



## Mr. Isaac Gilchrist

January 29, 1922 - January 9, 2021

### The Life and Legacy Of ISAAC GILCHRIST

January 29, 1922 – January 9, 2021

Mr. Isaac Gilchrist, affectionately known to his friends and family members as “Man”, was born on January 29, 1922 to the union of Deacon Peter Gilchrist and Isabelle Chappell-Gilchrist in Lowndes County, near the city of Hayneville, Alabama. His wife, Doris, two children, Glenn Irving and Deborah Michelle, and several of his siblings preceded him in death.

Isaac was born the second of eleven children just a couple of weeks after his big sister Mary Elizabeth’s first birthday. He was a happy child who embraced his responsibilities as “big brother” to four younger brothers and five sisters: George, Mary Golden ‘Honey’, Julia ‘Bay’, Fred, Brister, Georgianna, John Frank, Octavia “Baby Sister”, and Earnestine ‘Mutt’. Isaac confessed Christ at an early age. He was baptized under the leadership of the late Elder J. H. Betts at Original Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, in Lowndes County, Alabama. He was educated through the sixth grade in Lowndes County, at the Span Community School.

At 18, Isaac left home and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (aka the CC Camp), where he worked on projects in northern Alabama and Tennessee. At age 20, he was drafted into the US Army Air Corps on October 3, 1942 and served through the duration of World War II.

After the war was over, Isaac was more than ready to do something other than

farming. He was more than willing when in 1946, Cousin Nelson “Jack” Edwards, a prominent Detroit union leader, encouraged Isaac to come to Detroit. Having arrived in Detroit much earlier, Jack had risen to become an officer in the UAW where he was positioned to secure jobs for African Americans in Detroit’s bustling automobile factories.

Isaac started working at Chrysler’s Dodge Main assembly plant and began establishing his new life in Detroit. He survived a bout with tuberculosis that hospitalized him for more than a year. While hospitalized, Isaac met patient Doris Mae Williams who happened to live only six blocks away from him. After a long courtship, they were married on November 22, 1952. For the next 65 years he was a devoted husband until Doris’s death. in 2017. Isaac and Doris bought a two-family flat on 35th Street in Detroit where they raised five-children: Deborah, Gary, Garold, Garlin and Glenn.

Isaac and Doris complemented each other perfectly in almost everything. He was instrumental in going door-to-door to start a four-street block club in the early 1970’s. The 35th Street Block Club went on to join a larger neighborhood association called Michigan Avenue Community Organization (MACO). He was a reliable member of the Western High School PTA and when Doris opted to be a Cub Scout Den-Mother, Isaac became a Den- Dad. He was a proud UAW union member, as well as a member of the Trade Union Leadership Council, an organization that looked after the needs and concerns of African American workers in light of the racism that existed in the auto industry and the unions.

Not only was he a fantastic father, as the “Man” of the Gilchrist Family, he reached back home to Alabama and hosted his brothers Brister and Fred who lived with he and Doris until they found jobs with Ford and Chrysler and established themselves in Detroit.

Isaac was a long-time member of the New Light Baptist Church in Detroit before he joined Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church where Doris was already a member. He served on the Usher Board for many years until his health prevented him from doing so.

After 35 years of service, Mr. Gilchrist retired from Chrysler Corp. in 1981, but this hard- working man who could fix and do almost everything was far from done! In his second act, Isaac became his own boss as he spent the next 25 years painting homes in his interior decorating business before finally retiring for good.

Isaac's love of family led him to host weekly Friday Night Fish Fry's which brought together family and friends to fellowship and enjoy his famous catfish and french fries to kick off the weekend. Indeed, he was the "MAN"!

In 2016, with Doris in a nursing home, Isaac moved in with his son Garlin & his wife Yvonne in Farmington Hills, where he lived out the remainder of his life in the Gilchrist family home. After a brief illness, Isaac succumbed to a non-COVID-19 related pneumonia and departed this life on January 9, 2021 at Beaumont Hospital, in Farmington Hills, MI.

