



## Willie Thompson

September 30, 1940 - November 18, 2005

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 25, 2005 at the Wolverine State Baptist Headquarters, 615 South Jefferson Avenue, with the funeral commencing at 11:00 a.m. Bishop H. J. Williams will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at the Browne's Mortuary, 441 N. Jefferson Ave. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. Mr. Willie E. Thompson's sunrise was on September 30, 1940 in Turbeville, Virginia. His sunset was on November 18, 2005. His parents, Ernest and Wynona Thompson, preceded him. Willie Thompson joined Greater Williams Temple as a youth and continued as a member throughout his lifetime. He leaves to cherish his memories, his devoted wife of forty (40) years, Mattie L. Thompson. He also leaves his beloved sons, Eric and Jason Thompson and special godson, Brian Morgan; sister, Loretta (Ulerce) Drake, brother, Ernest Jr. (Sylvia) Thompson and sister, Ethel (Tom) Humes; four grandchildren, Erica, Delano, Tony and Zeavon and expecting a granddaughter, Laila; three sisters-in-law, Susan (Haneef) Rushdan, Rosemary (James) Gibson and Donna Smith; five brothers-in-law, James (Lynn) Smith, Michael C. Smith, Joseph (Demitrius) Smith, Charles Patillo and Frank Murphy. Willie also leaves his aunts, Hazel and Monica Thompson, Willie Bell Carrington, Rosemary Johnson, Mattie Galmore and Jewell Harper; special cousins, Elmore (Dorothy) Hooker and Ed (Virgie) Hooker; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Also cherishing his memories will be his very dear friends, Marie Beasley, Celester Degroat, Hilliard and

Artie Banks, and Kim Lax. Willie E. Thompson was educated in the Saginaw School System, graduating from Saginaw High School. He attended Bay City Junior College and continued his education at Western Michigan University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in History. He received a Master of Science Degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he also completed coursework for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree. He was a candidate for that degree. Mr. Thompson was Vice President of Delta College Student and Educational Services and President of the Saginaw Board of Education. He served on numerous boards. He was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the Association of Black Psychologists. By the request of the family, please make donations to the Good Neighbors Mission and Frankenmuth Hospice of Hope in lieu of flowers.

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ God be with Willie's family in their time of sorrow.

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judith orogbu - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Mattie,  
Our prayers are with you in your time of lose. We loved Willie, but God loved him best. We will miss his great sense of humor, the way he could make you laugh no matter how down you were. The words of encouragement he gave when you felt like giving up on school.

Your friends from Vassar and Saginaw  
Carolyn and Jannie

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Carolyn Jones - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Mattie you and "Willie T" have been more than just friends to our family. How I remember the parties that you and Willie would come to that my parents had. You both were the life of the party. Oh and do I ever remember "Tax Time" Willie and mom and dad and all those hundreds of papers on the table. Willie staying for hours but getting the job done. I remember when I started to work and he would do my taxes, (that wa easy!). He always could count on a good home cooked meal at tax time. Giving me advice about college and helping me and many others get money for college was one thing I'll never forget. Education was important to Willie whether you were young or old especially if you were a minority. He will be greatly missed by many. We love you and our prayers for your strength during this time go with are with you and your family.

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lesli washington (Jenny Brown) - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Its been hard lisening at work of the little bits and pieces we would hear of what you and willie were going thru this past summer . My prayers have been with you all this time and will be for the next several trying months for you and your family. God bless you in this time of trying to get on with life , even if your heart says no... love to you.. Janet*

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**Janet Hecht** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR CARING SO MUCH. YEARS AGO WHEN I DECIDDED TO GO TO COLLEGE I HAD NO TRANSPORTATION AND YOU OFFERED ME A RIDE TO AND FROM CLASS. YOUR ADVICE TO ME WAS,"NEVER LET THAT BE AN EXCUSE TO STOP YOUR EDUCATION." I TOOK THOSE WORDS AND I PASSED IT ON. YOUR GREAT KNOWLEDGE IN PSYCHOLOGY WAS AMAZING. IF EVER THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO CARED FOR HIS "OWN" IT WAS INDEED YOU. TAKE YOUR REST AND MAY GOD GIVE YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN THE STRENGTH THEY NEED DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. THANK YOU MR. THOMPSON----- CELEASHA*

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**CELEASHA WILSON** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm sorry to hear about the loss of willie. We went to high school together and graduated the same year. He was such a good person. Not only in school but in the saginaw community also. I lost my husband in March of 2001 so I know what it is like to lose a family member. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends.

Sincerely,

Jean Simpson  
(Thompson)

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November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ I am sorry for your loss. Willie was so thoughtful and kind. I will miss his presence at Delta. Bless your hearts to be comforted with memories and with knowledge that his spirit lives on in all of the lives he touched.

