



## Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.

April 24, 1940 - November 16, 2020

Our beloved, Willie Irvin Sr., husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, cousin, and friend, departed this life on Monday, November 16, 2020 at the age of 80 years.

He was born to Willie B. Irvin and Laurence Bishop Irvin on April 24, 1940 in Hayti, Missouri. As a child, he and his family moved to Michigan and settled in Carrollton where he made many, many friends whom he stayed in connection with until his death.

Willis, as many called him, graduated from Saginaw Arthur Hill Tech in 1959. After graduation, he moved to Rockford, Illinois for a short stay and afterward, returned home to Carrollton. He joined the Army in September 1963 and served until 1965. Upon taking a leave in 1964, to attend his father's funeral, he met the love of his life, Frances Johnson, whom he married on March 24, 1967. After receiving an Honorable Discharge from the Army, he worked at Saginaw Steering Gear for 33 years and retired in 1999. He joined Clearstone First Baptist Church, where he sang in the male chorus for a short while.

Willis was a charter member of the "Soul Survivors Motorcycle Club" where he acquired the nickname "Brokeback". Outside of being a loving father and grandfather, who his grandchildren affectionately called "Pawpaw", he was a passionate Harley motorcyclist who enjoyed traveling across the U.S. Willis

had an infectious personality and would say the craziest sayings that would have you in laughter. For an example, he was adamant that his work glasses were shatter proof, therefore to prove his theory, he threw them on the floor, stomped on them and picking them up, they were in pieces. This was part of his comical ways and antics that would keep you in stitches. As much as we tried to prolong his time here, his body had become too weary and weak to fight his many ailments. With God's help, he was released into his rest.

He leaves to cherish his precious memory, the love of his life, wife, friend, and caregiver, Frances; two sons, Willie Jr. (Jacqueline), and Frederick (Yolanda) Irvin; daughter, Wenona (Jerome) Vaughn of Woodbridge, Va.; grandchildren, Bria and Warren Irvin, Saginaw, MI, Keenan Irvin Benning and Diamond (Henry) Peoples both of Lansing, MI, Naomi and Nilah Vaughn, Woodbridge, VA; special great-grandson, Kingston Maxwell, and inherited grandchildren, Niara and Fateyva Miles, Adarious Scott, Jackson Harris, Darrell, Kilp, and Kayla Young. He also leaves behind a host of nephews, Michael Barnes, Marlin Templeton, Derrick Barnes, Larry D. Irvin, Kensel Webb, Ruben Irvin, Marcus Bates, Andrew (Nancy) Johnson, Jr., James Jr. (JayJay), Wesley Harris, Larry Johnson Jr., Matthew, Jalen Johnson; nieces, Lucille Webb, Michelle Little, Debra Walker, Frances Irvin, Anise Ankrah, Alicia Carter, Janelle Johnson, Ronda Hendricks, Peach Omaranmilowo, Andrea Rowell, Brenda Johnette (Pebbles); sisters in-law, Loistine and Hazel Irvin, Brenda Harris and Renee Johnson; brothers-in-law, Andrew Johnson Sr., Larry Johnson, Sr. and Tyrone Johnson. Willis also leaves to grieve his passing his special brother-in-law, James E. Harris, Sr.; very special cousins, Clinton and Melvin Henderson, and many friends from the Carrollton Community and Bethany Street Neighbors. He will truly be missed!

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Willie B. Irvin and Laurence Bishop Irvin; sisters, Cornelius and Glennie Irvin, Velma Templeton and Doris Webb; brothers, Clarence Irvin, Ruben Irvin Sr., and Larry Irvin Sr.;

nieces, Tonya Moxley and Adrienne Barnes; nephew, Calvin Webb; mother-in-law, Johnnie M. Randall; father-in-law, Sam Johnson (Clara); sisters-in-law, Evelyn and Rita Johnson.

The Family would like to express many thanks to Covenant Cooper ICU, Dr. Jane Castillo, and everyone who has extended their love, sympathy and prayers during this difficult time.

Visitation will take place on Monday, November 23, 2020 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan 48607. A private service will be held with Pastor Eugene Burton officiating. Interment will take place in Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly, Michigan 48442.

