

Pallbearers

The Diplomats

Banard Ingram

Billy Mathis

Brian Jones

Chuck Miller

Greg King

Paul Miller

Stanley Marshall

Norbert Tukes

Tazim Wajid Wajed

Flower Bearers

Class of 1985

Acknowledgements

A friendly smile, a casual touch, these are things that mean so much. Thank you for being with us in our time of sorrow and sharing in our prayers today and tomorrow. God gives us comfort in the form of family and friends. May his peace be with you and may his love never end.

Professional Services

Entrusted to

Edwards Small Mortuary



"Committed to Excellence"

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

A Celebratory Farewell
for

WOODY

WILSON EPINOL GOSIER II

March 5, 1967 - October 20, 2022



THE LIFE OF WOODY WILSON EPINOL GOSIER

Ladies and gentlemen, Boys and Girls gather around and let me tell you a story of a leader. On March 5, 1967, a very bright star welcomed the arrival of Wilson “Woody” Gosier to Doris and Wilson Gosier in Fort Valley, Peach County, Georgia. To some in the Peach State, this star may have shone as all others. Yet 55 years later on October 20, 2022, many realized that star marked the arrival of a legendary man. In retrospect, his life was unique due to Woody’s loving and dotting parents, who helped shape the new black south. Woody got to know God at an early age.. He attended Saint Pete AME in Fort Valley, where Woody sung in the choir and was apart of the Young People’s Department (YPD)

Woody was simply a good guy who happened to be a trendsetter! Growing up in Fort Valley a very special place, at the age of 12 three best friends: Woody Gosier, Norbert Tukes and Stanley Marshall founded the Diplomats Inc. The Gosier home became the frat house. His mother encouraged the young men to incorporate their organization. By their senior year of high school, the Diplomats Inc was chartered with 14 members. The foundation of the Diplomats is Education and Walking in Excellence and their Motto has shaped their life’s creed; “Be Ye Always of Excellence”. Woody’s leadership and guidance lead to many to become apart this distinguished fraternity.

Woody was a member of the Peach County High School Class of 1985. While at Peach County High, Woody played baseball and tennis. Woody was encouraged to explore a world beyond GA, he applied for and was accepted at Virginia State University. Woody quickly became well known on the campus of VSU. Woody made sure VSU knew about the Diplomats and his beloved hometown , Fort Valley, GA. Woody graduated with honors in 1989 and a degree in Hotel Restaurant Management.

While living in Decatur, he attended a *Freaknik* at a nearby park. Woody was convinced he and the Diplomats could bring a similar event to Fort Valley. In true Woody Go Go Fashion, he took his vision to The Diplomats SUNSPLASH was born. What started out as two day Memorial weekend event for their local community, SUNSPLASH grew to draw attendees from Atlanta, Texas and New York.

Woody began his career with the Social Security Administration in May of 1991 as an Operations Support Clerk. During his 31 years and 4 months of dedicated service, he held progressively responsible positions including Claims Clerk; Lead Automation Assistant, Mail Room Lead; and Social Insurance Specialist Disability Examiner. In 2010, Woody completed a one-year Management Development Program (MDP), Woody was selected as a Lead Social Insurance Specialist, Program Leader, a role he held over ten years.



TO MY BEAUTIFUL SOULMATE

IF I COULD GIVE YOU ONE THING IN LIFE, I
WOULD GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO SEE
YOURSELF THROUGH MY EYES. ONLY THEN
WOULD YOU REALIZE HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE
TO ME AND THAT YOU'RE THE BEST THING
THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME.

I SQUEEZED THIS NECKLACE REALLY TIGHT
AND FILLED IT WITH MY LOVE AND LIGHT. IF
I'M EVER NOT HERE AND YOU NEED A HUG
JUST HOLD THIS CLOSE TO FEEL MY LOVE.

I love, forever and always

The Dash Poem

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the
end.

He noted first came the date of the birth and spoke the following
date with tears.

But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.
For that dash represents all the time that they spent life on Earth.
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is
worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash.
So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to
change?

For you never know how much time is left that can still be
rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand the way other people feel.

Be less quick to anger and show appreciation more,
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your
dash?

Dad's Message to Son before his First Game

This is your first game son, I really hope you win
I hope you win for your sake and not mine
Desitny throws many passes and what you've learned is about life!
The whole thing is played out in an afternoon
The happiness of life.
The joys of life.
The miseries of life.
There is no telling what will turn up
You may stay around for the long haul
Or you may get thrown out in the first five minutes
Too much depends on chance
On how the ball bounces

I am not talking about a game son
I am talking about LIFE
Because winning is fun
But what lasts , is what you have learned
WANTING to win is the point!
Not giving up is the point!
Not letting anyone down is the point!
Not being satisfied with what you have done is the point.
Play to win son
But lose like a champion
It is not winning what counts son,
but what counts is TRYING.

Woody's love affair with golf inspired him to create a network of young, upwardly mobile black men who shared his passion of the game. In 2002 he organized a small group of Golfers naming them The Weekend Hackers. The Weekend Hackers play challenging and upscale golf courses like The Heritage Golf Course, owned by Dr. Jay. The Weekend Hackers event are known for their various flights. The Weekend Hackers network reaches throughout the United States. Awards are given based on ability, with the most skillful award being named after Woody: The Woody GoGo Award. The Woody Go Go HBCU Scholarship Fund.

For some he was a son, brother, uncle, a relative but for a few he was their very touchstone with life and its pleasant and harsh situations. Woody will be missed and remembered but not mourned. Those with personal relationships with Woody will forever remember their loss of him. Others please just realize that you have touched shoulders with an extraordinary person who cannot be replaced, you have known a giant among people. A person who loved most sports, The Atlanta Falcons, The GA Bulldogs, LeBron James, Hip Hop, a good party and life!

Woody's love will always remain for his two sons, Garrison Patton Gosier and Gavin Marshall Gosier his love for them expands the physical realm. His best friend and father Wilson E Gosier, his sister whom he loved dearly: Marsha Nichole Gosier nephew Cario Sirod Jackson. Katrina Haugabook Hood (William) and nephew William Hood. His soulmate, Dr. Letunya Walker, EdD.

His mother Doris M Gosier preceded him in external sleep.

To those for whom Woody was their touchstone, with life he will be missed; he will be remembered, but not mourned, for they rejoice in the fact that he was their "someone" and that he brought so much essence for them in this journey called life. **Thank You God For Your Gift of Wilson Woody Gosier.**



REFLECTIONS OF A LEADER

Order of Celebration

Officiant, Rev. Emory Lightfoot

Processional
Prayer.....Rev. Emory Lightfoot
Celebration Toning.....Marsha Gosier
Woody's Little "Big" Sister

Dr. Mildred McClain
Executive Director of the Harambee House of
Citizens for Environmental Change (Mama B'ahati)

Selection.....Dexter Davis

Tribute.....Garrison and Gavin Gosier
Woody's Heartbeats

Reflections

(Ten minutes or less please)

Yolanda Fifer.....Friend and Former Co-worker
Victor Marshall.....First Cousin (maternal)
Derek Horne.....First Cousin (paternal)

Selection.....Woody's Jam

Jerry Daniely.....Greg Dennis, DEVOS
Dr. Letunya Walker, EdD.....Woody's Lady
Diplomat Resolution.....Diplomats, Inc.
Marsha Gosier

Selection.....Dexter Davis

Words of Encouragement.....Johnny Harrison
Fellow VSU Alumnus and Diplomat

Acknowledgements.....Edwards Small Mortuary Staff

Recessional



Weeping may endure for a night,
But joy comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:5
NKJV