

# - We'll Always Love You, Dad -

Each day you strived to live,  
Your body too weak to be.  
Your love will live forever,  
Since your heart has set you free.  
Now you walk so bravely,  
You feel the pain no more.  
Angel's have come to guide you  
And bring you to heaven's door.  
Memories we hold so dearly,  
You're smile, warmed our hearts  
And through our lives you live,  
You've touched so many parts.  
Hard days may be before us,  
It's all part of the plan.  
Why you left so soon,  
We may never understand.  
You'll be alone no longer,  
And you'd tell us, "Don't be sad."  
Please believe you were no burden  
We'll always love you, Dad!  
Our lives have changed forever,  
Since the day you passed away.  
In Heaven you'll be waiting,  
To meet us again some day.

Your Children

# - To Our Grandpa -

So, heaven has received another angel,  
The night sky another star,  
Your life has become a loving memory,  
We know you will never be far.  
We know you are watching over us,  
As our life goes on,  
We will treasure the memories we have of you,  
We can't believe you're gone.  
You were really one in a million,  
A cut above the rest,  
All that knew you would agree,  
You simply were the best.

The Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

# HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR

## - Pallbearers - Family and Friends

## - Flower Bearers - Family and Friends

## - Interment -

Bethel #2 Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery  
1785 Lee Road 29  
Opelika, AL 36804

## - Acknowledgment -

The family of the late Reverend Willie L. Harper, Jr. acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers and words of comfort extended to us during our time of bereavement. A special thank you goes out to Compassus Hospice and the nurses and staff at the Bethany House in Auburn, Alabama. May God bless you all.

### IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.



Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

SUNRISE: MAY 29, 1951

SUNSET: FEBRUARY 14, 2021

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021  
12:00 O'clock Noon

BETHEL #2 MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
CEMETERY  
1785 Lee Road 29 • Opelika, AL 36804

PASTOR CURTIS L. CARLISLE, OFFICIATING



Reverend  
Willie Lee Harper, Jr.  
May The Work I've Done Speak For Me

# *- The Obituary -*

Reverend Willie Lee Harper, Jr., son of the late Mr. Willie L. and Mrs. Gertrude Torrence Harper, Sr., was born May 29, 1951 in Opelika (Beauregard Community), Alabama.

Willie graduated from Sanford High School in 1970. He joined Bethel No. 2 Missionary Baptist Church at the early age of 14. He participated in Sunday School and BTU. He served on the Deacon Board for 25 years and many years as Assistant Chairman.

He accepted the call of ministry in 2002 and served as Pastor of Ridge Grove Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama for seven years. Willie served in the community for eighteen years starting a legacy of Entrepreneurship for his family, known as Harper's Septic Service in Opelika, Alabama. He was a truck driver for Southern Maid for twenty-one years in Columbus, Georgia and a custodian at Sanford Middle School for nineteen years.

On Sunday, February 14, 2021 he departed this life to go to his eternal home in Glory at the Bethany House in Auburn, Alabama surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Marenda S. Gardner; brothers, Holsey Lee Harper, Eugene (Elizabeth) Harper and Andrew Harper and one sister, Mary Johnson.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife of 50 years, Annie Rebecca Harper of Opelika, AL; three sons, Tony A. Harper, Anthony D. Gardner and Ramone L. Gardner, all of Opelika, AL; two daughters, Deniese (Keith) Hunter and Kimberly Harper, both of Opelika, AL; four sisters, Annie L. Torbert, Annie (Charlie) Scott, Alice (Eugene) Jones and Fannie Louise (Jeffery) Hunter, all of Opelika, AL; four sisters-in-law, Letha Harper, Alice (Elmer) Hunter, Julia Whatley, all of Opelika, AL and Josephine Anderson of Indianapolis, IN; six brothers-in-law, James Johnson, Charlie G. Whatley, Curtis L. Whatley, Melvin Whatley, all of Opelika, AL, Willie G. (Lillie) Whatley of Tuskegee, AL and William H. Whatley of Indianapolis, IN; special cousin, Ezellous (Nutree) Frazier of Duluth, GA; ten grandchildren who lost their "Paw Paw" and a host of great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



# *- The Order of Service -*

## Scripture Reading:

Old Testament.....Bishop Kenneth L. Carter, Sr.  
New Testament .....Reverend Larry Patterson

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor J.C. Winters

Musical Selection .....Ramon Harris

## Expressions

Chasidy Harper & Ebony Harper, Granddaughters

Words of Encouragement .....Pastor J.C. Winters

Musical Selection .....Reverend Billy Drakes

Eulogy .....Pastor Curtis L. Carlisle

## Committal

## Benediction

# *-A Very Special Husband-*

When God was making husbands as far as I can see.  
He made a special soulmate especially for me.

He made a perfect gentleman, compassionate and kind.  
With more love and affection that you could ever wish to find.  
He gave me my darling husband with a heart of solid gold.  
He gave me wonderful memories only my heart can hold.  
He was someone I could talk to that no one could replace.  
He was someone I could laugh with 'til tears ran down my face.

Next time we meet will be at heaven's door.

When I see you standing there, I won't cry anymore.  
I will put my arms around you and kiss your smiling face.  
Then the pieces of my broken heart will fall back into place.  
Your loving wife, Annie