



Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.

June 10, 1927 - September 9, 2015

On September 9, 2015, surrounded by loved ones, William G. Portrum Jr. (“Bill”) closed his eyes here on earth and opened them in Paradise. He was born the fourth of ten children to William and Maggie Portrum Sr. on June 10, 1927 in Old Fort, North Carolina. Bill’s father moved his family to Allegan in 1939. Young Bill was 12 years old at that time and loved to dance.

As an adult, Bill met and married Faith Simpson and together they raised four children. For 20 years, Bill worked for Life Savers in Holland, Michigan where he ran the machine that put the hole in the center of the candy. You could always tell what flavor he ran each day because the smell was all over his clothes when he got home...Yummy! After Faith went home to be with the Lord, Bill met Reverend Harriette Nabors at a church revival where they talked about the goodness of God. Their love for God and “The Word” sparked an eternal love that lasted 32 years. Harriette had five children and three grandchildren at that time.

For the last 32 years, and as the patriarch of this huge blended family, Bill showed great patience and love as he led by example—a gentle giant. Bill was a trustee of the church, a mentor, and was one of many Chaplains for the Allegan jail, hospital and nursing center. He was also a master carpenter, teaching his sons and son-in-laws how to fix or build anything. Bill could build anything imaginable without a formal plan. One day his son-in-law Rich was

helping him build a deck and he asked Bill if he had a written plan. Bill said, “Yes”, and pointed to his head!

He is preceded in death by his sons, Ralph Simpson and Robert Nabors; brothers, Melvin, Walter, and Larry Portrum.

Bill leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Harriette; siblings, Minnie, Janice and June; children, Sylvia (Richard), Phillip (Cindy) and Faith; five additional children, Victoria, Gregory, Camille, and Karen (Charles); and a special cousin, Mary Hearn. Also, Grandpa Bill had a whopping 28 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren and a host of family and friends that he loved dearly.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

311 Western Avenue
Allegan, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Grace Temple Community Church
430 Robinson Street
Allegan, MI

A Homegoing Celebration

SEP **15**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Grace Temple Community Church
430 Robinson Street
Allegan, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.



Harper Funeral Home - September 13, 2015 at 06:15 PM

EH

Love U uncle Bill.....R.I.P!

Eric Hicks - September 14, 2015 at 06:11 PM

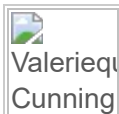
AM

There goes our oldest Uncle, Auntie Francis is the next Oldest she's our oldest Aunt.they are our History Family, I Love you all but I can't make the Funeral in body but my Spirit will be there. Love one another with all That's in you.and lets stay in touch.Love you Aunt Harriet, Aunt Mary Francis, Aunt Minnie Aunt June, you all are the Glue that keeps us all together. Thanks Cousin Eric for the Harper Video, I got a chance to see all of them,that are gone on and those of them that are still here. We must show them Love ,Love, Love. Neiece

Alice (Neiece) Gilbert Moore - September 14, 2015 at 07:01 PM



ValeriequeenDiamond Cunningham - September 15, 2015 at 06:00 PM



Larry's daughter

ValeriequeenDiamond Cunningham - September 15, 2015 at 06:01 PM

DB

Lovely memories

Donna S Bailey - February 09, 2025 at 02:21 PM



“ *Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM

AW

“ *Anita & R.J. Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*



Anita & R.J. Wilkerson - September 19, 2015 at 10:26 AM

RL

“ *Ramona Lumpkin lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*



Ramona Lumpkin - September 18, 2015 at 10:25 PM

DG

“ *Dawanda Gray lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*



Dawanda Gray - September 15, 2015 at 12:56 PM

EH

“ *Eric Hicks lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*



Eric Hicks - September 14, 2015 at 06:08 PM

EH

“ *Eric Hicks lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*



Eric Hicks - September 14, 2015 at 06:01 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Portrum Jr.*



Pauline Gardner - September 14, 2015 at 10:09 AM