



Willie Melvin Locke

November 13, 1951 - March 5, 2024

Willie Melvin Locke, 72, of Chattanooga, passed away Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in Andrea's Personal Care Home. He was a 1970 graduate of Marshall High School, Evergreen, AL. He received his B.S. degree in Industrial Arts from Alabama A&M University in 1975. Willie served proudly in the United States Naval Reserves with over 20 years of service. He volunteered doing funeral detail for military funerals in Chattanooga, Northern Georgia and Alabama. He was a member of Second Missionary Baptist Church where he was a member of Club Ministry #7, Family Ministry #2, and an honorary member of the culinary ministry where he enjoyed being spoiled and fed by some of the ladies on the committee, especially Margaret, Sandra, Pecola and Tuesday. He was a former member of the PTA/PTSO at Bess T. Shepherd Elementary School, Tyner Middle, and Tyner Academy. Willie was also a Mason and Shriner as well as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Willie was preceded in death by his mother, Minnie L. Locke; sisters, Wilma Johnson, Rosa Miller, Rachael Locke and Elise Mae Black; brothers, Edward Locke and Larry Locke; niece Phyllis Johnson Smith. Survivors include his loving wife of 47 years, Cheryl W. Locke; son, Brian Locke (Shaquanta); daughter, Lindsey Locke(Karlos Ward), both of Chattanooga, TN; five grandchildren, Brian, Jason, Jaxson, Skyler and Grayson; sisters, Mary Locke of Evergreen, AL, Ida Crooks of Pensacola, FL, Mavis Booker and Martha Booker (West), both of Evergreen, AL; brother, Willie Riley Holder of Evergreen, AL; sister-in-law, Lorreta Vinson (Tom), Elizabeth Ragland, Patricia Washington-Ruff

(Reginald), Shanta Morrison (Bruce), Sheila Johnson (Cedric), brothers -in-law, Henry Washington (Minnie), Mac Washington (Michelle), and Kimberlye Locke; special relatives, Diane Fair, Anthony Noguera, LaToyia Walker, Vera Locke, and Sarah North; like-a-mother, Marie Bailey and Annie B. Moon, adopted sister, Barabara Ann Roberts; birthday buddy Sharon Kennard; special friends, Jimmy Tarver, Eddie Penny, Ivan Dunton and Kenneth Riley; Spiritual Mentor Deacon Edward Freeman, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends. Willie encouraged and touched the lives of many in his personal and professional life. He worked as a shop and social studies teacher for three years at Elbert Long Junior High, as an industrial engineer for 17 years at SCT Yarns, and for 10 years as a coach/manager for Sears E & M. He spent many weekends as a scorekeeper for softball and baseball teams at Warner Park. He coached his daughter's softball team as well as served as Boy Scout Leader for his son's troop. He enjoyed watching NFL football, listening to old time gospel music and Motown Sounds, watching his son play football for Tyner Academy and remained a supporter of the team until his health declined. Eating Mayfield's vanilla ice cream with Lays plain potato chips or Oreos or any other sweet was a favorite past time. He loved his family, visiting in Evergreen, AL, and his high school and college classmates. All of his grandchildren were special to him, but Grayson, the youngest was his sidekick and partner in crime. Willie will lie-in-state on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Second Missionary Baptist Church. Funeral service will follow at 12:00 noon with Minister Ronald Harris as the eulogist. Burial will be in Chattanooga National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. Arrangements are by Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga Inc. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Signal Centers of Chattanooga, T or the National Kidney Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Chattanooga National Cemetery

1200 Bailey Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

MAR 13. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Second Missionary Baptist Church
2305 E. Third Street
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Service

MAR 13. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Second Missionary Baptist Church
2305 E. Third Street
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Tribute Wall

VH

“ *Don't Be Sad When I Die*

*When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not there to comfort you,
please know that I still love you,
'cause I know you love me too.*

*When tomorrow starts without me
and you feel lost and blue,
I hope these words I've written
will help to see you through.*

*Someday your pain will ease,
sadness replaced by fond memories.
Come tomorrow you will hear
I love you whispered on the breeze.*

*When tomorrow starts without me
'cause God has called me home,
I turn, blowing a kiss for thee,
sad that you may feel alone.*

*I will miss you tomorrow.
As I take one last glimpse,
a tear falls from my cheek.
I'll be going home.*

And tomorrow will start without me.