Isaac leaves to cherish his memory his remaining children Gary Lionel, Garold Trevor, and Garlin Dorell (Yvonne); grandchildren Stacie Williams, Garlin Gilchrist II (Ellen), and Diamond Hunter; great grandchildren Skyler Hamilton; Rhiannon, Uriyah, and Theodora Williams; and Garlin III, Emily Grace and Ruby Madeline Gilchrist; siblings Brister Gilchrist, Octavia Martin, and Ernestine Johnson; sisters in-law Alice Gilchrist and Patricia Powell; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

"Don't weep for me. I'm in a better place now and will see you again."

His lord said unto him, Well done,

thou

good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee

ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord – Matthew 25:21

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Cemetery

19975 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48203

# Previous Events

## Burial Live Streaming Only

Thursday, Jan. **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Woodlawn Cemetery  
19975 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48203

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *To the Gilchrist family,*

*I trust that your beloved patriarch went in peace, knowing what an extraordinary family that he lead.*

*With deepest condolences,*

*Michelle Mills Faison*

Michelle Faison - January 19, 2021 at 12:01 PM



“ *To Bro. Garlin (Yvonne) Gilchrist, Bro. Garlin (Ellen) Gilchrist and the entire family of Bro. Issac Gilchrist, please accept our sincere words of condolences in the loss of Bro. Issac Garlin. I remember fondly the picture I took of him proudly supporting his grandson as he was named the Lt. Governor of Michigan. Rest well Bro. Gilchrist. Respectfully, Dr. Nettie Walker Wood*

Dr. Nettie Walker Wood - January 19, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ *Dr. John A. White, Jr., Mrs. Judith White and family send our heartfelt sympathy to the entire Gilchrist family at the loss of your dear father Isaac Gilchrist. We love you and may God bless and keep you.*

John A white Jr - January 15, 2021 at 10:06 PM

MH

“ *Mr. Gilchrist was a kind and loving person. He always made you feel welcomed and had a smile on his face. My condolences to the entire family... I continue to keep you in my prayers. ~Misha L. Helvey 🙏*

Misha L. Helvey - January 15, 2021 at 01:08 PM

Lorrie Coleman

“ *Cousin Ike, I will miss you...I remember growing up on 35th and you, Doris, and the boys always being a blessing to our family, especially a family being led by a single mom and grandmother.I know you are enjoying being reunited with Doris! Rest peacefully cuz.*

Lorrie Coleman - January 14, 2021 at 11:42 PM

TS

“ *Trudy Simon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



Trudy Simon - January 14, 2021 at 11:05 PM

LR

“ *When the name Isaac Gilchrist is mentioned I think of a respectful and humble man with moral and honest strengths. A man that would provide and protect his family at all costs. Isaac loved his family more than anything and was so proud of each and everyone. I remember his smile the most, such a wide beautiful smile. May Isaac's soul rest in forever peace. Larry Rubin*

Larry Rubin - January 14, 2021 at 09:41 PM

WJ

“ *Walter Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



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**walter jackson** - January 14, 2021 at 03:00 PM

Monica Jackson

“ *Monica Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



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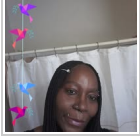
**Monica Jackson** - January 14, 2021 at 02:58 PM

MC

“ *Certainly , he deserved the nickname given to him 'MAN" , because he lived up to every aspect of being the man. He was the greatest uncle and I cherish all he did for me openly and privately. Anytime, I spent time in Detroit from my childhood until this present time, it was in his home. All I have now is precious memories, but OH HOW THEY LINGER and I will forever keep them in my heart. My wife and sons found a delight in him and he showed how much he loved them. A great soldier gone home to take His Rest.  
Love to my Family: Melvin and Edna Chappell (nephew)*

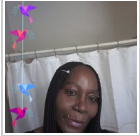
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**MELVIN CHAPPELL** - January 14, 2021 at 02:16 PM



“ I am going to greatly miss my grandfather who taught me many things as a young girl. I will treasure every moment we spent together. God truly has a wonderful Angel now. Rest easy grandpa, love you always

Betrece Williams - January 14, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ Betrece Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist



Betrece Williams - January 14, 2021 at 01:43 PM



“ Blessings to the Gilchrist family patriarch. May he travel well. May all of you heal well, and hold your father/grandfather's memories in your hearts. Gods blessings to all!

