



Mr. Merrill Jerome Willis

July 29, 1949 - August 3, 2022

In Loving Memory Of

On July 29, 1949, a Beautiful Friday morning at 9:00 A.M. in Detroit, Michigan, Merrill Jerome Willis was the sixth child of 13 children born to the union of the late Reverend David Daniel and Daisy Lee Willis. Three brothers, David, Terry, and Kenneth and one sister Marcella, all preceded him in death. Merrill, affectionately called Mel, was reared in a Christian home and was instilled with strong Christian values Merrill along with his twin sister Sherrill accepted Christ at the age of 9, and was baptized by the late Pastor Reverend John Johnson Sr. at the Greater Middle Baptist Church of Ferndale, Michigan.

Merrill attended and graduated from Southeastern High School where he played the clarinet in the spring and Christmas concerts. Merrill would travel on Sundays with his father and his sisters Marcie, Sherrill, and Gail , also known as (The Willis Singers), singing praises to their God in acapella before their father would preach the word. Those were very precious times for the family being able to travel with their dad and serve their God at the same time.

Merrill was employed for Chrysler Corporation for 30 years as a paint inspector, and was given the nickname Hollering Willie for his loud, deep toned voice. He retired in December 1997.

Mel had many hobbies which were fishing baseball and bowling but most of all

his favorite was watching the Lions on Sunday while cooking wild game food.

Mel rededicated his life to Christ and became a member of the Kadesh Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Gregory L Foster Sr. where he served on the senior Usher board and sang in the male chorus.

Mel was joined in holy matrimony with Martha for 19 years of a 40-year relationship of happiness where he served as a great father figure to her two children and a favorite uncle to her niece Jennifer who he preceded in death by just four days.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Cemetery

11851 Van Dyke Ave.
Detroit, MI 48234

Previous Events

Family Hour/Funeral

Saturday, Aug. **20**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kadesh Full Gospel Baptist Church
20361 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48228

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Merrill Jerome Willis*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *We are saddened to learn about your family loss. Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Thinking of you all.*

Evans family - August 25, 2022 at 05:37 PM