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.  
Holly, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 23. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home  
441 North Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607

# Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Browne's Mortuary** - November 29, 2020 at 10:07 AM

SB

*Absolutely a Beautiful Tribute! Really loved the songs! Very fitting. 🧡🙏  
Love you Wenona and praying for you and the family 🧡🙏*

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**Sheila Baber** - December 05, 2020 at 09:37 AM



*RIP Pawpaw/Willis love you always*

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**MrsKeena Benning-Dehnke** - December 06, 2020 at 12:38 PM

KM

*So sorry for your loss. Love you all so much.....*

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**Kay McMillan** - December 07, 2020 at 03:24 PM



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Browne's Mortuary** - November 24, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ *Otis W Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Otis W Jackson** - December 03, 2020 at 12:30 AM



“ *Elaine Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Elaine Brown** - December 01, 2020 at 04:33 AM



“ *I keep records of classmates who have passed away for ARTHUR HILL HIGH SCHOOL. Willis graduated from the high school I have mentioned ( There was no tech school at that time) He was a nice guy. My sympathies to the family. Loretta Kischnick*

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**Loretta H kischnick** - November 25, 2020 at 02:13 PM

DW

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Willis Irvin, a long time child hood friend. Our families the Wrights' and the Irvin's' were two of the first Black families to reside in Carrollton. I think they had 8 children and our family had 6. Willis was friends to my brother, John Wright Jr., When they finished high school, they came here to Rockford, IL. for a short time. I will never forget the time Mr. Irvin slaughtered a pig and dressed him for my father. Velma and myself would always like to ride in the back of Mr. Irvin's big dump truck. I was so happy when I found Willis's son on Facebook. Family and friends, we have lost a great Family Man and friend. We know this is God's work. Willis will surely be missed, but rest assured we will all see him in the PROMISED LAND. He is now shouting and singing praises with his Mom, Dad and all his siblings on the other side. Rest In Peace Willis!!!!



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**Dolores Wright-Puplava** - November 24, 2020 at 05:45 PM

TW

“ I Just wanted to say that I am going to miss my Uncle Willis I'm so glad I had the chance to grow up around my great uncles, who always made us feel loved with those big hugs. Uncle Willis loved his family and we knew it. I'm praying for my beautiful Aunt Francis and my cousin's Willie, Fred, and Winnie and all the grand children and our Irvin family. We lost my grandmother's last sibling, but they are all together in heaven now. Love you Uncle Willis Rest in love.



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**Tamieka Webb-Hamilton** - November 24, 2020 at 01:17 PM

JP

“ *Janice Powell-Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Janice Powell-Coleman - November 24, 2020 at 12:40 PM

LO

“ *Leah O'Daniels lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Leah O'Daniels - November 23, 2020 at 11:04 PM

ES

“ *Earnestine Shells lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Earnestine Shells - November 23, 2020 at 10:47 PM

TV

“ *Trudy Vaughn sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Trudy Vaughn - November 23, 2020 at 07:34 PM

AV

“ Arthur & Trudy Vaughn sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Arthur & Trudy Vaughn - November 23, 2020 at 07:32 PM

CJ

“ Carlis Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Carlis Jackson - November 23, 2020 at 05:15 PM



“ 94 files added to the album Life Tributes



WILLIS  
IRVIN

HIGH SEAK '59



Browne's Mortuary - November 23, 2020 at 12:03 PM

LM

“ *Larry And Ora McBride lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Larry and Ora McBride** - November 23, 2020 at 10:33 AM

DM

“ *Derrell Martin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Derrell Martin** - November 22, 2020 at 09:07 PM

RS

“ *Condolences and prayers go out to the Irvin and extended families. May God bless and keep you all!!*



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**Regina Smith-Johnson** - November 22, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ *White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..*



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November 22, 2020 at 03:58 PM

PJ

“ *Purvis Carter Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Purvis Carter Jr. - November 22, 2020 at 11:40 AM

KW

“ *Kensell Webb lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Kensell webb - November 22, 2020 at 12:55 AM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..*



November 22, 2020 at 12:12 AM

BH

“ *Sending my condolences and he will be truly missed.*



Brittany Harris - November 21, 2020 at 09:46 PM

DW

“ *Denise Jackie Patricia Wilburn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Denise Jackie Patricia Wilburn - November 21, 2020 at 09:15 PM

DW

“ *Denise Jackie Patricia Wilburn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Denise Jackie Patricia Wilburn - November 21, 2020 at 09:14 PM

JB

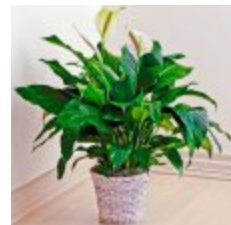
“ *Our deepest sympathy...Derrick, Jaccie and Brandon Barnes - Dover, DE*



Jacqueline Barnes - November 21, 2020 at 06:10 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..*



November 21, 2020 at 03:25 PM

ML

“ Michele Little purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..



