



## Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton

November 6, 1949 - April 26, 2019

\*\*\*\*NOTE: Visitation & Funeral Service Times Listed Below\*\*\*\*

Bobby Williamson Calligton passed away suddenly Friday morning, April 26, 2019 at Bronson Methodist Hospital with his loving companion, Nikki by his side. Bobby was born November 6, 1949 to William Calligton and Annie Jewel Cook, in Houlika, MS. His family moved to Michigan in 1956. Bobby attended Lincoln Elementary School, South Junior High School and Hackett Christian High School, where he excelled in basketball (which the photos show) and quickly, made a name for himself. Bobby received many accolades for his ability to do "magic" with the basketball that no other person could do. He would challenge any young man to a game and most would say, "Naw Bob...man, we heard about you!" This would make him laugh.

Bobby was a proud and faithful member of Galilee Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Dr. Michael T. Scott, Sr.

Bobby had a remarkable bond with his two favorite girls, his babies, daughter Bobbie Nicole Calligton (who he was very, very proud of and adored and his granddaughter Imari Moet Matavlo (whom he truly cherished). Imari inherited her grandpa's greatness on the court and is currently a senior at Johnson C. Smith University on a full athletic scholarship, and is pursuing a degree in Communications.

Bobby is preceded in death by his parents: grandmother, Lillie Lou Donaldson; grandfathers, Thomas Cook and Bud; sister, Ella Stallworth, brother Ed Callington; uncle Henry (Cookie) Cook; aunt, Marie ("Gal") Coleman; niece-Breeon Whitfield; special friends, Alex Walker, Randy Moerman and Amos Jones.

He leaves to wear a smile Sandra Calligton; daughter, Bobbie Nicole Calligton; Granddaughter, Imari Montalvo; companion, Adenika Burks; lifelong devoted friend, Rhonda Hurd; 5 stepchildren, Keith Franks, Damitra Calligton, Tyrone Jonson, Rashid Burks and Kiambu Burks; siblings: brother, Thomas "Scott" Gates; sisters Annie "Niecy" Calligton, Tracy Calligton and Kim (Mamon) Whitfield; Forever Faithful Friends, Lee Johnson, DeKent Murray, Johnny Hollins, Woody Anderson and the Moerman Family. Also, a host friends, nephews, nieces and cousins.

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Rd  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-1733  
(269) 337-8227

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

## A Service in Loving Memory

MAY 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church  
1216 North Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

# Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



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Harper Funeral Home - May 01, 2019 at 09:54 PM



“ Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton

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October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton

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October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ I went to high school with Bobby, but we were separated by a year and didn't know each other well. In fact, I doubt that he'd remember me, even though I was really good friends with most of the basketball team (and still am), and rooted hard for them every game. My memory of him, other than his ball skills, was that we was a really nice guy. I wish I would have known him better, and am so sorry he has left us all too soon.

*Tom Butine, Hackett class of 1968*

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Tom Butine - April 16, 2020 at 09:17 PM

JT

“ I'm way late learning of Bobby's passing, but I felt compelled to share my feelings.

*First, I absolutely loved the guy, his smile and laughter lit up the room. Although too young to do so legally, he and I did a little partying the summer of '67. He once told me that if I ever got into a "spot" with a brother who didn't know me, I was to tell them Bobby Calligton said I was a member of the "Grey Gang." I never had a problem, but always thought it was cool Bobby viewed me as a genuine friend.*

*I had moved from Chicago to Kalamazoo in the summer of '65, and as a sophomore, was one of the starting guards. Bobby, Alex Walker, (Another fun loving guy) and Amos Jones didn't arrive at Hackett until the following year, along with coach Jackson. I was a sixteen-year-old kid at the time, completely oblivious to Hackett's move towards integration, so I didn't give much thought to the sudden influx of black athletes. They were my new teammates and we got along, and not much else mattered. I think Bobby felt the same way, but maybe I'm being naive--but I don't think so.*