Diane Reeder



Diane Reeder - January 14, 2021 at 01:06 PM

SB

“ Syvility Broaden and Family - Jacksonville, FL



Syvility Broaden - January 14, 2021 at 12:38 PM

SB

“ To Garlin and Yvonne and the Gilchrist Family – On behalf of the Mackenzie Class of 1975, we send our deepest condolences to you and your family in the passing of your father. We pray that you will be strengthened by Gods promises, comforted by your memories, and proud of the legacy of his good deeds.

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**Stephanie Bonarge** - January 14, 2021 at 12:04 PM

EB

“ Our deepest sympathy for the loss of "Man". Our prayers of comfort are with the family. May God continue to Bless you.

*Your friends at the Reggie McKenzie Foundation.*

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**Eleanor D Blackwell** - January 14, 2021 at 11:57 AM



“ One of the most wonderful persons I've ever met



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**Rudelle Berry** - January 14, 2021 at 11:44 AM

VR

“*Love and Prayers from The Gilchrist-Chappell Family Reunion - Alabama Chapter. As we celebrate the life and legacy of own Brother Isaac Gilchrist, he will be forever remembered by his lovely smile and caring spirit. We will continue to pray for each other as celebrate this life that will never be forgotten.*”



*Mrs. Velma Rogers - Montgomery Alabama - Chairperson  
Mrs. Wanda Willams - Montgomery Alabama - Chairperson*

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**Velma Rogers** - January 14, 2021 at 11:29 AM

JA

“*Garlin - I am saddened to hear of the passing of your dear father. Reading his obituary I can see that he and your mom were wonderful people. The fruit does not fall far from the tree as you and Yvonne as well as Garlin II and his wife are prime examples of power couples who take pride in their heritage, puts family first and works hard to bring peace, love and hope to all people. Your father had a life well lived. I know you all will cherish precious memories until you meet him again. Praying Holy Spirit comforts you all. Sending love and hugs. Juanita*”

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**Juanits Anfield** - January 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM

KC

“ My deepest sympathy to the wonderful Gilchrist family. I only knew "Pops" for a short time, but found him to be a funny, personable and very kind man who was deeply loved by all who knew and cared for him. Healing thoughts, comfort and prayers being sent to Yvonne, Garlin and all members Gilchrist family.

*Kim Casteel*



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**Kim M Casteel** - January 14, 2021 at 11:22 AM

TD

“ THEARTIE DAVIS lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist



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**THEARTIE DAVIS** - January 14, 2021 at 11:17 AM

TD

“ THEARTIE DAVIS lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist



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**THEARTIE DAVIS** - January 14, 2021 at 11:12 AM

OH

“ I was always encouraged to see Mr. Gilchrist come into TAB (every Sunday)..he always had a smile that brightened our hearts. My prayers and heart sympathy goes out to his loving family.  
*Sistah Opal Hodge*

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**Opal D HODGE** - January 14, 2021 at 11:06 AM



“ Mr. Gilchrist will truly be missed. Sending our love and prayers to the Gilchrist family. *Joe and Vheryl Cole*

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**Cheryl Walton-Cole** - January 14, 2021 at 10:58 AM

GR

“ *Gwen Richmond lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



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**Gwen Richmond** - January 14, 2021 at 09:51 AM

GF

“ *Gwendolyn Finney-Criss lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



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**Gwendolyn Finney-Criss** - January 14, 2021 at 09:21 AM

DW

“ *Mr. Gilchrist was such a sharp dresser and always so nice. He never complained and always had a smile for me . I am so glad that I had the pleasure of providing his dental care . I pray that your many years of memories provide the comfort you all need during this difficult time. I will miss seeing him every 4 months .*

*Dr. Pamela Werdlow*

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**Dr. Pamela Werdlow** - January 14, 2021 at 09:06 AM

MP

“ *All of you, his family and loved ones, convey the love and guidance Mr. Issac Gilchrist gave to all of you. He was a great man who leaves the best kind of legacy, a legacy of love. May God continue His blessings.*

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**Marvin & Sharon Pettway** - January 14, 2021 at 07:15 AM

DB

“ *Praying for the beloved Gilchrist family. You are loved and admired by me and your Tabernacle Missionary Church Family. Pops will be missed and always remembered as the kind & gentle saint who loved his family. ❤️🙏 Sister Jackie Birotte 🙏❤️*

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**Deaconess Jackie Birotte** - January 13, 2021 at 11:31 PM

