

Celebrating the Life Of
Eugene "Gene" Williams

Sunrise: March 19, 1949 Sunset: March 1, 2017



Saturday, March 11, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ 07112

Traci Spencer-Skinner, Pastor/Eulogist

Obituary

Eugene “Gene” Williams, was born at Martland Hospital in Newark, NJ on March 19, 1949 to Raymond and Celeste Williams. Eugene’s parents and wife, Deborah preceded him in death. He was the third eldest of 6 children.

Gene was a long time resident of Newark and Irvington, NJ before moving to Union, NJ. He attended South 8th Street Grammar School as a child and graduated from Newark Technical High School in 1967. After high school he attended Lincoln Technical Institute studying mechanical drafting. He had an interesting employment history such as driving taxicabs part-time, which he always said afforded him a great sense of direction and driving abilities and working as a salesperson in a men’s clothing store which explained his fashion style. He finally found a place he enjoyed working, ITT Corporation of Clifton, NJ where he worked over 30 years as an Electrical Technician and proudly retired in 2013, a place where he found a special home amongst very special friends and co-workers serving as a model employee and union representative.

Gene was always a very quiet child. He played all sports football, basketball and his favorite baseball. Gene had a paper route at age 12 he was up, out and delivering at 3 a.m. He had amazing artistic talent often drew and colored pictures. Gene was responsible for walking his younger sisters to and from school. He was often labeled as “cautious” but he explained he always remembered his father’s life advice “stay steady and slow.” Gene was an avid bowler and enjoyed this pastime with family and friends and bowled on several leagues with his sons at Hy-Way Bowl. He loved and cherished his daughter who often ran errands with him and drove him crazy; there wasn’t anything that he would not do for her. He enjoyed music and was a member of a singing group “The Entrees of Soul” which he formed with several of his friends. The group sang Doo-wop on corners and in clubs. He loved listening to music from the 60’s and 70’s. Gene was a passionate New York Giants, New York Knicks and New York Mets fan and loved his annual summer trips to Wildwood, NJ, but most of all enjoyed spending time with his family.

Gene was affectionately called Pop-Pop by his cherished 8 grandchildren. He loved watching them grow up and talking to them on the phone. They were the joy of his life. He was extremely family-oriented and most days you might see him with his “Road Dog” and brother, Fred hanging out, grabbing lunch and talking sports. Distance separated him and his sister, Lovie but when they got together it was like no time had passed. He had daily hour-long chats on the phone with his sister, Dot discussing memories, family, life and their grandchildren. Every week on Thursdays he drove his sister Cat to visit their sister Odessa to check on her and make sure she was ready for church on Sunday. Cat his sister and friend, shared the good and the bad with each other every day. He had special friendships with each of his siblings whom he loved dearly.

Eugene leaves to cherish his memory, three children; Eugene Bland, Carnell Bland and Rhomonda Bland; one daughter-in-law, Carla Atkins-Bland, eight grandchildren; Isaiah Jones, Carnell Dublin, Ciera Atkins- Bland, Alicia Atkins-Bland, Hope Atkins-Bland, Jayda Bland, Ericka Atkins and Ella Garrett; his siblings Lovie “Beana” Grundy, Fredric “Fred” Williams, Odessa “Frankie” Williams, Dorothy “Dot” Clyburn and Catherine “Cat” Williams-Whitley, and special friend; Beverly Miller. His nieces and nephews; Celestine Davis, Pete Davis, Ricky Davis, Davonne Phillips (Duane), Tawana Clyburn (Kanisha), Zalonda Arrington (Tony), La-Tonya Johnson (Radney), Mark Selby, Amber Grundy, Monoika Grundy, Tiffany Selby, Falcia Bland (Pete), Darnell Bland, Al-Mustafa Baldwin and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was more than just an uncle to many of his nieces and nephews who loved him like a dad. He will be remembered as a great father, brother, uncle, grandfather and a cherished friend. He touched the hearts of many and was a true blessing to all who knew him and will be truly missed but never forgotten. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016.

Order of Service

Pastor Traci Spencer-Skinner, Officiating

Processional

Prayer of Comfort

Reading of the Word

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - Revelation 21: 4

“A Letter to My Father”.....Eugene Bland

Selection.....Tawana Clyburn

Obituary and Acknowledgements.....Zalonda Arrington

Reflections.....Family

Eulogy.....Pastor Traci Spencer-Skinner

Final Viewing

Recessional

INTERMENT (PRIVATE)

Rosedale Cemetery
Orange, New Jersey

Repast

Prince Hall Masonic Lodge
188 Irvine Turner Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07112

Acknowledgement

Thank You to All

The family of Eugene Williams wishes to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.



“A Letter to My Father”

Dad, I write these words, not to say goodbye, but to say thanks. Thanks for stepping into the responsible person I've known as Dad all these years. Thanks for the wisdom you've imparted to me through discipline and correction. Thanks for your faithfulness as a father, always being supportive even when we got ourselves into all sorts of trouble. Thanks Dad for always stepping up into our lives and never stepping down from them. We're never afforded the ability to choose who we would want as our earthly father, but thanks be to God. He always knows who would be the best Dad for us. Dad, you were always a strong example of what a man looked like, by your steady and reliable actions. Dad, you've constantly displayed what character was all about. Dad, you never got caught up in worldly things, yet you always told us to put in order the things that you can control and that would be preparation for the bigger things in life. To those who knew you Dad, I'm sure many people may say many things about who you were to them. I'm sure most would talk of how caring, honest and stubborn you were right up to the end. These things were only a shell of who you were in whole. The talks we shared over the last few years help me to see the deeper side of you, as it helped me to understand from which I am made of. In those conversations, I was able to get a glimpse of the more spiritual Dad. I was able to discern the things that brought you joy, sorrow and some of the things you feared the most. I've learned that the most important things in this world to you were your children, grandchildren and family. All who knew you clearly saw that in your eyes as well as your actions. Thanks Dad, for stretching yourself for all of us. Today we can say without a doubt, that we are better in many ways to have come to know you as Pop-Pop, a father, a brother, an uncle, cousin or a good friend. Dad, I wrote these words not to say goodbye, but to say I love you and I look forward to seeing you again in heavenly places. Rest in peace Pops,

Forever your sons and daughter, Gene, Cory and Monda

Professional Services Provided By

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