*I've often thought about Bobby, and Steve Bundle, Dirk's slightly older brother. I became instant friends with Steve, and his closest friend, Denny Alger, during the start of football. I still remember the summer dances at Armory Park, and the mixture of students from K-Central, Loy Norrix, and the Portage schools. Anyway, I was only in Kalamazoo two years. My family moved back to the Chicago area, and in the mid-seventies relocated to Tucson, Az. where I still live today.*

*I returned to Hackett for the 40th year class reunion and asked about Bobby, Steve, Dirk, Amos, and Alex, but none of the people I spoke with had stayed in touch. I was told one of them, Amos I think, died young, and that saddened me. As did not knowing how Bobby had gotten along in life. I'm so very pleased to learn he did great, but I can't say I'm surprised, the guy was a winner. May God*

*bles Bobby, eternally, and may we meet in heaven to continue our friendship that ended far too soon.*

*John Towle*

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**John Towle** - April 15, 2020 at 03:59 PM

KG

“ *Attended high school with him at Hackett High School*

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**Kevin Gallagher** - April 05, 2020 at 06:20 PM

DB

“ As a teammate of Bobby's at Hackett and a member of Mr. Jackson's paint crew, I spent some of my best years with Bobby, Amos and Coach Jackson. Bobby's leadership on the court and proud selflessness off the court was what set him apart from other young men of our age and era. I remember many a night being spent at their house as well as the dances at Lincoln or at The Kalamazoo Teen Center....they were always delightful and insightful. Although I left Kazoo in 1971 and continued my basketball life and educational pursuits in Los Angeles at Cal State Dominguez Hills, I oftentimes recalled fond memories of our pickup games at Lincoln and our bonding afterwards with Bobby, Randy Moerman and Amos Jones. What a time we had, playing ball, listening to the music of the day, learning the new dance steps from both Bobby and Amos's sisters...I can only smile and say thank you for the memories....for the times when we went from observers to participants and contributors to our community.

Although unable to attend Bobby's service, (I live in Texas) I was there in flesh through my brother, Scott and in both memory and spirit. God bless you, my teammate and friend. Hold a spot for me when you choose "next" in the pick-up basketball game in heaven.

Dirk Bundle

Class of 1969

Hackett High School

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Dirk Bundle - May 10, 2019 at 11:17 AM

SC

“ Sylvester And Herberta Carver lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



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Sylvester and Herberta Carver - May 09, 2019 at 10:36 PM

BM

“ *Barbara McPherson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Barbara McPherson** - May 09, 2019 at 10:30 AM

BF

“ *Bobby... wish I could have seen you again after all these years... you were such a great guy... peace to you and sincere sympathies to your family BJ Fitzgerald*

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**BJ Fitzgerald** - May 06, 2019 at 09:53 PM

BR

“ *So sorry to hear of Bobby's passing. A team mate of Bobby's for three years at Kalamazoo Hackett, he was always the epitome of class and dignity in school and a quiet confident leader on the court where he was a real presence! In the late 60's he was a great example for all at our school. So glad that his life was filled with people who loved him. Miss Coach Jackson, Amoos, Alex and now Bobby. There must be a great game going on in heaven.....Bob Renauld..Hacket Class of 1969*

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**Bob Renauld** - May 06, 2019 at 08:49 AM

VB

“ *Vicky Burns lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**vicky burns** - May 05, 2019 at 08:55 PM

MR

“ *Melissa Rancifer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Melissa Rancifer** - May 03, 2019 at 09:35 AM

SW

“ *Selena Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Selena Walker** - May 03, 2019 at 08:13 AM

BB

“ *Bari Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Bari Brown** - May 02, 2019 at 09:42 PM

CB

“ *Carrie Baker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Carrie Baker** - May 02, 2019 at 05:38 PM

JW

“ *Jeanetta Walker  
Douglasville Ga*



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**Jeanetta Walker** - May 02, 2019 at 01:36 AM

GG

“ *Gail Grady lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Gail Grady** - May 02, 2019 at 12:01 AM

DW

“ *Tommie Pierce and Ann Young wishing you  
comfort in the midst of sorrow.*



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**Doris Woods** - May 01, 2019 at 10:17 PM

