



Deacon Andrew J. Williams, Sr.

October 4, 1916 - May 10, 2012

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 810 Cathay Street, with the funeral commencing at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Thomas J. London will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 N. Jefferson Ave., on Tuesday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Andrew Jackson Williams, Sr., age 95 years, the patriarch of our family, closed his eyes and went from labor to reward on Thursday, May 10, 2012 after a brief illness. He was surrounded by his family caregivers at his residence when he made his transition.

Andrew was born in Round Lake, MS on October 4, 1916 to the union of the late Virginia and Judge Williams. He later moved to Deeson, MS where he was raised by Georgia Williams, the only mother he knew. He accepted Christ at an early age and joined Armstead Chapel in Friars Point, MS where he met his childhood sweetheart, Pearline Walker. He married Pearline on December 23, 1937. She was the love of his life. To this union of marriage was born six children. He came to Saginaw seeking employment to support and provide for his family and was hired by General Motors Chevrolet Grey Iron Foundry. He then moved his family to Saginaw. He retired from General Motors in 1981.

Prior to establishing his residence in Saginaw, Andrew was a farmer and

sharecropper working in the cotton fields of Clarksdale, MS. While providing for his family there, he organized area sharecroppers to boycott the General Store for changes to the way they were paid by landowners. His direct but respectful appeal and negotiation with landowners resulted in workers being paid in cash so they spend their money in town with black businesses and other storekeepers in the area instead of at the owners General Store.

Andrew Williams joined Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in 1947 and became a deacon under the leadership of Pastor Gabriel J. Moore. Over the years, Deacon Williams served in many leadership capacities at Tabernacle including preparing and execution of the building fund plan to build the current building and retire and burn its mortgage. He was a founding member of the Tabernacle Men of Intergity, member of the National Baptist Laymen's Movement, and the first deacon to serve with the churches Faith Partners. He served as the lead deacon to the churches mothers' board, ushers board, nurses guild, and choir. He was on the search committee for the churches current pastor. Even after retirement from his GM employment, Deacon Williams was a reliable driver for transporting the youth and elderly to church outings and programs near and far, and was faithful in taking communion to the sick and shut-ins.

He loved preachers, good preaching, and singing the call and response spiritual hymns of Dr. Watts. He was a role model for young deacons McArthur Whitfield and Doug Carter, teaching them church leadership skills and how to sing the songs of Dr. Watts. He was often asked to give the response at church programs where he would end his presentation by delivering one of his favorite poems, "Heaven's Grocery Store" or "As the World Turns". Although he lived in Saginaw, he traveled to the Friars Point's Annual Lakeside Baptism held the 2nd Sunday in August to lead the prayer before each baptism for his home church Armstead Chapel.

He started working at Browne's Mortuary in 1969 and was a dedicated worker until his health declined. Working with the founder and proprietor Mr. Harry Browne was always joy filled with sorrow. He considered it an honor to work for such a respected a black man whose business was to assist families with caring final arrangements for their loved ones, and help comfort them in this time of need. Daddy loved working there. The Browne's Mortuary family became Daddy's extended family.

During the years when Saginaw was designated a Model City, Andrew would attend community meetings and work on committees to bring about change to improve his neighborhood and community.

He was a tireless servant of God, a devoted husband, father and family man, grandfather, brother, and friend, and respectful gentleman in the community; sharing his wisdom of life with those who asked for and would listen to it.

Andrew Williams is believed to be the oldest deacon in Saginaw.