Our Deepest Sympathy,

Van & Regina Hickman



Van E. and Regina Patten Hickman - March 14, 2024 at 10:32 PM

MJ

“ *Mildred Jones lit a candle in memory of Willie Melvin Locke*



Mildred Jones - March 12, 2024 at 06:53 PM

MC

“ *Mom Deidre Clack purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Willie Melvin Locke.*



Mom Deidre Clack - March 12, 2024 at 01:57 PM

MC

“ *Mom Deidre Clack planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Melvin Locke.*

Mom Deidre Clack - March 12, 2024 at 01:57 PM

DW

“ *Debra & Eugene Williams purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Willie Melvin Locke.*



Debra & Eugene Williams - March 11, 2024 at 09:01 PM

WM

“ I only knew Melvin and Cheryl through Signal Centers Adult Services. Melvin was precious everytime I saw him. Seeing his obit he had a wonderful life of service to his country, his community and most of all his sweet wife and family. I know he will be missed by so many.

Wanda Moore - March 11, 2024 at 02:50 PM

AL

“ Aunt Myra and Cousin Lyndon purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Willie Melvin Locke.



Aunt Myra and Cousin Lyndon - March 11, 2024 at 10:16 AM

BS

“ We extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire Locke family in the loss of your beloved. We will keep you in prayer during your time of sorrow. May precious memories of your loved one, and your divine faith in God be strength for you in the days ahead. Beverly and Larry Rowe Sr.



Beverly and Larry Rowe Sr. - March 10, 2024 at 05:58 PM

LW

“ LaToya & Anthony Walker purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Willie Melvin Locke.



LaToya & Anthony Walker - March 10, 2024 at 01:42 AM

LW

“ *LaToyia & Anthony Walker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Melvin Locke.*

LaToyia & Anthony Walker - March 10, 2024 at 01:42 AM

EC

“ *Ebony and Carmen purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Willie Melvin Locke.*



Ebony and Carmen - March 09, 2024 at 10:13 AM

RC

“ *Renee Carson lit a candle in memory of Willie Melvin Locke*



Renee Carson - March 08, 2024 at 08:01 PM

RE

“ *R&D Team, Zoom Essence purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Willie Melvin Locke.*



R&D Team, Zoom Essence - March 08, 2024 at 11:35 AM

SP

“ *I'm sorry for your loss of Mr. Locke. May his memory be a blessing.* ”



Susan Parker - March 08, 2024 at 10:39 AM

MB

“ *Praying for the Locke family Willie and I worked together at Sears he was a very special person and will b truly missed* ”



Mickey Battle - March 07, 2024 at 01:55 PM

CC

“ *Sending condolences to the Locke family. Sorry for your loss. You are in our daily prayers.* ”

Cheryl Crow - March 07, 2024 at 10:02 AM

AH

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you , he will truly be missed condolences .* ”



Angela Hill - March 07, 2024 at 08:47 AM

BJ

“ *Brenda Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Willie Melvin Locke*



Brenda Jenkins - March 06, 2024 at 11:54 PM

BJ

RIP my Condolences to the family 🙏

Brenda Jenkins - March 06, 2024 at 11:56 PM

BJ

I am Melvin cousin, From Alabama Lee Henry Locke daughter

Brenda Jenkins - March 06, 2024 at 11:58 PM

PT

“ *So very sorry for your loss of Mr Locke praying that the family will stay strong my condolence to the family of Willie Locke.*



Patrice Casteel Trammell - March 06, 2024 at 06:54 PM

SF

“ *My condolence to the family. The Casteel's*



Samuel Casteel and family - March 06, 2024 at 02:35 PM

1H

“ *Mr. Locke will truly be missed. 1st Priority Homecare is sending our deepest condolences to the Locke family.* 🧡

1st Priority Homecare - March 06, 2024 at 12:16 PM

SK

“ *Cheryl and family I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Melvin was my good buddy.*



Sharon Kennard - March 06, 2024 at 06:36 AM

GG

“ *My condolences and prayers to Mrs.ocke and the family*

Gloria Griffin - March 05, 2024 at 11:22 PM

VL

To Cheryl and family. We are sending our Condolences to you and your family. We are sorry about Melvin. He was a great cousin and loved. Vera, Carrie, Argie, Frederick and Ernest Locke. 🙏❤️✝️

Vera J Locke - March 06, 2024 at 08:29 PM

RL

To Sister Cheryl, Brian and Lindsey and other family members, I send my deepest condolences. Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. May God comfort you with His peace and amazing grace. Rev. Dr. Marva Lee

Rev. Dr. Marva Lee - March 08, 2024 at 02:49 PM