DW

“ *I will always remember my friend Bob, my  
sincere condolences.*



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**Doris Woods** - May 01, 2019 at 10:13 PM

JW

“ *Jeanetta Walker*  
*Douglasville Ga*



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**Jeanetta Walker** - May 01, 2019 at 08:16 PM

LJ

“ *Lee Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr.*  
*Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Lee Johnson** - May 01, 2019 at 08:14 PM

TW

“ *Terri Lynn Walker*



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**Terri Walker** - May 01, 2019 at 05:27 PM

KD

“ *Kevin Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of*  
*Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Kevin Dunigan** - May 01, 2019 at 04:05 PM

AY

“ Bobby was a long-time dear friend who I will always hold special memories. My condolences to Niki and the family.

Ann Young-Woods - May 01, 2019 at 02:43 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton.



May 01, 2019 at 12:43 PM

RF

“ Royetta Fry-Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



Royetta Fry-Walker - May 01, 2019 at 12:37 PM

JD

“ Jack Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



Jack Dunigan - May 01, 2019 at 10:50 AM

JD

“ Jack Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



Jack Dunigan - May 01, 2019 at 10:49 AM

FF

“ Frank And Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



Frank and Betty Ford - May 01, 2019 at 10:24 AM

PF

“ PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



PATTERSON FAMILY - May 01, 2019 at 08:23 AM

GF

“ Gloria, Stan and Tim your NS family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton.



Gloria, Stan and Tim your NS family - May 01, 2019 at 07:47 AM

CH

“ *Charlene Harkness lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Charlene Harkness** - May 01, 2019 at 07:27 AM

LJ

“ *Lee Johnson*



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**Lee Johnson** - April 30, 2019 at 11:18 PM

JW

“ *Jeanetta Walker  
Douglasville Ga*



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**Jeanetta Walker** - April 30, 2019 at 11:17 PM

DY

“ *Bobby was truly my friend and I will miss him, but his memory will live on in my heart. My condolences to Niki and the family.*

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**D. Ann Young-Woods** - April 30, 2019 at 06:00 PM

NW

“ Norfolk Southern Revenue Waybilling purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton.



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**Norfolk Southern Revenue Waybilling** - April 30, 2019 at 03:56 PM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



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**Dallas Boards and family** - April 30, 2019 at 02:34 PM



“ Georgia Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



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**Georgia Williams** - April 30, 2019 at 10:40 AM

PF

“ PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



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**PATTERSON FAMILY** - April 30, 2019 at 07:25 AM

TF

“ *The Daniel Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**The Daniel Family** - April 29, 2019 at 10:08 PM

HB

“ *Hal & Janet Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Hal & Janet Buchanan** - April 29, 2019 at 10:08 PM

VO

“ *My condolences to the Calligton Family, may God provide comfort in your time of sorrow.*

*From The Ollie Family*



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**Vivian Ollie-O'Neal** - April 29, 2019 at 10:56 AM

RF

“ *Royetta Fry-Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Royetta Fry-Walker** - April 29, 2019 at 12:25 AM

DB

“ Donald & Ruby(Walker) Barbee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



Donald & Ruby(Walker) Barbee - April 28, 2019 at 05:47 PM

TF

“ The Daniel Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



The Daniel Family - April 28, 2019 at 04:25 PM

HB

“ Hal & Janet Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



Hal & Janet Buchanan - April 28, 2019 at 04:24 PM

MV

“ Mignon (Singer) Vincent lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton



Mignon (Singer) Vincent - April 28, 2019 at 03:11 PM

NH

“ *Nanette Hickman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



Nanette Hickman - April 28, 2019 at 01:50 PM

LP

“ *R.I.H cousin Bobby*



Lakeysa Pratt - April 28, 2019 at 09:48 AM

MW

“ *Minister Flora Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



Minister Flora Walker - April 27, 2019 at 08:32 PM

DF

“ *Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



Dallas Boards and family - April 27, 2019 at 07:40 PM

EF

“ *Earline Fields sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Mr. Bobby ("Bob" Williamson Calligton*



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**Earline Fields** - April 27, 2019 at 02:29 PM