



**WILLIAM HENRY**  
*Francis*

**November 9, 1958 - February 16, 2022**

**CELEBRATING HIS LIFE & LEGACY**

*Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church*

*2701 East 43rd Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64130*

*Saturday, February 26, 2022 ~ 11:00 a.m.*

**Pastor Adrian Howard, Officiating**

~ Reflections of His Life ~

**W**illiam “Billy” Henry Francis was born November 9, 1958 to James & Mary Francis.

*Billy accepted Christ at an early age and joined Cain-Grant A.M.E. Church, along with his large extended family.*

*Billy was educated in the Kansas City Missouri public schools, attending Manual High School, and graduating in 1976 from Paseo High School.*

*Billy was skilled in mechanics and carpentry work and worked many jobs in these fields. He was a self-made entrepreneur and made his living working for himself.*

*Billy was joined in holy matrimony to Marsha Berry and to this union two children were born, Nicole and Lil’ Billy. The marriage was later dissolved and his children moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

*Billy was an avid fisherman and loved to fish. He would catch the fish, cut its head off and cook it up right in front of you and it was DELICIOUS and finger licking good! He was an excellent baseball player and played on many teams including the Cain-Grant A.M.E. Church team that was coached by his uncle Carl, who loved the game just as much as he did. Billy was the pitcher and worked hard to win every game and if they lost, he was ready to fight. His other love was playing chess. He lived for a good challenge of the minds and could out maneuver most of his opponents.*

*Family was very important to Billy. He loved his siblings, his children and most of all his mother. He lived to help take care of her and make sure she was always okay. He enjoyed family gatherings, backyard BBQ’s, where he was the chef. He played cards, chess, and sports which is what everyone remembers the most about him. He was a family man and will truly be missed by all who loved him.*

*He departed this life on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at Research Medical Center. He was preceded in death by his son, William (Lil’ Billy); his father, James Francis; sister, Laura Francis; maternal grandparents, Howard & Lucille Abrought and paternal grandparents, James & Mossie Francis.*

*William “Billy” Henry Francis leaves to cherish his memory, one daughter, Nicole Francis-Greer of Dallas, Texas; mother, Mary Francis of Grandview, MO; three brothers, Terry (Loretta) Francis, James (Monique) Francis, and Andre Francis; two sisters, Mary Freeman, and Jamesetta (Shawn) Stovall; all of Kansas City, Missouri; grandchildren, Alexis, Amani and Adam; great-grand-daughter, Stoney of Dallas, Texas; aunts, Barbara Jean Scott, Georgianna Lewis, Hallie Vessell, Carmalita Taylor, Marva Abrought, and Mary Lee White; uncles, Henry Abrought, and Carl Lewis Francis, all of Kansas City, Missouri and a very large host of nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends.*

# *Order of Service*

*Prelude*

*Soft Music*  
*Ms. Ruby Berry*

*Processional*

*Clergy & Family*

*Crowning Ceremony*

*Golden Gate*

*Scripture*

*Pastor Adrian Howard*

*Prayer*

*Clergy*

*Selection*

*Tonya Chereese*  
*“Yesterday”*

*Acknowledgements/Condolences*

*Margo Abrought*

*Remarks*

*Family & Friends*  
*Two (2) Minutes Please*

*Selection*

*Vanessa Lewis*  
*“I Won’t Complain”*

*Words of Comfort*

*Pastor Adrian Howard*

*Prayer of Committal & Benediction*

*Recessional*

*Ms. Ruby Berry, Pianist*

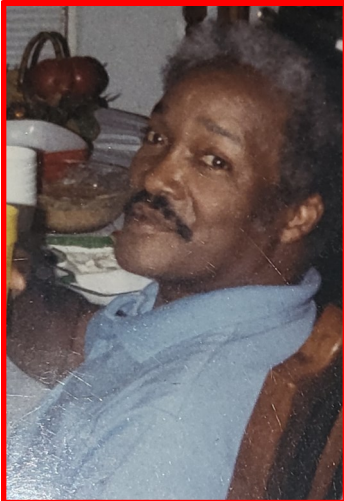
*~ Repast ~*

*Immediately Following The Service*

*9300 East 75th Street, Raytown, Missouri 64138*



*A Mother's Love  
Of all the special gifts in life  
However great or small  
To have you as my son  
Was the greatest gift of all,  
A special time  
A special face  
A special SON  
I can't replace .  
With aching heart  
I whisper low  
I miss you SON  
I LOVE YOU SO*



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## The Broken Chain

Brothers and Sisters

We little knew the day that  
God was going to call your name  
In Life we Loved you dearly.  
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.

