

*Celebrating The Life of*

*William "Bill" S. Lawton, Jr.*



*Sunrise*  
*November 17, 1927*

*Sunset*  
*August 12, 2017*

*Saturday, August 19, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.*

**CARNIE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOME**  
256 Rosa Parks Blvd. • Paterson, New Jersey  
*Rev. Princess Curry, Officiating*  
*J.E. Williams, Organist*

## *Reflections of Life*

On the afternoon of August 12, 2017 Bill passed away peacefully of natural causes. Bill was being visited and comforted by family members at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey at the time of his passing. Bill was 89 years old.

Bill was born on November 17, 1927, in the farming community of Sylvania, Georgia. He was second oldest child and eldest son of William Sr. and Clara (nee' Striggles) Lawton. While growing up, Bill was called "Willie" by his immediate family.

From early on, Bill possessed a competitive spirit and strong work ethic. As a child he was a frequent participant of local farming contests, often beating out older and even adult contestants. Bill prided himself on striving to be the best at his endeavors, thus, he excelled in sports and academics. While barely in his teens he was accepted into and attended Tuskegee University at the tender age of 15. After a year at Tuskegee, Bill yearned for more opportunity than the segregated South could offer and migrated to Passaic, New Jersey at the age of 19.

Employment was plentiful in North Jersey back then and Bill had little trouble finding work and establishing himself. Eventually, he came to work at United States Rubber Company (also known as UniRoyal) where his work ethic and attention to detail quickly allowed him to move up the ranks of management.

In 1952, Bill was drafted into the United States Marine Corps to serve his country during the Korean War. After 2 years of service, Bill was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps and awarded the U.S. Defense Medal.

Bill, then, settled in Paterson, New Jersey where he lived for over 50 years. During this time, Bill earned a living as a Class A auto technician and owned his own shop in Paterson for several years. After the closing of his shop, Bill continued to work as a mechanic until his retirement in 1994.

Bill grew up in a large family and was preceded in death by his 6 siblings. On December 11, 1976 he was joined in holy matrimony to Rene Elizabeth Ames. Bill and Rene enjoy more than 40 years of marital bliss until his passing.

Bill was an avid sports enthusiast and had a passion for gardening. His favorite sports included baseball, basketball, football, and boxing. Bill was an enormous fan of Bill Russell and the Boston Celtics, Jim Brown, Jackie Robinson and Sugar Ray Robinson. Bill revelled in his ability to recall sports facts and poignant moments in sports history.

Bill was considered quite the sage amongst friends and family. His outgoing and gregarious nature allowed him to expand with anyone on a myriad of topics from sports to religion and politics. But it was

Bill's infectious smile, strong personality and entertaining stories regarding his life experience that compelled others to listen. Those who were privy to his life lessons left feeling just a little wiser.

Bill leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife Rene, two sons; Shawn and Eric, both of Paterson; three daughters, Mrs. Marcia DuPree of Riverdale, GA, Mrs. Laurie Martin of Bolingbrook, IL, and Mrs. Michelle Wise of Bloomfield, CT; daughter-in-law Jamie; sons-in-law Howard DuPree and Drew Martin, and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

# *Order of Service*

Prelude

Processional

Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Acknowledgements & Remarks

Reflections of Life

Selection

Words of Comfort

Recessional

## **Interment**

Cedar Lawn Cemetery

Paterson, New Jersey

## *Don't Cry For Me*

*Do not cry for me, for I have lived  
my life to the extent of time which  
God has granted me.*

*Do not cry for me, for I have walked a long way in  
my lifetime, I have moved on to fulfill my destiny.*

*Do not cry for me, for I am not lost,  
I am home where I am free.*

*When you think of my passing,  
picture my face in your mind  
and reminisce of the times*

*that have passed be it good or bad;  
Do not cry for me for I am with God,  
and my life has just begun.*

### *Acknowledgement*

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!

Professional Services Provided By

**CARNE P. BRAGG FUNERAL HOMES, INC.**

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