

Pallbearers

Nephews & Godsons

Derek Horne

Tim Marshall

Walter Shelton

Glen Gosier

Rashad Thompson

Ken Greene

Omari Arnold

Leland Mangrum

Flower Bearers

Family & Friends

Acknowledgements

Our family extends its heartfelt appreciation for the prayers, phone calls, visit and many acts of kindness shown. You will never know how much you have helped us during our time of bereavement. We ask that you continue to live us up in your prayers.

Professional Services

Entrusted to

Glen & Endia Gosier

Hatcher Peoples Funeral Home

820 Wright Street

Thomasville, GA 31792

229-226-4525



In Collaboration with
Edwards Small Mortuary

1011 Martin Luther King, Jr, Drive • Fort Valley, GA 31030

Final Encore

for

**Dr. Wilson Epinol
"WEGO" Gosier**

November 13, 1941 – May 11, 2023



On November 13, 1941, a personality larger than life arrived in South Ga. Walter and Rosa Gosier delighted in the arrival of their only son and named him Wilson Gosier. A proud native of Quitman, Georgia: Dixie and Dry Lake Road, respectively. Wilson was educated in the public schools of Brooks County. Wilson was identified early as a gifted student and accelerated through advanced classes, graduating at 16. Although undersized at 5' 7", he was a two-sport athlete playing basketball and baseball.

His matriculation continued at Fort Valley State College. Wilson obtained the highest score to that date on the entrance math exam and excelled as a Dean's List student. His excellent score and recommendations from his advisors motivated him to change his major from Agriculture to Education with a concentration in Math. During his sophomore year at Fort Valley State College, he and his college sweetheart Doris Marshall began distinguishing themselves from the ordinary. Although he entered Fort Valley at 16, standing 5' 7", by his junior year, he was 6' 3" tall and lettered in basketball, football, and baseball. This was also the beginning of his long-tenured officiating career, starting with intramural basketball, football, and baseball.

Wilson was born with confidence and charisma. He knew he wanted to be a trailblazer. Wilson also knew trailblazers had middle initials and middle names. He chose "Epinol" as his middle name, which proved unique while aligning with the confidence and charisma he exuded. The man, the myth, and the legend, Wilson Epinol Gosier, emerged. As an undergrad, Wilson pledged to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. After a well-coordinated courtship, Wilson and Doris married shortly after receiving their degrees from FVSC in 1963. No one had to impress upon Wilson the light in the Valley. Unknown to many outsiders, Fort Valley is a special place. A magical place. A place where upon leaving, you click your heels three times to herald your return.

For this reason, they made Fort Valley, GA, their home. Wilson and Doris left an indelible mark on the Fort Valley Community. In Divine 9 spirit, they collaborated with like-minded influential black couples. They applied for and were awarded segregation monies from the United States Government. Wilson was appointed administrator of funding. In a bold move, he spearheaded securing land to build a swimming pool and baseball field exclusively for blacks in the Jim Crow era, Fort Valley, GA. Wilson selected Bobby Thompson, an FVSC alumnus, to manage the pool. The pool was built on Historic and segregated H. E. Hunt High grounds, and the aquatic facility was nicknamed "Thomp Pool." Wilson and Doris took great pride in this accomplishment, along with their friends Pete and Priscilla Mangrum. Years later, they became parents of two wonderful children, Wilson "Woody" Epinol and Marsha Nichole Gosier.

Wilson began his long educational career, demonstrating his multi-talents and skills. Wilson's first job was as a mathematics/physical education teacher, head football and basketball coach, and assistant principal, in the Macon County School system at D. F. Douglas High School in Montezuma, GA. According to Mr. Billy Sellers, Mr. Gosier was a freedom fighter who walked it like he talked it and refused to bow down to the systems and traditions of Jim Crow in the American South. In July 1969, Wilson began his initial tenure at Fort Valley State College as Associate Dean of Men. His versatility and familiarity with students and staff

Sports Accomplishments and Awards

Thirty plus years of Officiating requires unique dedication and fortitude through long flights and road trips. Evenings and weekends were dedicated in helping to bolster young people in their development. In addition, he spent countless hours in seminars, film and media study and preseason workshops and related activities honing his skills. His children Woody and Marsha accompanied their dad to many venues across the United States. They fondly reminisced about the famous stadiums and arenas they visited. Even the "Energizer Bunny" would be in awe! Wilson, would call his son and best friend Woody every Sunday to give updates on emerging athletes. After officiating a Florida State game, he called Woody to tell him about a cornerback with a jerri curl and gold teeth that was destined for greatness named Dion Sanders.

