



Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.

July 5, 1934 - January 13, 2020

****NOTE: Visitation and Funeral Service Times and Location Listed Below****

On January 13, 2020 Deacon Willie B. Ford, Sr. peacefully went home to be with the Lord. Willie was born July 5, 1934 to Oliver and Emma Ford in Leland, Mississippi. Deacon Ford accepted Christ at an early age and was a life-long member of The Second Missionary Baptist Church where he was the chairman of the deacons and was active in missionary work and Sunday school.

As chairman of the Deacon's Ministry for more than 30 years, Deacon Ford exemplified faithfulness and dedication serving Pastor Matthew Wright and most recently Pastor Dr. Strick Strickland Sr. in spite of sickness and inclement weather, he would continue to serve and press forward to proudly and fully support his pastor and church family. He was truly a pastor's friend and will be remembered as such.

Astute and always smiling, Deacon Ford imparted his wisdom by counseling and encouraging anyone that crossed his path throughout his lifetime. He was an exceptional husband and father married to the love of his life Arletha Ford for 49 years. As a father, Deacon Ford was extremely devoted and cherished spending quality time with his children as much as possible. His continual guidance to his children as they became adults is a testament of what a father

can accomplish when love, guidance, leadership, and a firm belief in the Lord is applied to their everyday life. Deacon Ford demonstrated his strong faith and belief trusting in the Lord during his illness and favored reading/hearing Psalm 23 one of his favorite verses until he was called home.

Deacon Ford was preceded in death by his parents Oliver and Emma Ford, wife Arletha Ford, son Zachary Bradley, daughter Arletha Ford, brothers Oliver Ford, Percy Ford, Cleophes Ford, Robert Ford and Thad Ford.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his son Willie Ford Jr. of Solon, Ohio; daughter Areatha Ford of Kalamazoo, Michigan; sister Essie Scott of Inkster, Michigan; daughter-in-law's Gina Bradley of Evanston, Illinois and Kimberly Ford of Solon, Ohio; sister-in-law's Martha Ford of Memphis, Tennessee and Diana Hamilton of Dallas, Texas; son-in-law Leonard Stafford; six grandchildren Niaketta, Jamael, Willie III, Aaron, Kendall, and Kennedy; nine great grandchildren Akasia, Amaria, Daejuan, Makiyah, Kamiyah, Arionna, Colbie, William and Aurora; devoted friends Albert and Ethel Hampton. Also, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends, and The Second Missionary Baptist Church.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **25**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

A Service in Loving Memory

JAN **26**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church
609 N. Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.



Harper Funeral Home - January 22, 2020 at 09:08 PM



“ Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ It's like seeing my dad all over again a true brother looks and talks just like my dad. The tears are heavy. asking The Lord to keep his arms around his family until we meet again rih sir.



Randy williams - January 27, 2020 at 01:50 PM

CA

“ I am sending my deepest sympathy to the Ford family on the loss of your father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. I never met Mr. Ford Sr. but I have heard many stories about him through his son, Willie Jr.

I pray that the Lord comforts you all in the days, weeks and years to come. "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Amen!

Charlotte Andrews

Charlotte Andrews - January 27, 2020 at 08:06 AM

SH

“ Sandra Hines lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.



Sandra Hines - January 26, 2020 at 08:15 AM

BB

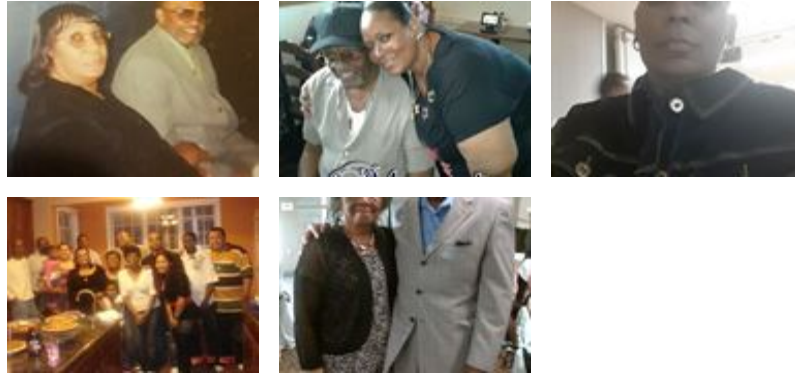
“ Bari Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.



Bari Brown - January 25, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ 28 files added to the album LifeTributes



Harper Funeral Home - January 25, 2020 at 04:46 PM

JP

“ While I never personally met Willie Ford, Sr., I know his son, Willie Ford, Jr. and if he can raise such a kind, caring, intelligent and loving son as Willie, Jr., then Willie Ford, Sr. was an extraordinary man. I can tell you that his son spoke of his father very highly and cherished many memories of his "growing up" years. I am sorry I never had the opportunity to meet Willie Ford, Sr. because I am sure I would have found him to be a wonderful man. He is with his Lord now and hopefully with time, his family's sorrows will heal. I would like to pass on my condolences to the entire Ford family at this time of loss for their loved one.

Joseph Petrylak - January 24, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr..



