



Mr. Willie E. Hampton

October 4, 1954 - November 24, 2010

Mr. Willie Earl Hampton, was born October 4, 1954, to proud parents, Jessie and Fletie Hampton in Kalamazoo, MI. He attended Kalamazoo Public Schools and graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School. After graduating high school, he later attended and graduated from Davenport Business College. Willie was a father, salesman, husband, brother and a child of God. After going through life's ups and downs, he turned his life around. While raising his two sons, Atiba and Shaboo, working and a janitor at Brite and Clean laundry store, and attending Davenport Business College all at the same time, Willie knew he had a goal in life. He also attended meetings at the Safe House regularly, which kept him straight, and helped him meet his goal. He later met Carolyn Smiley and her two children Chris and Andrea, and they became family. They were married June 5, 1993. Willie set out on a rocky road of life. He knew where he had been but didn't know where he was going, until a light of hope touched him. Through this light of hope and understanding, he became to know his life's mission. Willie was also a multi-task person and he was a "magnate" to people. He was a soft-spoken person who spoke the truth about life and what you could do to better yourself. He became a gifted speaker to a large audience who needed to hear the truth. Willie was once the founder of the Safe House of Kalamazoo, and established a Safe House in Benton Harbor, MI. He also helped out at a Safe House in Decatur, AL, before his illness. Willie clean and sober for 22 years. He was called by his wife Carolyn, "Wil-lie"; his father called him "Samboo" as a child; people from

the East Coast called him "Chocka, The Dog Gone Rocker"; his niece called him "World"; his friends called him, "Mr. Hampton", "Hamp" and "Earl"; and God called him, "My son". Whatever name he was called, he was "one-in-a million". Willie's Chapter in the Book of Life will last forever to those who knew him. He had no regrets about his life and is at peace with himself. He was a fighter from the beginning to the end. With God by his side his "Mission was Accomplished". Willie was preceded in death by: his parents, Jessie and Fletie Hampton; Rosie (Dunning) Price; Lizzie (Barbara) Hampton; Jessie James Dunning; and Willie Jr. Willie leaves tocherish his memory: his wife, Carolyn; 3 sons, Atiba (Kim) Hodges all of Kalamazoo; Christopher Smiley of Decatur, AL and Willie Earl Burnett; 2 daughters: Adnrea (Kendrick) Burk of Decatur, AL and Melisha Robinson of Kalamazoo; 4 brothers, Evangelist John (Pastor Bobette) Hampton; Charles (Margaret) Hampton; Jessie Hampton jr.; and Harold Hampton all of Kalamazoo; 2 sisters: Mary (Maurice-Reco) Tidwell; and Lula Jones of Kalamazoo, MI; mother-in-law, Sylvia Morris; 2 sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws all of Decatur, AL; and host of aunts, uncle, nieces, nephews, cousin and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Service

DEC 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Baptist Church
821 S Burdick Street
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Willie E. Hampton



Harper Funeral Home - November 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Willie E. Hampton

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Willie E. Hampton

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ I miss you daddy

Willie Burnett - June 18, 2013 at 08:40 AM



“ Willie came to Martin Luther King school years back t tak to young boys that were considered at risk and in a group we called Boys to Men. His talk to them was outstanding and I still remember to this day about the juice in the cup, being 1/2 full. He was a good man, may God give you peace and comfort during this time.##imported-begin##Jean Coleman##imported-end##

December 05, 2010 at 09:21 PM



“ My daddy will be missed. He has touched my life and the life of his grand children greatly. He will always be in our hearts, and we all we take the memory of him with us always. Our lives will never be the same.##imported-begin##Andrea Langford##imported-end##

December 04, 2010 at 11:10 AM



“ It has been our pleasure to know and love this wonderful man of many facets. God has truly blessed and shown favor in Willie's every step; even his last steps home were blessed. I know it is difficult but know that our father in heaven surely has blessed Wille and though our hearts are heavy in pain , find the strength to pray for the strength he had to get through this time of grief and know that our father is still blessing you daily.##imported-begin##Melissa Rancifer, Cofield Fuller##imported-end##

December 03, 2010 at 10:52 AM



“ It has been a pleasure to know and share in the life story of Willie. He is truly missed. We cherish the memories and time spent listening and laughing with a man of strength and courage.##imported-begin##Mr & Mrs. Rodger Henry##imported-end##

December 02, 2010 at 10:47 PM



“ may god bless you hamp##imported-begin##mickey gant##imported-end##

December 02, 2010 at 10:21 PM



“ To Attiba & the Hampton Family,

My deepest condolences to all of you. Willie Earl will be missed but not forgotten. I thank God for allowing me the opportunity to know him, spend time with him, laugh with him, his memory will be alive in my heart as I'm sure it will be in all of your hearts. Willie Earl was a proud father, a good father as well as a proud and good brother to all. For everything there is a season and a reason unknown to us. I ask God to continue to hold the family together and give you all peace.

Be blessed!##imported-begin##JoAnn Jones Marcilous##imported-end##

December 02, 2010 at 01:54 PM



“ *To The Hampton Family
So sorry to hear about Willie Earl, Aka
Baby Seals (back in the day). The family will be in my prayers. May
Willie rest in peace and be surrounded with the LOVE of his
Heavenly Father.
Thank you Willie, for being there for my brother Kevin when he was
in need. You will be missed.##imported-begin##Brenda Gant
Moncrief##imported-end##*

December 02, 2010 at 11:57 AM



“ *May the family be comforted by the peace and love of God. May
your memories of Willie Earl keep him alive in your
hearts.##imported-begin##Shirley A Lee##imported-end##*

December 01, 2010 at 02:58 PM



“ *To The Hampton Family: My condolences go out to the family. Willie
and I were classmates throughout our entire school days... His
sense of humor kept me laughing and smiling all the time. Even
though I moved from Kalamazoo I would ask about him all the
time...Our prayers are with you.*

*Kathie Ozier Tillman
Little Rock Arkansas##imported-begin##Kathie (Ozier)
Tillman##imported-end##*

December 01, 2010 at 11:42 AM



“ To the Hampton Family: May God keep you during your time of breavement. I thank God for allowing Willie to cross my path. His presence was not only there as neighbors as a young girl...but he was a pillar of light, hope and safety when I thought there was no hope at all. May God's grace be suffiecient for you in your time of need. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you. You are in our prayers...

Love Larence and Sherry (B) (Ozier) Anderson##imported-begin##Sherry (Ozier) Anderson##imported-end##

December 01, 2010 at 11:38 AM