could leave you laughing until your sides hurt. With a can of Pepsi in one hand and a cigarette in the other, Bubble had a way of delivering wisdom and humor in the same breath.

Family and Legacy

He leaves to cherish his memory three children: Antonio Cooper, Kyliya Benton, Le’rin Kessler and step-daughter Sheronda Kessler. Along with his angel on earth as he lovingly called her, Bridgette Wright.

As a proud grandfather, Bubble’s love extended to his twelve grandchildren, each of whom held a special place in his heart and gave him endless reasons to smile. He’s also survived by his two sisters, Shirley (Johnny) Perdue and April (Vans) Nelson, and one brother, Robert “Bobby” Graham, along with a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins who will forever hold him close in their hearts.

He was preceded in death by his beloved sister, Claudette Williams whose absence he deeply felt, and his step-son, Michael Kessler. The thought of them reunited—laughing, sharing stories, and watching over their family—brings a sense of peace and comfort to those left behind.

A Life Full of Character

Bubble was, without a doubt, one of a kind. His loud laugh could fill an entire house, and his magnetic presence turned even the smallest gathering into a celebration. He wasn’t one to hold back his opinion, but he always spoke from a place of honesty and love. His favorite sidekicks—a cold can of Pepsi and a Benson & Hedges cigarette—were never far from reach. Whether he was at a family barbecue or swapping stories on the front porch, Bubble was always unapologetically himself. But beneath the jokes and the loud exterior was a man with a heart of gold. Bubble was the person who’d show up when you needed help.

Friends and Community

Bubble didn’t just make friends; he created lifelong bonds. His gift was making people feel seen, valued, and appreciated. From childhood companions to people he’d just met, everyone walked away from Bubble with a smile on their face and a story to tell. He had a way of turning strangers into friends and friends into family, leaving a piece of himself with everyone who crossed his path.

A Lasting Legacy

Bubble’s legacy lives on—not just in the stories he told or the laughter he shared, but in the love he gave and the moments he created with those around him. Though he’s no longer physically here, his spirit remains in every shared laugh, every cracked-open can of Pepsi, and every story we tell in his honor.

Order of Service



Prayer	Rev. Oliver D. Williams
Scripture	Psalms 23
Selection	Marcus Grissom
Acknowledgements	
Remarks	Family and Friends
Obituary	Read Silently
Eulogy	Kevin Rainey
Benediction	Kevin Rainey
Recessional	Clergy, Family & Friends