Sincerely,

Gina Dominique

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**Gina Dominique** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Thompson family and friends. Willie was an admired administrator and also a dear friend who will be missed very much. We shared a wonderful friendship. He was always so busy but somehow he managed to fit me in his busy schedule and made time to listen to my stories of what was going on in my life with my family, education, and goals. He too enjoyed sharing stories with me about his wife their out-of-country trips, experiences with his son's when they were growing up and how he used to be a AAU basketball coach and stories about his grandchildren. He inspired me to accomplish my goals no matter what it took. We laughed a-lot and I really loved him for his open attitude and compassionate responses. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to have a friendship with such a great person. I will hold my memories of Willie close to my heart. May God Bless your Wife, Son's, Grandchildren & Family with inner peace, comfort and strength during this time.

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**Cynthia Estrada** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ I am so sorry for your loss Mrs. Mattie, Eric, Jason and other family members. Mr. T (what would always call him) was a man of stature and advisor to me being an employee, single mother and student. He would always tell me to keep my head up and he would tell me also "Hang in there sister". I am going to miss him so very much. I will do as he always told me to "Keep my head up". Take you rest Mr. "T". We loved you but God loved you best. Mrs. Mattie and family - you all are in my prayers.

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**Sylvia George** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Memories are the legacy of love

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**J. Powe** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ To the family of Willie Thompson. He was a very good friend. I would not exchange my friendship with him and his family for the world. May God always bless you all.

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**Patricia Caldwell** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ I was one of the coaches when Delta won the National Championship in softball in 1999. Delta College athletics would not be around today if it were not for the support that Mr. Thompson gave it. Winning this championship was one of the highlights of my life, as well as numerous players and their loved ones. It would not have happened without Mr. Thompson! We will miss his encouragement and love on campus, but we will never forget the man who assisted in making it happen! Thanks for everything Mr. Thompson, it was greatly appreciated!!

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**Mike Wiltse** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Willie was a kind and considerate individual who always had a smile on his face. I saw him just before he left campus for his long weekend in the north country and he hugged me to welcome me back home to campus after being located off-site for nearly 9 years. It was so nice to see him and visit with him for those few moments. I'll treasure that meeting.

One never knows when our Lord will choose to have us return to him - I just know Willie is surly looking down on all of us with his big smile, letting us know he is pain-free and home.  
I'll miss him.

Sue

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**Sue Goddard** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ I am sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Thompson. He was a great leader, who was active in the community and at Delta College. When Mr. Thompson was at Delta College Ricker Center you could feel his presence. Saginaw has lost a great leader. His legacy he has left speaks valiantly. Even though I have known him for a couple of years, he has left a big impression on my life. My prayers go out to his wife and sons. He will be truly missed.

Warmly,  
Ms. Detra Porchia

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**Detra Porchia** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ My condolences goes out the family during their time of loss. God Bless and keep the family in the perfect peace.  
Betty

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**Dr. & Mrs. James B. Stafford** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ We. extend our depest sympathy to you in the death of your loved one, Willie. We are so thankful for the precious memories of the time that we had with Willie and Mattie. We know that the silver cord has been broken, but Jesus, our Friend, will comfort you and bear all of your burdens. God promised to never leave us or forsake us and we know he is faithful.

*May tender memories soften your grief,  
May his recollection bring relief  
May you find comfort and peace in the thought  
of knowing your loved one brought.  
For time and space can never divide  
Or keep your loved one from your side  
When memory paints in colors true  
The happy hours that belonged to you.*

*May the peace of God which passeth all undersanding, keep your heart and mind through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.*

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**Dr. & Mrs. James B. Stafford** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Mr. Willie E. Thompson. He was one of my favorite teachers, because he knew how to keep my attention, and he made the class interesting and fun. He treated all of his students like people, instead of just a number, which is very rare in college. It was the only class I took that had a potluck the last day of class. I really enjoyed tasting all the different foods and the fellowship. I did a term paper on the "Effects of Aging", and I enjoyed reading his comments and questions in the margins. It made me feel that he really enjoyed reading it, and that he cared enough to comment on it.

Everyone could tell that he cherished his family, and how he loved being involved in the community. He took the opportunity to encourage all of us to be committed, and to get involved, to make differences in every life we touch. I remember him talking about how his wife Mattie liked to read, and how very important reading was. He wanted everyone to succeed, and he put forth every effort to help you if you had difficulties. He was a man of integrity and respect. He will truly be missed by all that knew him.