Michele Little - November 21, 2020 at 03:09 PM

HN

“ To the Irvin Family, Sending Condolences to You! Praying God's Peace Comforts You During this Most Difficult Time 🙏 Love You Hollistine Nichols Holston 🌹❤️



Holli Nichols-Ho - November 21, 2020 at 12:35 PM

LF

“ L.D. FRIERSON lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



L.D. FRIERSON - November 20, 2020 at 11:33 PM

 Bridget Hinds

“ Bridget Hinds lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Bridget Hinds - November 20, 2020 at 04:14 PM



Shontelle  
Bates

“ *Shontelle Bates purchased the Pink & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..*



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**Shontelle Bates** - November 20, 2020 at 03:58 PM

DB

“ *Dorothy Burch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Dorothy Burch** - November 20, 2020 at 03:55 PM

VP

“ *To Frances and Family, so sorry cousin for the loss of Willis. I know that he was well loved and will be missed, as you all were to him as well. I am praying for you and the entire family. He always would ask about my dad, Percell Our family reunions won't be the same without seeing the both of you together. Thank God for all your happy memories together and a life well lived.*

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**Valerie (Larrie) Packard** - November 20, 2020 at 02:32 PM

AP

“ *Francis my deepest condolences to you and your family. Please know that you are in my prayers. I thank God for the early memories of “Willis” being at our house (Carter’s) in Carrollton. Great laughs and good meals. To God be the glory for a life well live.*

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**Alberta Pruitt** - November 20, 2020 at 11:47 AM

VJ

“ Vivian Jeffries & Family are sending heartfelt sympathy to Frances and Family  
Keeping you in our prayers.

VIVIAN JEFFRIES - November 20, 2020 at 11:01 AM

KH

“ Kim Holliday lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Kim Holliday - November 20, 2020 at 09:57 AM

RS

“ Prayers and deepest sympathy passed on to the Family of a Man who was truly a Great Guy. Grace & Peace unto you All during such a time as this.



Roy & Rosalind Stewart - November 20, 2020 at 09:05 AM

RF

“ With Sympathy from the Raymond and Ann Jones Family. RIP my friend, your family will be in our prayers.

Raymond and Ann Jones Family - November 20, 2020 at 06:53 AM

RF

“ *Raymond & Ann Jones Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Raymond & Ann Jones Family** - November 20, 2020 at 06:43 AM



“ *Lawrence Brooks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Lawrence Brooks** - November 19, 2020 at 09:55 PM

MR

“ *Mrs. Stuckett sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Mrs. Stuckett** - November 19, 2020 at 09:13 PM

MJ

“ *Mr. Clinton and Diana Johnson and family send our deepest sympathy to you Willie and the family.*



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**Mr. Clinton and Diana Johnson** - November 19, 2020 at 08:09 PM

DW

“ I will always remember my mother's older brother one of my favorite Uncles. All of them are together now... I love you Uncle Willis



Debra Walker - November 19, 2020 at 06:53 PM

SD

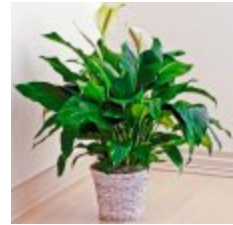
“ Stacy Duran sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.




Stacy Duran - November 19, 2020 at 06:24 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..



November 19, 2020 at 06:10 PM

 Shontelle Bates

“ Shontelle Bates lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Shontelle Bates - November 19, 2020 at 05:42 PM

CC

“ *Sorry for your loss, praying for the family from the Carter's Family*

**Clifford Carter** - November 19, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..*



November 19, 2020 at 12:50 PM

JB

“ *JAMES E BROWN lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



**JAMES E BROWN** - November 19, 2020 at 12:26 PM

VJ

“ *VANESSA HUMES JOHNSON lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



**VANESSA HUMES JOHNSON** - November 19, 2020 at 11:46 AM

OC

“ *Odeania Carruth sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



Odeania Carruth - November 19, 2020 at 11:46 AM

SC

“ *Sona Carruth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



sona Carruth - November 19, 2020 at 11:45 AM

LC

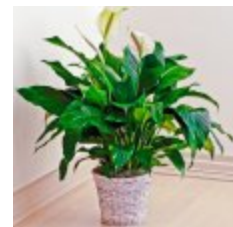
“ *My sincere condolences to this wonderful family during this time of transition. I have shared many laughs with Mr. Irvin over the years that I have known him. He will be truly missed.*