GR

“ *Gwen Richmond lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



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**Gwen Richmond** - January 13, 2021 at 11:17 PM

BD

*I and my family want to extend our condolences to the Gilchrist family. Mr. Gilchrist served on the usher board along side my mother, and our families "grew up" in Tabernacle. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all. God bless.*

*Byron C. Douglas*

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**Byron C. Douglas** - January 14, 2021 at 11:30 AM

YB

“*From Tony and Youvonnie Brown - Our sincere condolences to the Gilchrist family. “Pops” was truly a blessed man who loved his family and whose family truly loved him. The Lord blessed him with a “reasonable portion of health and strength” every day of his life and he was in his “right mind” until the Lord called him to his rest. I know that your hearts are sad and rejoicing in concert praising God for his grace and mercy. You are in our prayers and know that we truly love you all and will continue praying for you*



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**Youvonnie Brown** - January 13, 2021 at 11:13 PM

GC

“*Sending prayers and love to the Gilchrist Family during this difficult time.*

*Arthur and Gloria Chapman*



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**gloria chapman** - January 13, 2021 at 09:59 PM

VD

“ Virginia Donaldson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist



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Virginia Donaldson - January 13, 2021 at 08:56 PM

MC

“ Ike Help Me get into Chrysler Corporation  
July 1974 Right out of High School I was Employed at Warren Truck  
in the Paint Dept  
Being Young and Not to Smart I lost my Job in March of 76. Mad  
and not understanding who I Work for (UAW) I Left Detroit and  
when into the Army. Between my determination and God Will I got  
back to Chrysler and Now Retired.. If not for Ike his Sense his Talk  
and Words of Wisdom...Made me Realize I could Become Someone  
in my Life... Ike.. Yes You Were The "Man"

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Michael Coleman - January 13, 2021 at 06:09 PM

LA

“ To the Gilchrist family,

*Although no words can really help to ease the loss you bear, please  
know that you are very close in every thought and prayer.*

*God Bless You!*

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Linda Anthony - January 13, 2021 at 03:39 PM

LA

“ *Linda Anthony lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



Linda Anthony - January 13, 2021 at 02:50 PM

VA

“ *Vivian Allison lit a candle in memory of Mr. Isaac Gilchrist*



Vivian Allison - January 13, 2021 at 02:37 PM

V(

*Thank You Uncle Isaac for the precious memories We will miss you Dearly. Now this time have come along for you to go to your heavenly Home to see your sisters and brothers. You will forever and ever Stay in our hearts. 🕊️🙏🥲🙏🕊️*

Vivian Davis (neice) - January 14, 2021 at 03:33 AM

FA

“ *To the family of the man whom I and countless others admired, respected and loved, thanks for your faithfulness to him. Thank you for being great and beloved people in your own right. Praying God's comfort and blessings upon you in this trying time.*  
*Franklin Adams, TMBC Group #18*

Franklin Adams - January 13, 2021 at 12:31 PM

SR

*Condolences to you all a life well lived. You are in my thoughts and prayers 🙏.*

**Shelia Ragland** - January 13, 2021 at 04:52 PM

SB

*To my Mac-brother. My sincere condolences to you, Yvonne and your entire family. May God strengthen you during this time. After reading your dad's obit, it's amazing how much our families have in common. God bless*

**Sheila Bryant** - January 13, 2021 at 10:18 PM

PP

*Sharing in your loss for your father. with deepest sympathy. Keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers.  
May God comfort your hearts and may His peace be upon you.  
Love and Peace  
Sister Patti Powell and Family*

**Patti Powell** - January 13, 2021 at 10:25 PM

BW

*My heartfelt sympathy to the Gilchrist family. I feel privileged to have met and been in the company of "Pops". Our loss is heavens gain. He left many wonderful memories for you all to cherish. God has spoken. My love to all.*

**Barbara Wynder** - January 13, 2021 at 11:55 PM

J-

*Precious Memories of our Dear "Ike!" Some of the Best black eye Peas on the planet, fresh fried fish on the deck and super painter extra ordinaire! Thank you for the many rides to and from "TAB!"  
Amos, Snodgrass and Wright families ❤️🙏*

**Jacqueline EAmos -Wright -Snodgrass** - January 14, 2021 at 10:48 AM