

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

"Going Up Yonder" by Tremaine Hawkins
"Peace Be Still" by James Cleveland
"His Eye Is On The Sparrow" by Lauryn Hill

Scripture Reading

Ricky Bradley, Joshua Cooper & Nichole McKenzie
Old Testament | Psalm 23, Ecclesiastes 3:1-7, 7:13
New Testament | John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Will Walter & Angela Cooper

Song of Comfort

Mary Moore

Acknowledgments of Cards

Valerie Walter

The Obituary

Charlene Gray

Reflections

Family and Friends

Song of Comfort

Mary Moore

Message of Comfort

Minister Eric Dutton
First Baptist Church of Crestmont
Willow Grove, PA

Military Honors

Committal

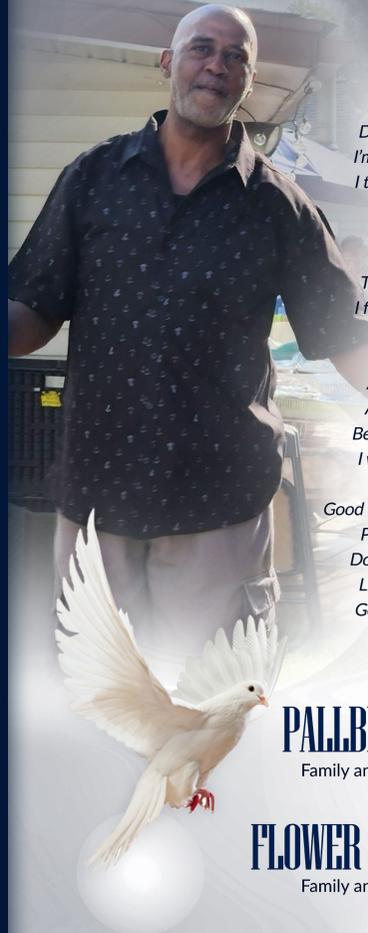
Minister Eric Dutton

Benediction

Minister Eric Dutton

Recessional

Clergy, Family and Friends



I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to work or play
Task left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.

PALLBEARERS

Family and Friends

FLOWER BEARERS

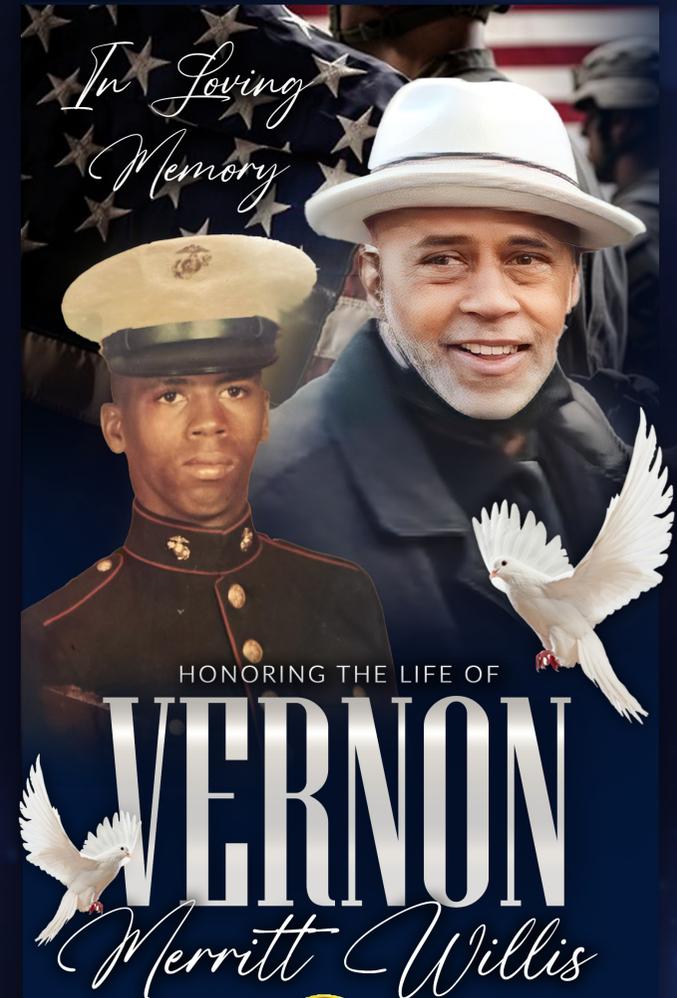
Family and Friends

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Our family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions.
Your phone calls, visits, flowers, thoughts, and prayers have all
helped greatly during our time of bereavement. May God forever
bless and keep each one of you in his tender, loving care.



Professional Services Entrusted To:
G. CHOICE FUNERAL CHAPEL INC.
2530 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132
215-277-0100 Office | 215-225-1236 Fax
www.gchoicefc.com | Brian Choice - Cartwright, Supervisor



MAY 30, 1956



JANUARY 9, 2024

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 | 11:00AM

G. CHOICE FUNERAL CHAPEL
2530 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19132

LOVED BEYOND WORDS. MISSED BEYOND MEASURE.



HIS STORY

Vernon Merritt Willis was born on May 30, 1956 as the 5th child to the union of Madeline and Albert W. Willis, Jr. On January 9th, 2024 at Temple University Hospital, Vernon left this world and was escorted to heaven by angels of God.

From birth to 16 years old, Vern grew up in Detroit Michigan. Grandma Lizzie Mae Payne and Mom ensured Vernon and all of his siblings were church-ed at the Alpha and Omega Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit. In 1972, the family moved to Philadelphia where Vern finished his education and graduated from Simon Gratz High School. Vernon explored his musical gifts playing the bongo drums with a musical group in North Philly.

Within a few months of high school graduation, Vernon joined the enlisted ranks of the U.S. Marine Corps. He was hardcore "Semper Paratus" until the day he passed away, he loved being an ex-Marine. You only had to be around Vernon once in your lifetime to hear him grunt, beat his chest and holler "Who-Ra". The sound of his voice and the pride in his eyes was infectious - just like his personality. Vernon worked his way up from a line cook to a Sous Chef in the Corps. He had a rare opportunity to bump into his older brother Rod in the Marine Corps while both were unknowingly stationed in Hawaii. The family story is that those two fine-looking Willis brothers tore up that town in Hawaii, which is why the phrase "What happens in Hawaii...stays in Hawaii", LOL!!!

Post Marine Corps life for Vernon was spent as a Federal employee for a number of agencies including Dept. of Labor, Veterans Administration and Census Bureau. In addition to federal employment, he also worked for agencies in the state of Pennsylvania and for government in the city of Philadelphia. He studied business management at Temple University.

His older nieces and nephews referred to him as Uncle Porkchop because he really had a love affair with pork chops, making them all kinds of ways, always asking for them and grilling them up at cookouts. For decades, he was a superb grill master at every family cookout. He was very intentional about building strong ties with the 4th generation of the family. His favorite pass time was making time for family and the ladies.

Vernon had a zest for living life to the fullest, he loved to party, crack jokes and make sure everybody was having a good time. Vernon's motto in life was, "You can't take it with you so better use it while you can."

He was preceded in death by both parents, sister Evelyn, brother Roderick, nieces Jacqueline and Valerie, and nephews Malvern Jr., Andre, Randy and Myron. Vernon leaves to cherish his memory 7 sisters Sabrina, Darene, Marsha, Stephanie, Cindy, Carol, Angela, and 3 brothers Malvern, Barthell, Albert III; 13 nieces, 6 nephews and a host of great nieces and great nephews and special friends.

Lovingly Submitted, *The Family*

