

Celebrating The Life Of



Claude Edward Williams

Sunrise

January 21, 1937

Sunset

January 23, 2023

Funeral Service

Monday, January 30, 2023

12:00 pm

Collins Funeral Home Chapel

Reverend Frank Jones

Interment

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

12:00 pm

Mount Hope Cemetery, Boston, MA

“You can shed tears that he is gone
Or you can smile because he has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left
Your heart can be empty because you can’t see him
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember him and only that he is gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do as he would say: “Free your mind, and your ass will follow”

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your prayers and expressions of sympathy during our time of bereavement. We would like to extend special thanks to Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center, Collins Funeral Home, and J. B. Johnson Funeral Home

Pallbearers:

Family and Friends

Services and Arrangements Entrusted To:

Collins
FUNERAL HOME

5452 Jerry West Highway Route 44

Switzer, West Virginia 25647

Olivia & Katrina Collins- Owners

Caleb Endicott- L.I.C. / Director

Obituary

Claude Edward Williams of Logan, WV, departed this life on Monday, January 23, 2023, at Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center in Phelps, Kentucky just 2 days after his 86th birthday. He was born on January 21, 1937, in Logan, WV and was the son of the late Edmond and Odessa (Hollingshead) Williams.

In addition to his parents, Claude was preceded in death by his wife, Bettie (Norah) Williams; three sisters, Geraldine Prier, Wanda Johnson, and Carolyn Cook; and one brother, Willie Driver. Claude left Logan in 1955 to travel the country before settling in Boston, MA where he was a member of the Black Panther Party. Claude and Bettie relocated to Detroit, MI and married in 1970. He worked at Ford, where he was involved in the UAW and organized community work. Claude was very active in politics, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Rainbow Coalition. He participated in the March on Washington for many years. Claude returned to Logan in 1980. In 1984, he served as President of Logan County for Jesse Jackson for President. In 2009, Claude was appointed as an Honorary Member of President Barack Obama's "Kitchen Cabinet".

A resident of Cora, Claude was a member of the Logan County Minority Open Forum and was instrumental in getting Barrett's Playground built. Claude was an active member of St. Philips Missionary Baptist Church for many years before moving to Cole Street Missionary Baptist Church. Claude sang in the church choir, served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and was a member of the Layman's Board to name a few. He served as the Publicity Chairman and Historian for the Aracoma High School Alumni Association. Claude was awarded the Greatest of Great Academic Historians by Aracoma High School. In 2008 he was inducted as a Lifetime Member of the West Virginia All Black Schools Sports and Academic Hall of Fame. He served on the Chief Logan Park and Museum Board of Directors. He held many roles at the Logan County Court House before retiring in 2010.

Those left to cherish his loving memory include his children: Kimberly Brown, Curtis Labitue, Lewis Labitue and Angelique Williams Anderson; nine grandchildren: Ebonie, Shantelle, Vanessa, Veronica, Frankie, Lewis Jr., Bianca, Treajour and Dante; eight great-grandchildren; one brother: Lovell Williams; four sisters: Betty Frifeldt, Jacqueline Branham, Barbara Jean Price and Valeria Hardy; a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn

Prayer

Scripture

Solo

Acknowledgement (cards and condolences)

Remarks (2 minutes)

Obituary

Solo

Eulogy

Organ Postlude

Congregation

Reverend Jones

Old Testament

New Testament

Mr. David Wade

Karen Johnson

Family & Friends

Tracey Brady

Mr. David Wade

Reverend Jones