January 24, 2020 at 02:01 PM

MF

“ *Mattie Fields And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Mattie Fields and Family - January 24, 2020 at 11:31 AM

EF

“ *Earline Fields sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Earline Fields - January 24, 2020 at 11:29 AM

TM

“ *The Johnson-Menser Family*



Tina Menser - January 24, 2020 at 10:31 AM

KA

“ *Sorry for your loss from the Armstrong, Clark family*



Kimyatta Armstrong - January 23, 2020 at 08:20 AM

CH

“ *My uncle Willie B was always a pleasant person to be around. He had a million dollar smile. He is the last of our uncles to go to heaven. I believe that heaven has received him with open arms and a loving smile. May he rest with his heavenly FATHER now. From your cousin Carilyn in Greenville, MS*

Carilyn hudson - January 22, 2020 at 04:10 PM

CH

“ *Carilyn H. purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr..*



Carilyn H. - January 22, 2020 at 03:56 PM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



PATTERSON FAMILY - January 22, 2020 at 09:17 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr..*



January 21, 2020 at 08:56 PM

LE

“ *Lee Johnson Jr*



Lee - January 21, 2020 at 06:30 PM

ES

“ *Ethel (Jones) Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Ethel (Jones) Smith - January 21, 2020 at 11:40 AM

DA

“ *Dianne Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Dianne Anderson - January 21, 2020 at 12:14 AM

TH

“ *Sending my deepest Condolences to the Family Mr.Ford was a Great and Well respected Man in our Community.To see him dressed to the nines and that priceless smile will be missed by all that new him.My prayers go out to his Family may God grant you strength through this most difficult time.Love The Hollin Family*



Tanya Hollin - January 20, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ *Fay Lipsey sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Fay Lipsey - January 20, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ *Cathy Lipsey sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



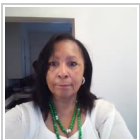
Cathy Lipsey - January 20, 2020 at 04:24 PM



“ *Earlean Robinson Scott lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Earlean Robinson Scott - January 20, 2020 at 03:01 PM



“ *Ramona Seaberry Lumpkin sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Ramona Seaberry Lumpkin - January 20, 2020 at 02:40 PM

DS

“ *Denise Scurry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Denise Scurry - January 20, 2020 at 07:32 AM

SW

“ *May the Lord bless and comfort you. Sorry for the lost Susie Whitmore*

Susie Whitmore - January 19, 2020 at 06:46 PM

FF

“ *Frank & Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Frank & Betty Ford - January 19, 2020 at 09:35 AM

ML

“ *Melinda Lipsey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Melinda Lipsey - January 18, 2020 at 08:15 PM

JH

“ *Jerry Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Jerry Harris - January 18, 2020 at 02:06 PM

JM

“ *Joyce McDowell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Joyce McDowell - January 18, 2020 at 12:21 AM

JI

“ *Very Friendly, nice to everyone, always drove a Caddy, I can see his Big Smile with his two little gold teeth, just a grinnin! Everyone knew him, liked him, didn't have a care in the world, drove truck it seemed like his whole life. And enjoyed it. Not a gray hair on his head. Thought he was younger then, me. Will miss his stories and great smile. Joe*

Joseph Isaac - January 17, 2020 at 07:54 PM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Embrey*



Jo Ann Embrey - January 17, 2020 at 02:47 PM

AJ

“ *Al Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Al Jackson - January 17, 2020 at 02:10 PM

GB

“ *Gina Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Gina Bradley - January 17, 2020 at 12:44 PM

SC

“ *Sending Prayers & Condolences to Willie & Areatha and family*



Shannan C.Bacon - January 17, 2020 at 09:44 AM

PT

“ *A heart warm prayer goes out to the Ford family during their time of bereavement, B. Ford was a nice and kind man, he always had a smile on his face, he was such a sweet person. He will be greatly missed. He served well at Second Baptist Church. RIP. Ernest and Patricia Thomas and Family.*

Patricia Thomas - January 17, 2020 at 08:46 AM

DZ

“ *Darlene Zackery lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Darlene Zackery - January 17, 2020 at 08:43 AM

PT

“ *Patricia Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



Patricia Thomas - January 17, 2020 at 08:38 AM

AR

“ *ArleneBuchanan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



ArleneBuchanan - January 16, 2020 at 09:46 PM

KF

“ *We shared some special times together dad. You will be missed. Love you....Kim*

Kim Ford - January 16, 2020 at 06:41 PM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.




Dallas Boards and family - January 16, 2020 at 02:30 PM

AR

“ B Ford was the nicest man I have ever meant He minds his own business and was a very sharp dresser he has shared many of stories with me where I could not stop laughing B you will be truly missed by many get your rest you fought a good battle. Rih 🥺❤️

ArleneBuchanan - January 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM


Charise
McPherso

“ Daddy Ford you will be truly missed. Love you so much!



Charise McPherson - January 15, 2020 at 11:38 PM

TJ

“ My Condolences to the Ford Family.



Tina Johnson-Menser - January 15, 2020 at 11:17 PM

AR

“ *ArleneBuchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Ford Sr.*



ArleneBuchanan - January 15, 2020 at 06:40 PM

RA

“ *The Randy Ford and Family sends their condolences to Willie Ford and Family.*



Randy - January 15, 2020 at 03:03 PM

SW

Prayers to the family of Will I know he 's missed love susie.

SUSIE WHITMORE - February 16, 2020 at 07:16 PM