LaToya Caldwell-Marshall - November 19, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..*



November 19, 2020 at 11:16 AM

LM

“ LOUDEAN MOULTRIE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



LOUDEAN MOULTRIE - November 19, 2020 at 11:09 AM

MD

“ Mr And Mrs William Doxie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Mr and Mrs William Doxie - November 19, 2020 at 10:29 AM

LD

“ Lola Dawkins-Peterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Lola Dawkins-Peterson - November 19, 2020 at 12:51 AM

MS

“ Min. Thomas & Helen Speed sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Min. Thomas & Helen Speed - November 19, 2020 at 12:24 AM

LF

“ Lisa F sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



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**Lisa F** - November 18, 2020 at 10:07 PM

CG

“ Carol Garnett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



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**Carol Garnett** - November 18, 2020 at 10:06 PM

DH

“ Diane Holliman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



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**Diane Holliman** - November 18, 2020 at 09:48 PM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr..



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November 18, 2020 at 09:04 PM

GL

“ Gary& Allene Loster lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



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**Gary& Allene Loster** - November 18, 2020 at 08:47 PM

JT

“ Part of my Village gone but will always be with rest easy Pops



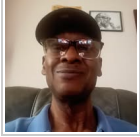
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**Jeffrey Thompson** - November 18, 2020 at 08:37 PM

RV

“ Robert (Blue) Veasley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



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**Robert (Blue) Veasley** - November 18, 2020 at 06:23 PM



“ *Deepest condolences and sincere sympathy go to u Willie in the passing of your beloved Father. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers as u prepare to celebrate his life on Monday. Matt 5:4 in The Beattitudes Jesus Christ teaches us “ Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted “* 🙏🏾 *God bless you during your time Of mourning and bereavement my brother 🙏🏾🙏🏾 Be Encouraged.*



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**Orlando Jones** - November 18, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ *Orlando Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Orlando Jones** - November 18, 2020 at 06:12 PM

LK

“ *Sending Prayers and Condolences to the Irvin family & friends.*



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**Larry Kemp** - November 18, 2020 at 05:17 PM

WC

“ Wendy Christian lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Wendy Christian - November 18, 2020 at 05:16 PM

BJ

“ Brenda Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Brenda Jones - November 18, 2020 at 03:44 PM

WJ

“ walter [moody]&cora jones



walter [moody]&cora jones - November 18, 2020 at 10:02 AM

"V

“ My condolences to you and your family. My prayers are with you and your family.



"Vanylla" - November 18, 2020 at 09:02 AM

PC

“ Penny Cole lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Penny Cole - November 17, 2020 at 09:47 PM

WJ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Willie Irvin Jr - November 17, 2020 at 09:18 PM

LF

So sorry for your lost sending my condolences ... Lisa

Lisa F - November 18, 2020 at 10:06 PM

JL

“ Jackie Loster-Tyson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.



Jackie Loster-Tyson - November 17, 2020 at 07:28 PM

GR

“ *Glen Rush sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Glen Rush** - November 17, 2020 at 06:30 PM

NL

“ *Nola Levelston lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Nola Levelston** - November 17, 2020 at 06:12 PM

DG

“ *Delphine Greene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Delphine Greene** - November 17, 2020 at 04:45 PM

DM

“ *Deatte McGlothin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Deatte McGlothin** - November 17, 2020 at 04:28 PM

DH

“ *Detra Hardwick lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Detra Hardwick** - November 17, 2020 at 03:05 PM

WB

“ *Walsezetta Bennett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Walsezetta Bennett** - November 17, 2020 at 02:31 PM

CC

“ *Clarence Carter sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Clarence Carter** - November 17, 2020 at 11:43 AM

CG

“ *Clarence Carter East Point GA sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Clarence Carter East Point GA** - November 17, 2020 at 11:43 AM

LC

“ *Larry&Gwen Conway sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Larry&Gwen Conway** - November 17, 2020 at 11:39 AM

JH

“ *To my sister and family I am so sorry for your loss. I will truly miss my brother-in-law .*

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**James and Brenda Harris** - November 17, 2020 at 10:32 AM

JH

“ *James And Brenda Harris sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**James and Brenda Harris** - November 17, 2020 at 10:27 AM

  
Cookey  
Sabraw-  
Harshman

“ *Cookey Sabraw-Harshman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie A. Irvin Sr.*



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**Cookey Sabraw-Harshman** - November 17, 2020 at 09:37 AM