Summary of Specific Officiating Accomplishments

FOOTBALL

- NFL (retired) 1980-1984
- WFL 1974-1975
- SICOA 1976-1980 & 1985-1992
- SIAC 1965-1974

FOOTBALL BOWL GAMES

- WFL World Bowl, Honolulu, HI 1974
- CITRUS BOWL, Orlando, FL 1988
- HALL of FAME BOWL, Tampa, FL 1989
- COCA COLA BOWL, Tokyo, Japan 1989

BASKETBALL

- NCAA Division II National Championship, Springfield, MA 1980
- NCAA Division III Regional Championship, Danville, KY 1982
- GHSA Championship 1968-1982
- SIAC Men's Championship 1969-1984
- SEC Men's Championship 1980
- METRO CONFERENCE MEN'S 1982
- SOUTH ATLANTIC 1969
- NIT REGIONALS 1979-1980
- BLACK COLLEGE WOMEN'S 1980-1981

SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

- GEORGIA COLLEGE BASKETBALL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR 1984
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT, BASKETBALL OFFICIATING 2005
- SIAC HALL of FAME, BASKETBALL OFFICIATING 1995
- TEACHER OF THE YEAR 1969
- OUTSTANDING GEORGIA CITIZEN 1996

Order of Final Encore

Master of Ceremony , Mr. Bryan Smith, JD

Processional

Prayer.....Dr. LeTunya Walker, EdD

Final Encore Toning.....Dr. Mildred McClain Executive Director of
The Harambee House Citizens of Environmental Change

Selection..... Jessica Storm and N&G Band

Proclamations

Presenter, GA Sports Hall of Fame Authority.....Jim McClendon
Executive Director, GA Sports Hall of Fame Governor.....Brian Kemp

Tribute / Silent reading of Obituary

Reflections

(Ten minutes or less please)

The Honorable Calvin D. Smyre.....Former Student and Friend
Columbus District 135

Ammon “The Judge” MillerWEGO’s Ace Boon Coon

Selection.....Jessica Storm and The N&G Band

Derek Horne.....Nephew

Words of Encouragement & Recessional.....Coach Kent Schoolfield
Former FVSU Head Football Coach 1997-2001

Acknowledgements.....Hatcher Peoples Funeral Home Staff

Recessional

permitted him to serve as an adjunct professor and Coach of the college’s Jr-Varsity Basketball team. At age 27, he was reported as the youngest dean in the country at that time. In 1971 Wilson obtained his Master's Degree in Education from FVSC. He held advanced studies as a Ph.D. Candidate at Georgia State University 1976-1978. He was awarded the L.L.D. from Faith College in Birmingham, AL.

While Wilson and Doris divorced, they remained friends, and he never divorced Woody and Marsha. In 1978 Wilson took his talents to the Georgia Department of Education as Coordinator of Teacher Education and Executive Secretary of The Georgia Teacher Education Council. In this capacity, Wilson’s duties and responsibilities were extensive, comprehensive, and state-wide. This position included coordinating curriculum activities between the Georgia Department of Education (GDE) and thirty-four (34) colleges and universities offering teacher education programs. Within this realm of activities, he was responsible for monitoring teacher education programs, supervising student-teacher programs, budgeting functions, and implementing two annual conferences of the council.

Wilson met his second wife, Celeste Reeves Gosier of Chattanooga, TN. Celeste loved and doted on Wilson’s children from his union with Doris and welcomed his daughter Katrina Haugabook Hood. Celeste and Wilson divorced in 2014 after 30 years of marriage.

From 1980 to retirement in 1996, Wilson served as the Assistant Director of the Professional Practices Commission, State of Georgia. In this challenging position, Wilson investigated more than 700 complaints and prepared detailed reports of alleged misconduct by professional educators. As an expert witness, Wilson’s services were still sought to conduct investigations and hearings concerning fellow educators, as evidenced by his appointment to the Ethics board of the DeKalb County Board of Education. Wilson served in this capacity until he transitioned into the spiritual realm.

Concurrently with his long tenure as an educational leader, Wilson became an internationally acclaimed multi-sports game official.

Wilson began his journey as a game official at Fort Valley State College within the intramural sports program under Coach Hawkins. He was a natural as a game official in high school sports commencing in 1963 with basketball, baseball, and football. His presence, willingness, and competence led him to the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), including the famed SIAC Basketball Tournament on the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, campus. He was inducted into the SIAC Hall of Fame in 1995. The next level of competition was the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). In basketball and football, a 1963 Fort Valley State graduate was featured as a game official in many nationally televised events in venerable stadiums and arenas.

Wilson was the NCAA Basketball Official of the Year in 1984. He shared accolades that year with Athlete of the Year, Michael Jordan, and Commentator of the Year, Dick Vitale.

Wilson served as the game official in multiple basketball tournaments, high schools, colleges, and universities, such as ‘Metro Conference,’ and National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

“IT’S HARD BEING A GOSIER”

“THE B & B THEORY: YOU EITHER BAFFLE THEM WITH BRILLIANCE OR BEDAZZLE THEM WITH BULLSHIT”