“Our family chain is broken  
And nothing seems the same  
But as God calls us one by one  
The chain will link again”



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### Reflection

"God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."

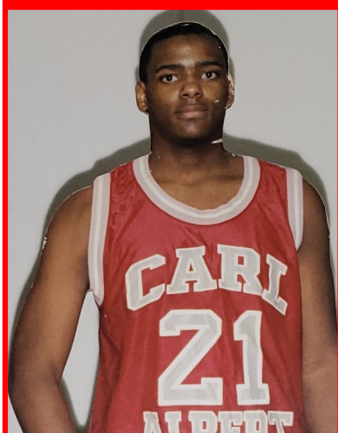
There are so many questions that will go un-answered; however, the one thing for certain, is my father loved me. Although, my father's spirit is free; he lives forever and ever within my heart. I am my father's daughter, a reflection of his earthly being. My father's smile and charming mannerisms lives on through me. May we find comfort in knowing that "The Lord is

close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalms 34:18)." My father was a man who knew God for himself. The memory of The Holy Bible gently placed at my father's bedside gave great insight to the man my father had become. I can remember being so proud when my father told me about his missions to spread the word of the Lord. This is the man that I will always remember. With tears falling from my face in grief. My spirit will rest with confidence knowing "The Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Father you will be forever missed and loved. We will meet again one day, but for now rest my father.

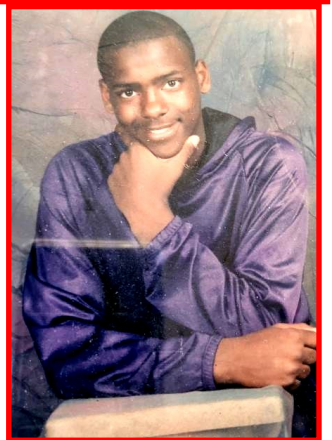
Nichole Francis-Greer



FATHER



GRANDPA



# "Uncle Billy"



## "An Uncle's Love"

### "Our beloved Uncle"

"To have and to hold close to our hearts,"

"An uncle's TRUE love  
will never fall apart"

"As we cherish you forever,  
and all the time we spent"

"We LOVE YOU no matter how far  
you may seem to have drift"

"Although the time we spent  
was not long enough,

"During that time,

we built an EVERLASTING love"

"Although it seems as if you're so very far away, your HOME is heaven now  
and one day we will all reintegrate"

"How sharp ICY was as he watches from above"

"The Jack of All Trades  
who had a heart full of Love"  
Clean as a whistle, slick as Ice"

"He treated his nieces and nephews  
like the love of his life"

"When all else fails who can you dial?  
Icy was coming with his million-dollar smile!"

"An Uncle's love, can only be felt  
by his nieces, and nephews and  
given by an uncle and we KNEW  
we had an Uncle in him,  
Uncle Billy"

"Rest Well Uncle Billy  
from your nieces and nephews"  
"Nae-Nae, Netta, Mary, Janese,  
Talawnda, Terry, & Jimmy"



## *Acknowledgement*

*The Family of William "Billy" Francis, would like to express their Heartfelt Appreciation to those who have shown their love, acts of kindness and prayers during our time of Bereavement.*

*MAY GOD BLESS YOU.*

### *When Tomorrow Starts*

*When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not there to see;  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears of me;*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry  
The way you did today;  
While thinking of the many things  
We didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you loved me,  
As much as I love you,  
And each time that you think of me  
I know you'll miss me too;*

*When tomorrow starts without me  
We won't be far apart,  
I want you to remember,  
I'm right here, in your heart.*

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We Entrusted Our Loved One To The Golden Care Of:

## **Golden Gate**

**Funeral & Cremation Services, LLC**

2800 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO 64127

(816) 255-3676

**A Service Designed...With You In Mind."**