To cherish his memory and continue his legacy are his children, Andrew (Virgie) Williams, Johnny (Penny) Williams, Joyce Williams (Gregory) Harvin, Larry Williams and Linda Cookey Williams of Saginaw. Margaret Williams Euell, his oldest daughter is deceased. His dedication to family included raising Margaret's five children, Fayleta Williams, June, Sharlae, and Chondra Euell, all of Saginaw, and the late Chaka Euell. He also leaves 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren; Godchildren, Alonzo Betts, Karen Betts, Wilmer McZee, Cheryl Moore, all of Saginaw and Kim Gibson of Plano, TX; sisters, Ardelia Pitt, Lillie B. Hall, Bobbie J. Williams, Alberta Haslett, all of Chicago, Ill; Daisy Hooper, Helena, AK, Elsie Edwards, Little Rock, AK; brothers, Judge (Lurlean) Williams, Jr., James Williams of St. Louis, MO and Ben Williams of Chicago, IL. All of the

girls in the family were his favorites. The list stretches from Mississippi to Michigan and includes Augustine Lee, Viola Harris, Vanessa Pondexter of Chicago, Ill, Queen Esther Martin Farmer, Detroit, MI, Agatha Trancy and Yvette Edwards of Little Rock, AK, Carol Martin, Nikki Parshell, Elisa and Eyonda Martin of Friars Point, MS, Thelma Kelly and Barbara Jean Hill of Saginaw; a long list of nieces, nephews and close family friends, including special friends and very important people, Ora D. Browne, the staff of Lawrence E. Moon and Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, Mrs. Pecolia Thompson, the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Family and Rev. & Mrs. T.J. London.

Andrew Jackson Williams, Sr, our daddy, our deacon, our friend, is missed already. We love and have many cherished memories of him to share with generations to come.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Pearline Williams; his daughter, Margaret Euell; grandsons Chaka Euell and Richard Williams; sisters, Ernestine Moten, Annie Mae Evans and Lillian Gulley; brother, Roly Williams; dear sister-in-law, Estelle Harris; and brothers-in-law, Tommie and Richard Walker.

Tribute Wall

ME

“ *I miss youuu soo much. keep watching over me Daddy.*

MeMe - December 31, 2025 at 05:08 AM

ME

“ *Almost 12 years later and Im still missing youuu.*

MeMe - April 22, 2024 at 02:30 AM

ME

“ *Miss You Daddy.*



MeMe - December 09, 2021 at 05:19 AM

SE

“ *MISSING YOU DADDY*

SHARLAE EUELL - April 09, 2019 at 03:51 AM

NW

“ *Thank you all who was there for us in our time of pain and sorrow. One thing for sure I can walk around no WE can work around with our head held high knowing that he did a JOB WELL DONE!!!! mAY HIS WORK SPEAK FOR HIM. AMEN AND THANK YOU ALL.*

Nikedra "Nikki" Williams - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of, who I knew him by "Deac". Praying for his family and all who worked with him through the years. Definitely a man of Honor.

Beverly - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

YF

“ To the family of Deacon Williams: On behalf of myself and my family we wish to express our deepest condolences and love during this time. Deacon Williams was one of the nicest and humblest men I have met, he always treated us nice. My prayer is that you be given the strength and comfort in the days to come. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4 KJV)

Love,

Yvette Smith & Family

Yvette Smith & Family - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF GOD CHOOSE MAN DEACON WILLIAMS. YOU HAVE MY PRAYER AND CONDOLENCE FOR YOUR LOSS OF THIS WELL RESPECTFUL MAN OF GOD.

ALICE HUNT - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ May many memories of your father bring you peace and comfort during this very difficult time and may the love he that he has for you remain in your heart now and for ever. With love from Mozella Reed and Family.

Mozella Reed - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *I will love and miss you always.*

Rev. E.L Martin - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ *The world has lost a great christian love you always.*

Diane Evans - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Loved him - a giant of a saint.*

Brenda Davis-Sherley - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *I referred to him as "DAD" he will forever be remembered and also greatly loved.*

Janice Ruffin - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Deacon Williams was loved by his family especially Joyce, Tabari, and Greg Harvin. During family get-togethers Mr Williams was a joy to talk to regarding current events and President Obama. We will keep his entire family in our thoughts & prayers.*

Barretta & Clinton Keene & son - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FT

“ To the Williams Family my prayers are with you. Dea Williams was a great man of God had fun with him while working at Browne's. Dea was at my first sermon sixteen year ago and open up dovation that night. We travel to revivals together and i love him riding with me. The bible says that erath has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

Flora Smith/Phyllis Thorne - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ My heart goes to the family of deacon Williams they don't make real men like him anymore. God bless you family!

