

# Order of Service

Prelude.....Jarvis Wilson, Musician  
“ I Love the Lord”

Processional.....Clergy, Family & Friends

Solo..... A. London Arrington  
“In the Garden”

Prayer .....Reverend Walter Kimbrough

Scripture Readings .....Michael Lockhart  
Old Testament ..... *Isaiah 41:10*  
New Testament ..... *John 14:27*

Reflections (two minutes please)  
Grandchildren.....Taharqa Willingham  
Kamilah Willingham  
Kylie Stanback

Obituary (read silently)  
Musical Medley .....Jarvis Wilson, Musician  
“How Great Thou Art”  
“It is Well With My Soul”  
“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Solo.....Zaria Hall  
“Through the Storm”

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Walter Kimbrough

Video Presentation.....Willie A. Watkins Staff  
Created by: Kylie Stanback

Acknowledgements .....Willie A. Watkins Staff

Recessional .....Ben Harper  
“Waiting on an Angel”

## Interment

Westview Cemetery  
1680 Westview Drive SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310



## Pallbearers

Anthony Hillman  
Michael Lockhart  
Gary McConnell Jr.  
Korey Stevens  
Alfred Willingham  
Anthony Willingham  
Jimmy Willingham  
Michael Willingham

## Flower Bearers

Lorene Henderson  
Candace Lewis  
Elena Lockhart

## Acknowledgements

The family of Roosevelt Willingham will forever be grateful for the extended love and expressions during this difficult time of loss. We thank you sincerely for your love and compassion. May God bless each of you.



Historic West End Chapel  
1003 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30310  
404-758-1731

Douglasville Chapel  
8312 Dallas Hwy.  
Douglasville, GA 30134  
770-489-6751

Lithonia Chapel  
5843 Redan Road  
Lithonia, GA 30058  
770-482-2376

Carrollton Chapel  
602 Newnan Rd.  
Carrollton, GA 30117  
770-836-0044

Riverdale Chapel  
6580 Church St.  
Riverdale, GA 30274  
770-909-8800

[www.williewatkins.com](http://www.williewatkins.com)



A Celebration of Life for

# Roosevelt Willingham



July 8, 1934 - February 9, 2021

Wednesday, February 11, 2021  
11:00 A.M.

## Willie A. Watkins

Historic West End Chapel  
1003 Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310

Reverend Walter Kimbrough, Officiating

# Obituary

Roosevelt Willingham, affectionately known as “Blue”, was born in Comer, GA on July 8th, 1934 to the late Doc and Jimmie Willingham. He was the 6th child of 8: Mable, Calvin, Johnny, Sue, Onnie, Roosevelt, Carey and Shirley.

Roosevelt was a proud graduate of the well known Washington High School in Atlanta, GA. He later joined the Air Force and while stationed in California, he met his first wife, Ms. Lenore Henderson in Santa Barbara, CA. From that union, Roosevelt Jr. (Daniel or Danny) was born on May 27th, 1955. They later separated, but continued to co-parent together.

After proudly serving his country in the military for several years, Roosevelt transitioned into the field of construction where he excelled in hardwood flooring and bathroom tile installation. However, he was compelled by an underlying passion to own and run his own business.

His path to entrepreneurship started by moving to Chicago with his sister, Shirley to attend Auto Mechanic School. Upon his return to Atlanta, he partnered up with his brother, Calvin Willingham and friend, Willie James Reid. They cooperatively opened Willingham and Reid, a Gulf full service station in the Westend. That location had great success and they eventually opened another location on South Gordon Street. Thinking of expanding his opportunities and success, Roosevelt attended McDonald’s University in hopes of following in his brother-in-law’s footsteps of owning and operating a McDonald’s franchise. After gaining valuable knowledge and insight in that industry, Roosevelt came to the realization that his affinity for mechanics and cars far outweighed that of being in the fast-food industry, so he focused on the success of the existing businesses. Willingham and Reid filling station later evolved into a self service convenient store later named Willingham’s and is now leased as a Circle K. The second location operated for two years before it was sold.

In 1964, he met the love of his life Lillian Ruth Mapp. They later married. In that union a second child was born, Nicole Willingham on June 18th, 1972.

Family and business was a priority for Roosevelt. Spending time with his children and making sure they had the best opportunities in life was very important to him. While growing up he taught both his children the understanding of responsibility and hard work. He instilled strong business skills early having them work with him in the business as teenagers, which lead them both to their own successful business ownership. That same love rolled over to many of his nieces and nephews. Many of them viewed him like a second dad and the favorite uncle.

Those who knew him knew he had a passion for spit clean classic cars of all models and colors. He also loved to fish. When he wasn’t on the lake with his brother Carey or good friend Walt, he would sit in the basement and play his old records singing all his favorite songs. Travel and family vacations were also a favorite. A family van was purchased for long road trips and mapped out sight seeing tours. Roosevelt was also well known for his wonderful sense of humor. Whenever around friends and family he loved to tell his latest jokes. Some of his favorite conversations with his son, Danny and sister, Shirley was the exchange back and forth of a most recent joke they had heard.

Roosevelt was a loving, devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife Lillian; children: son, Roosevelt Jr. (Daniel) and daughter, Nicole Willingham Stanback; grandchildren: Taharqa Willingham, Kamilah Willingham Peterson (Cody Peterson), and Kylie Stanback; great-grandchildren: Remy Peterson and Micah Peterson; sister, Shirley Petty; brother; Kary Willingham (Karen Willingham); and he also leaves a host of beloved nieces, nephews, family, and friends.



## Memories of Dad

We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds.  
The days we do not think of you are very hard to find.  
Each morning when we awake, we know that you are gone.  
And no one knows the heartache as we try to carry on.  
Our hearts still ache with sadness and secret tears still flow.  
What it meant to lose you no one will ever know.  
Our thoughts are always with you, your place no one can fill.  
In life we loved you dearly; in death we love you still.  
There will always be a heartache, and often a silent tear.  
But always a precious memory of the days when you were here.  
If tears would make a staircase, and heartaches make a lane,  
We’d walk the path to heaven and bring you home again.  
We hold you close within our hearts; and there you will remain,  
To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.  
Our family chain is broken now, and nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.