My deepest sympathy,  
Marla Hoffmann

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**Marla Hoffmann** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ MATTIE, ERIC & JASON, KNOWING WILLIE WAS TRUELY A BLESSING FROM ABOVE. WE ALL HAVE SPECIAL GIFTS FROM GOD MAY DO NOT KNOW THEIRS BUT WILLIE DID. HIS SMILE, LAUGHTER JOKES AND BEING A PILLOWER TO THIS COMMUNITY WAS PART OF HIS LEGENCY HIS FAMILY WAS HIS OTHER. I'VE KNOWN THE FAMILY IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER. BALLIE,EDDY SAGINAW HIGH, DELTA AN LETS NOT FORGET ABOUT VOTING. EVERY ELECTION WHEATHER HE WAS RUNNING OR WHO WILLIE AND MATTIE WAS ON THEIR JOBS LETTING PEOPLE KNOW THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE A CHANGE YOU HAVE TO BE HEARD. VOTE. I COULD GO ON AND ON BUT MY MEMORIES WILL ALWAYS BE CLOSE TO MY HEART AS WILLIE HAVE SAID TO COUNTLESS OF OTHERS, HOLD YOUR HEADS UP YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU SET YOUR MIND TO. REST ON BROTHER TAKE YOUR REST FOR YOU TRULY DESERVES IT. TO THE FAMILY GOD 'S WOD SAY "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY,"O DEATH, WHERE THEN IS YOUR VICTORY? WHERE THEN YOUR STING? 1COR.15:51-55 LOVE YOU GUYS IF YOU NEED ME I'M A PHONE CALL AWAY. (989)753-4936 MITTIE RUSSELL

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**MITTIE RUSSELL** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ TO THE THOMPSON FAMILY I WAS A CLASSMATE OF YOUR HUSBAND AND FATHER,HE WAS A GREATGUY AND THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS WILL BE WITH YOU ALL, AND I KNOW HE WILL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR THOUGHTS, 1 KNEW WILLIE FROM 1955 TO OUR GRADUATION 1958, AND SOME TIMES WOULD SEE HIM AT TONY'S, A FORMER FRIEND NANCY.....

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**nancy warriner gurney** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ GOD LOVES YOU AND WE DO TO

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**MR. MRS. TAYLOR HOUGH (CARNELL)** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

WL

“ *Ernest, Ernie et al. May God's Grace be with now, as you celebrate the homegoing of your beloved brother. We are with you in heart and spirit. Our sincerest condolences to you and the family, God Bless,  
Neil and Daria and the family*

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**William Neil Love** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *I will always cherish my brother-in-law's warmth, sensitivity, kindness, sweetness, and loving spirit. Willie, you will always be as near to me as your greeting, "Hi, Syl."*

*Your spirit will abide, forever. Love, Sylvia*

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**Sylvia Thompson** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Bro. Thompson has played an very important part in my life. He knew me before I knew myself. I use to wonder as a kid who was that tall black man. As I got older my grandparents (Deacon and Mother Price) would take me with them over to his parents house to get some greens out of their garden. When Deacon Thompson became sick and Bro. Thompson would bring him to church, he always would sit in front of me. I enjoyed talking with the both of them. They made me feel like I was a beautiful young black lady who could do anything I put my mind to as long as I put God first. When I graduated from school, I had no idea where I was going to college. Bro. Thompson helped me to register for Delta and some what held my hand my first semester. I than decided to take his class. Boy did I enjoy that. Reginald Williams II and I became the subject of alot of his examples in class because he knew us both from kids in church. Wherever I would see Bro. Thompson he would ALWAYS have a BIG smile on his face with his hand extended to greet me "Hello sister." When I graduated this past April, I talked to Bro. Thompson for the last time. He told me he was proud of me for hanging in there. There were a lot of times I called myself quitting but I would receive encouraging words from people like Bro. Thompson. I have been working in the education field for about three years now and I hope that my influence is as great as Bro. Thompson. Not only did he care about our mind but also our spiritual side as well. Sis. Thompson and family, my family, the Price family will continue to keep you in our prayers. May God bless you in your time of sorrow.

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Lakeisha Price-Johnson - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

Jl

“ Willie always gave the persona of a faithful and sincere individual. Willie has gone home to a better place, so let there be tears of joy knowing that he is sitting next to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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James B. & Melanie Stafford, III - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM



RD

“ We will always miss you and the trips we had. Love you grandmom and uncle J and uncle E and the family. we love you and miss you grandDad.

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**ray degroat** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Mattie, this was such a shock for us to hear Willie died. Our prayers are with you and the family at this most difficult time in your lives. May you find strength in reading (Matthew 5:4) and (John 14) Berlin & Bobbie Lockhart

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**Mr. & Mrs. Berlin Lockhart Jr.** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ WILLIE AND I GREW UP TOGETHER IN SCHOOL AND WILLIAMS TEMPLE CHURCH. I PRAY THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO SURROUND YOU WITH HIS LOVE. YOU'RE IN MY PRAYERS.

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**ESSIE LANE** - November 18, 2005 at 12:00 AM