



John J. Williams Jr.

June 5, 2025

John J. Williams, Jr., a proud son of New Orleans and devoted family man, passed away peacefully on June 5, 2025, at the age of 86. Born on Christmas Day in 1938 to John J. Williams, Sr. and Bessie Bell Williams, John's life was marked by unwavering faith, steadfast duty, and deep love for his family.

A member of the inaugural classes of St. Augustine High School, John took great pride in attending an institution that shaped young Black men into leaders. His time there instilled in him the values of discipline, excellence, and brotherhood—principles he carried through every season of his life.

Following his education, John answered the call to serve his country in the United States Army, exemplifying commitment and patriotism. Upon returning home to New Orleans, he built a fulfilling life rooted in hard work, community, and family. He served with distinction for 36 years at the U.S. Postal Service, and in his free time, he found great joy in bowling and working in his woodshop, pastimes he loved and shared with friends and family.

John was the beloved husband of Lucille Angelety Williams, his partner in life and love. Together, they raised three devoted children: John III (Christine), Matthew (Tina), and Jonette (Lawrence). His legacy continues through his five grandchildren—David, John IV (Darcell), Maria, Matison, and Gabriela—and his great-grandson, Johnathan, who brought him pride and delight in his later years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his cherished siblings: Lillian Gilyot (Melvin), Earl Williams (Dolores), Yvonne Watley, Oliver Williams,

Joseph Williams (Gearldine), Lionel Williams, and Stanley Williams. He also mourned the loss of his in-laws: Anthony L. Angelety and Lucille Guillaume Angelety.

John's presence was a grounding force—his calm demeanor, principled character, and loving heart left an indelible mark on all who knew him. He is survived not only by his family but also by a treasured friend, Cheryl Gray of Donaldsonville, whose companionship brought joy in his later years.

John will be remembered for his quiet strength, his unshakable values, and the legacy of love, service, and dignity he leaves behind.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to St. Augustine High School- The John J. Williams, Jr., '57 Memorial Fund to support the next generation of Purple Knight Scholars.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Mass of Christian Burial at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 6828 Chef Menteur Hwy, New Orleans, LA on Monday, June 9, 2025 at 11:00 am. Visitation begins at 9:00 am. Interment: Mount Olivet Cemetery. Arrangements by D. W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave, New Orleans, La 70125. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

4000 Norman Mayer Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70122

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 9. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul The Apostle Catholic Church
6828 Chef Menteur Hwy
New Orleans, LA 70126

Funeral Mass

JUN 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul The Apostle Catholic Church
6828 Chef Menteur Hwy
New Orleans, LA 70126