



Gerald Williams

August 13, 2019

Gerald V. Williams, Sr. passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones on August 13, 2019 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was 75 years old.

He was born on September 30, 1943, in Napoleonville, Louisiana and became the sixth of seven children born to Clarence and Clara C. Williams.

He was a lifelong resident of New Orleans and a faithful member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Gerald was a graduate of Joseph S. Clark Senior High School, class of 1961.

The standout high school baseball player received a full athletic scholarship to attend Grambling State University. He was a graduate of the class of 1965.

After graduation, he fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming a professional baseball player with the San Francisco Giants organization. During his offseason he studied and completed his master's degree of Management from San Jose State University in San Jose, California. A baseball injury led to an early retirement and Gerald returned to his home city. His passion to help others domestically and internationally led him to pursue a master's degree of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from Tulane University in 1973.

Throughout his career, Gerald's research focused on disparities in health outcomes and access to healthcare, particularly those affecting the African American community. His studies pioneered a life of service to his New Orleans community. Partnering with the hematology departments of the Louisiana State University and Tulane University, he founded the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc. This

foundation provided access to health services and inclusion in research protocols for those afflicted with the disease, which predominantly impacts African-Americans.

Gerald was an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. where he was President of the Sigma Lambda graduate chapter in New Orleans. He held his fraternity in such high esteem that he frequently requested his children to hold his Alpha mug "high" when bringing him his coffee.

Gerald's service to his community was a lifetime priority. He served on numerous boards including the National and Louisiana Association for Sickle Cell Anemia, Inc., Easter Seals of Greater New Orleans, Total Community Action, Inc., Lafon Nursing Home, Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, New Orleans Regional Planning Council, Louisiana Regional Medical Program, Inc., People's United Community Methodist Center, and the St. Bernard Community Council Inc. He also was an associate professor of Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Throughout his years of service he received numerous civic and community awards.

Despite all of his professional achievements, Gerald would tell you his greatest achievement was his family. He truly exemplified what it meant to be a Godly man. Selfless in all of his actions, Gerald was a lifelong role model to his children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

Gerald was preceded in death by his parents, the late Clarence E. and Clara C. Williams. Also preceding him in death are two brothers, Calvin (Edwina) and Aaron (Dianne) Williams, and two sisters, Joyce (late Andrew) and Althea (Clarence) Neason.

He leaves to cherish his memory a loving wife of 46 years, Brenda. Two children: Gerald "Jay" (Marie), and Jakeen W. Johnson (Garfield). Four grandchildren: Jackson Williams (mother Quiana T. Williams), Mark Pascua, Graham Johnson, and Gracie Johnson. Three sisters: Eula Dugas, Marva Jones (late Willie) and Brenda Williams. His family, along with a host of nieces

and nephews, will continue his legacy of loving and serving Jesus Christ through hard work and a commitment to achievement, selfless acts of kindness, and community service to those in need.

Special thanks to the wonderful care of Drs. Clement Eiswirth and Richard Imsais of Ochsner Hospital. Although brief, the family is forever grateful to the warm and compassionate care of the staff of Sanctuary at Passages Hospice. The family sincerely asks for contributions in memory of Gerald V. Williams, Sr. to be sent to the General Board of Church and Society at 100 Maryland Ave NE Ste 310 Washington, DC 20002, or visit www.umcjustice.org.

We warmly welcome the members, pastors and friends of the following affiliated churches:

St. Luke's United Methodist Church of New Orleans, First United Methodist Church of New Iberia, and Brooks United Methodist Church of New Orleans. Additionally, relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Services on Saturday August 17, 2019 at 10:00 am, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 5875 Canal Blvd, New Orleans, LA. Visitation will begin at 8:00 am until 9:00 am. The Omega service of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. for members will begin at 9:00 am. Interment immediately following at All Saints Mausoleum, Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd. Arrangements by Duplain W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the guestbook.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Mausoleum Metairie Cemetery

5100 Pontchartrain Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 17. 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM (CT)

St. Luke Episcopal Church
1222 N. Dorgenois St.
New Orleans, LA 70119

Service

AUG 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Luke Episcopal Church
1222 N. Dorgenois St.
New Orleans, LA 70119

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Dear Mother Johnson and Family,*

May God continue to keep you and your family in his care. May your memories of love and caring provide you with the comfort and peace that you and your family need at this time.

Your's in Jack & Jill,

Jacqueline Bostic

Jacqueline Bostic - August 16, 2019 at 06:01 PM

AL

“ *We are saddened to hear about the passing of your father and are praying for God to surround you with love, light and even laughter as you remember your father fondly and share in those memories with family and friends who loved him as well.*

Jonathan and April Lord & family

April Lord - August 16, 2019 at 09:17 AM

AB

“ Dear Jakeen Johnson and Family,

On behalf of the Houston Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, of which our dear sister Jakeen is a member, I send our deepest sympathy. Though we did not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Gerald Williams, we are confident that he was a remarkable man to have raised such a phenomenal daughter. We pray that God's Holy Spirit bring comfort to you and all of those whose lives were touched by Mr. Williams.

*Alaina King Benford
President
Houston Chapter
Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated*

Alaina King Benford - August 15, 2019 at 09:42 PM

DA

“ To: Brenda, Jay, Jakeen and the Williams Family,

We are praying for you that God will send his angels of comfort to walk with you at this time. Gerald's Legacy epitomized the song "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my Living shall not be in vain".

*In Christian and Family Love,
Charles, Debra, Charles II, and Quinten Atkins
Harvey, Louisiana*

Debra Atkins - August 15, 2019 at 10:29 AM