

Celebrating The Life of
William Junius Patterson, Sr.

Sunrise
May 3, 1917

Sunset
November 13, 2016



Saturday, November 19, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

11 Ashland Avenue
East Orange, New Jersey

Rev. Michael Jordan, Pastor
Rev. Earl Thurmond, Eulogist
Mr. Emory Lee, Organist

Obituary

William Junius Patterson was born on May 3, 1917 in Layland, West Virginia to the Reverend Daniel Albert Patterson and Elnora Glenna Lomax Watts-Patterson.

Billy was educated in West Virginia. Like most men in the region, he left school early and his first job was in the coal mines.

He married 16 year old Alice Ruth Eubanks on January 26, 1943, in a ceremony officiated by his father.

He left for basic training the next day. He was drafted into the military and served as a Corporal in the Air Corps in Leyte, Philippine Islands with the 48th Aviation Squadron in World War II until December 1944.

Ruth, as she is known to the family, finished high school and moved to East Orange NJ with sisters Frances Murphy and Sallie Eubanks Kidd in 1944. Bill joined her there in 1945.

They were married for 73 years until his death.

Four children were born of their union: Elnora Ruth (1946), Yvonne Dolores (Bunnie) (1947); William J Patterson Jr. (Butch) (1949); and Daniel Harold (Danny) (1950).

The Pattersons lived in East Orange from 1943-1968 when they moved to Orange, NJ. In 2004, they moved to nearby Irvington, NJ.

Billy joined Mount Olive Baptist Church in East Orange in 1946 on his Christian experience. He was a Trustee, served on the Usher Board, and sang with the Men's Chorus. His faith reflected in his words and actions. He didn't drink, smoke, or cuss. Because of his fair skin and green eyes, people often mistook him as Caucasian. Opportunities to "pass" presented themselves several times in his life – but he never took them. He immediately corrected anyone who confused him for White, and proclaimed his heritage gently but firmly. He instilled that same pride in the five (5) generations who have succeeded him. Billy had a magical bond with all his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Bill worked for Monroe Lathing Co. in Orange from 1946-1958 when he joined the Ford Motor Company in Mahwah, NJ. He retired from Ford as a Quality Control Inspector. Bill was also a self-taught electrician and general handyman. He continued doing electrical work well into his 90's. He also remained a loyal Ford employee and customer to the end! He drove his Ford until he was 97, chauffeuring family and friends wherever they needed to go and grandly jingling his keys.

Until his death on November 13, 2016, Billy was the only living grandson of Washington and Mary Scott Lomax, his mother's parents. Washington and Mary Lomax have over 5000 documented descendants, and three (3) books written about their legacy. He enjoyed being head of the Lomax Branch of the clan known as "Lee-Watts-Patterson". They meet annually all over the US. His nieces, nephews and cousins knew that Uncle Billy/Cousin William would make his regular phone calls to keep the family in touch. To him, family was love personified.

He would say "I like to call everyone to see if they are healthy and doing okay in this economy. I don't ask for anything except to keep in touch, and that keeps me going". He loved his family and they knew it. The family was planning his 100th birthday celebration when he died at 99.5 years and 10 days old. The family circle kept him going!

Bill loved cowboys, wrestling, Coca Cola, buttermilk and cornbread, and pinto beans. His favorite actor was John Wayne. His favorite singer was Ray Charles. Bill had a beautiful tenor singing voice, and he taught himself to play guitar. Family gatherings always included singing. He also loved photography and started taking "selfies" in the bathroom mirror long before the trend was ever heard of.

He leaves to mourn his transition his beloved wife of 73 years, Alice Ruth Patterson; cherished daughter, Yvonne (Bunnie) Davis and son, Daniel H. Patterson, all of Irvington NJ; grandchildren, Keisha Norman (Kason), of Newark, NJ; Shannon Davis Vaught and Danielle Patterson of Florida; Tracye White and Horace "Benji" Brown of New Jersey; and Sarah Morgan (David) of Cary, NC; forty-seven (47) adored great-grandchildren, including Specialist Elijah Royster, US Army, Fort Gordon, GA; three (3) great great grandsons; and one goddaughter, Ericka Currie-Fielding.

He was predeceased by his parents, Daniel and Elnora Patterson; daughter, Elnora Ruth Patterson (1946); son, William Patterson Jr (2014); brothers, Daniel A Patterson, James Watts, and Eugene Watts; sisters, Susie Patterson, Annie Patterson, Emily Lee, Estelle Reynolds, Cassie Chambers, and Maisie Allen; and beloved son-in-law, Royce Davis.

He is survived by many, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

God blessed William Patterson, Sr. with longevity and abundance. Among his last words was "Jesus is here to take me home". AMEN! Hallelujah!

Order of Service

Seating of Family

Hymn of Comfort..... "Blessed Assurance"

Prayer of Comfort Reverend Michael J. Jordan

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Selection Mr. Emory Lee

Remarks..... (2 minutes please)

Acknowledgements & Resolutions

Obituary..... (In Silence)

Selection Mr. Emory Lee

Eulogy Reverend Earl Thurmond

Benediction

Committal

Recessional

Clergy & Family

A repast will immediately follow the service at Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

William Patterson, Sr. will be laid to final rest at the Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



Acknowledgements and Thanks:

The family wishes to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy.
We know you share our loss.

We also want to acknowledge Reverends Michael Jordan, Earl Thurmond, and Jeffrey Garland for their spiritual support; the Mount Olive Baptist Church for wrapping their arms around us; the VA Hospital in East Orange for their long term care; and the Beth Israel EMT's for their gentle care and compassion in our loved one's final moments. A very special mention for Irvington Police Officer M. Clarke for his empathetic professionalism towards a fellow Veteran and his family.

Finally, we thank the staff of Woody's for making this difficult time bearable, and for embracing us as family. We love you all! God bless!

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

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