Gary McClain - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ To Cookey & Family
I am so sorry to hear about your Father. I pray that God will give you the strength needed to make it through this diffcult journey. Hold on to all the blessed memories and your dad will always be with you.

Antwinette Snow - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ To the Williams Family my Prayers are with you weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning Deacon Williams will truly be miss. I am praying for this family that God give yall strengh to endure so keep your heads up and your hands in God hands. God Bless you all

Rev.Dexter Thomas - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *"A TRIBUTE TO MY UNCLE ANDREW" - A light from our family is gone, A voice we loved is stilled- A place is vacant in the home, which never can be filled- We have to mourn the loss of one, We would've loved to keep- But God who surely loved him best, Has finally made him sleep. Don't think of him as gone away, His journey's just begun- Life holds so many facets, this earth is only one- Just think of him as resting, From the sorrows and the tears- In a place of warmth and comfort, Where there are no days and years- Think of how he must be wishing, That we could know today- How nothing but our sadness, can really pass away- And think of him as living, In the hearts of those he touched- For nothing loved is ever lost, And he was loved so much- "I LOVE YOU UNCLE ANDREW!!!" sbffpd*

Renee Moten-Curry - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

UR

“ *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 for my name live on and do all things the same. Feed not your loneliness on empty days, but fill each walking hour in useful ways. Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer and I in turn will comfort you and hold you near. Never, never be afraid to die for I am waiting for you in the Sky.

PLEASE VIEW THE LINK BELOW FOR MORE ENCOURAGING WORDS, PRAYERS, SONGS/VIDEOS.

URNALONE.COM

URNALONE - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To the Family of Dec. Williams. Deacon Williams was a great, kind, hard working man & a dedicated Deacon of Tabernacle Church and so much more. He will be sadly missed.

Been knowing Dea. Williams since we were knee high to a duck. Loved to hear him lead out in a song on the Dea. Board. He just seemed not to be aging at all. Now we are all in our middle ages and remember him so very well. We all will miss him but we know that you are singing in that heavenly choir. Rest on Deacon Williams.

Jackson, Jasper, Thompkins Family - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ To the Family and friends of Deacon Andrew Williams

How sweet it is at evening , after a long and well spent life to close your eyes in slumber and rest from the toils of the day. It is doubly sweet at the close of a well spent life , to turn one's face toward the sunset and quietly sink into the rest that knows no waking except in the presence of God.

Deacon Willams spent his life as a outstanding servant of God,he was also wonderful husband and father, he worked faithful for over sixty years as a decon at Tabernacle.

Deacon Williams loved people, he was a people person. We loved Deacon Williams, but God loved him best.

To the Family, weeping may endure for a night but joy will come in the morning.

The entire Williams Family is in our prayers.

Dr Marie Wright Tolliver & Family

Dr Marie Wright Tolliver - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ To The Williams Deacon Williams was truly a man who loved helping poeple and enjoyed doing it, he was one of a kind and most of all he loved the Lord, he has earned his crown and his place with Jesus. He will truly be missed we loved him but God loved him more.

Rita Flemings-Williams - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TQ

“ To the Williams family, My Thoughts and Prayers are with you during this difficult time. I had the pleasure of meeting Deacon Williams in 2000. He had the Kindess most Loving Heart a Man could have. No matter where you saw Deacon Williams he never Changed, always giving a Brotherly Hug and Kiss. I remember having a conversation with Deacon he told me he never met a person he didn't like and after knowing him and seeing how much people Loved him, he is what I call the TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN. Deacon Williams will be greatly missed. Love You Deacon.

Tanya Q - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NW

❤️😊 Thank you for those kind words. My papa was thee best!! Tremendously missed everyday! Me and my family appreciate your thought and prayers. God Bless ❤️

Nikedra Williams - January 01, 2021 at 09:46 AM