

Honoring The Life of
Willie Lee Clark

Sunrise
March 8, 1933

Sunset
June 29, 2017



Friday, July 7, 2017- 11:00 a.m.

Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church

709 Clinton Avenue

Newark, New Jersey 07108

Rev. Dr. Milton Biggham, Officiating

Obituary

Willie Lee Clark, the son of the late Jack and Susie (Phillips) Clark, was born on March 8, 1933 in Gaffney, South Carolina. Willie entered eternal rest on June 29, 2017 at home in East Orange, New Jersey.

Willie was affectionately known as “Boss” to family and “Mr. Willie” to friends.

He left Gaffney, S.C., at 14 years old, to live with an older sister in Newark. As one of 10 siblings, he had every job that you can think of in his life. He made cheese and worked in a bakery. He repaired machinery at a copper company and was a short order cook at a Newark restaurant. At one point, he was a welder at a shipping yard and sold vegetables and other wares from a horse-drawn wagon that he rented.

As a young adult, Willie served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. After service, he met and married the late Shirley Clark and together raised three sons, Ricky, Willie Jr. and Andrew, and one daughter, Cynthia. In 1975, Willie met his current wife Viola “Ann” and they married in 1981. He raised four step-children and three grandchildren, providing a stable home for a host of other relatives along the way.

After service in the Army, Willie went on to work as a contractor with Raymond Bros. Construction of Englishtown, NJ for almost 30 years and then managed his own contracting business for another 20 years in New Jersey. After retirement, he volunteered his time and creative talents as an Assistant Foreman for Habitat for Humanity Greater Newark for 18 years helping Habitat build over 80 homes in Newark, Irvington and West Orange. “Mr. Willie” worked with Habitat until the age 84.

He had an incredible work ethic. As a construction contractor, he built homes, renovated kitchens and baths, applied new floorings, and tarred roofs. There was never a job too big or too small. He often morphed into car mechanic mode – changing parts, brake pads, mufflers, bumpers, you name it. If it had instructions, he would tackle it.

Willie was a devoted member of the Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church of Newark NJ. He enjoyed bible studies and reading scriptures with his sisters.

Willie is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Viola Ann Armstrong-Owens of 36 years. He is survived by his sons, Ricky (Valerie) Clark Sr., Willie Clark Jr. and Andrew Clark, and his daughter, Cynthia Clark Washington; his step-children, Addison Eugene (Beverly) Owens, Stacey (Rhonda) Owens, and Annette Christine Owens; and 23 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 2 great great-grandchildren. He was especially proud of his grandson, Justin Alexander Owens, whom he raised. He is also survived by 3 of 9 siblings, Mae S. Davis, Victoria Young, and Rosa Rich.

Willie will be remembered by his family and friends as a loving, generous, and quiet force of goodness. And when meeting Willie anyone could see just how much his family, especially grandchildren and great-grandchildren, truly meant to him. He touched so many people through Habitat for Humanity Greater Newark and will be missed.

Order of Service

Organist.....Bro. James Perry

Hymn of Comfort.....“The Lord is Blessing Me Right Now”

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Keith Carey

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.....Justin Owens

New Testament: John 14:1-3, 27.....Linda McCallum

Solo.....Tyrone Dunlap

Obituary.....Lorayne McKay

Acknowledgements.....Robert Owens

Remarks.....Family and Friends.....Two Minutes Please

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Milton Biggham
Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church
Newark, New Jersey

Recessional.....Clergy & Family

Interment

*Rosedale Cemetery
Orange, New Jersey*

Repast

Immediately following the interment family and friends are invited for a repast in the church fellowship hall.

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when day is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve
To dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave behind,
When the day is done.

-Helen Lowrie Marshall

Pallbearers

Justin Owens, grandson	Ricky Clark Jr., grandson
Stacey Owens, son	Andrew Clark, son
Robert Owens, grandson	Duane Davis Sr., nephew
Tyrone Smith, nephew	Stanley Davis Jr., nephew

Acknowledgement

We cannot adequately express our appreciation to the many family and friends for the countless acts of kindness during this time of bereavement. Your words have been heard, your prayers have been felt, and your deeds have most gratefully been noted and we thank you. We would also like to personally thank Rev. Milton L. Biggham, Mr. James Perry and the Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church family.

May God bless you all.

The Family

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