

Special thanks to Calvin's very caring friends and neighbors in Jeffersonville -- Sarah & Lamar Sadler; Sam and Jeanette Quarterman; and Lonnie Ford.

Interment will be at the Ragin Family cemetery on Perry Highway.

In respect for COVID-19 safety, there will not be a Repast.

In lieu of floral tributes, please consider a contribution to one of the following organizations in the name of Calvin Davis:

The Hunt Educational and Cultural Center

Mail Check: HECC PO Box 1391 Fort Valley, Ga. 31030; payable to HECC
CashApp: \$HECC1954

Wiley College (Class of 1958)

711 Wiley Ave Marshall, Texas 75670
Online donations: <https://www.wileyc.edu/donate/>

**The Youth Center of Excellence (former Boys and Girls Club)
- Fort Valley, GA**

Belinda C. Baker, Chief Executive Officer
Fort Valley Youth Center of Excellence
500 Riley Ave. Fort Valley, GA 31030

Charmer Brazier, County Director Peach County DFCS
700 Spruce Street Wing E/P) Box 976 Fort Valley, GA 31030

The family of Calvin Davis expresses sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness shown during this most difficult time. We shall never forget you and ask for your continued prayers as we face tomorrow without Calvin's presence.

Edward Small Mortuary, LLC
1011 Martin Luther King Jr Drive
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
(478) 825-8700

<https://www.edwardssmallmortuary.com/obituaries/calvin-davis>

CELEBRATING the *Life of*



His Race Is Complete.
He has successfully passed the baton.
April 11, 1935 - November 26, 2022

Calvin Davis

Saturday, December 3, 2022

(Visitation: Friday, December 2, Noon - 3:00 PM)

Edward Small Mortuary, LLC
1011 Martin Luther King Jr Drive
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

Order of Service

Music provided by Pastor Corey Stubbs
Officiating: Pastor Gregory Moore, Trinity Baptist Church

Processional

Prayer of Consolation.....Pastor Gregory Moore

Scripture

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-18.....Deacon Walter Phillips (nephew)

New Testament: Matthew 25: 14-30.... Deacon Richard T. Hogan (nephew)

Musical Selection

Reflections (Limit to 3 minutes please)

Neighbor and Friend.....Commissioner Lonnie Ford,
Jeffersonville, GA

Neighbor and Friend.....Sarah & Lamar Sadler,
Jeffersonville, GA

Fellow Huntonian.....Eugene Fluellen,
Fort Valley, GA

Family Reflections

Kirek Davis.....Ernest's son

Robin Phillips.....Robert's daughter

Musical Selection

ObituaryRead Silently

EulogyPastor Morris Hillsman,
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Acknowledgements

Recessional



OBITUARY continued

traveled internationally -- to Germany, Rome, Belgium, and France. He danced and listened to jazz a few times at the legendary Savoy Ballroom in Harlem while visiting with his sister in New York. Uncle Calvin's special skills and talents leave a lasting memory and a profound legacy for us. Throughout his life and especially after retiring, he found joy in his interests in art, gardening, reading, listening to jazz, and politics. We will miss the phone calls and conversations we shared, especially when he learned of a new scholar or historical event, and the generosity and concern he showed for us all. He was a lifetime member of Trinity Baptist Church, the Wiley National Alumni Association, the National Teachers Association, and the NAACP. He was a member of the Texas African American Sports Hall of Fame (2004) and the Wiley Athletic Hall of Fame (2015).

He was a serious man, with a wicked sense of humor, and with a keen appreciation of the impact of our history in all our lives. He had swag. Nurturing friendships, and gratitude were strong character traits of Calvin's. He stressed that we all need each other in our lives and should take nothing for granted. The friendships he developed during his time at Wiley have lasted for almost 70 years. George and Mary Daniels became his adopted family, and he was like an uncle to their children, Danny and Glenda. He never forgot the many kindnesses shown him along the way and committed to pay-it-forward to his students, the youth in his family, and whenever he had an opportunity to encourage youth. There was not an ounce of pettiness in him He had a deep sense of dignity.

Mr. Davis is survived by his sister, Evelyn D. McCray (Sister-Mama) and her daughters and sons-in-law, Jackie, Paulette (Paul), Gail and Avis (Larry deceased), and Bob (Anita-deceased); brother Robert's children, Robin (Walter), Carnita Bronson, Cynthia Lattimore, and Samuel T. Bronson; and his brother Ernest's children, Tanja, Kirek (Karen), and Keisha; very special friend Rosa Dotson Taylor; adopted sister Mary (George-deceased) Daniels and children Dr. George Daniels, III (Libby) and Glenda Delgado; stepson Louis Jackson and sister-in-law Josephine Albert; and, many more loving grand- nieces and nephews, relatives, extended family and friends, including Sarah and Lamar Sadler, Commissioner Lonnie Ford, and Sam and Jeanette Quarterman.

REFLECTIONS

Love Letter from your Sister-Mama nieces

November 28, 2022
Dear Uncle Calvin,

We all love you so much. Your Sister-Mama could not offer her usual support through your illness, so we took her baton and tried to be there with you.

You watched and learned from others...

As a boy growing up in the rural south around 1943 or so, you learned early how small decisions can change one's life. From the early days, it seemed you were destined to be something special. As an 8- or 9-year-old, you were already working to earn money for you and your family. One day, it was raining hard as you tried to make your way home. You saw a bike and you took it to get your ride home. You were sent to live with Papa (your granddad, Willie Frank Ragin) in Perry to keep you out of trouble.

In subsequent years, you referred to your time with Papa as the most significant in your life. You also said you admired and learned from the members at Trinity Baptist Church. Papa's mentoring/living by example, his leadership, the respect he had from the entire community, both Whites and Blacks in this often-contentious time between the races helped to shape your future decisions. He was a dignified community leader --self-educated - not a lot of formal education. One of his major teachings was about hard work and discipline - whatever you do is worth doing well.

You acted... and we learned from you

We admired you from afar at first. You mysteriously appeared at different times in our young lives, and always had good stories to share. We could tell how much you loved and respected "Sister-Mama", and she felt the same about you. You, Mom, and your brothers kept a great relationship with each other throughout.

Some of what we learned from you - education is of most importance, recognize your talents, and sharpen your skills into something meaningful; hard work and discipline and stay the course; know your value; work to be physically fit and mentally sharp always; keep your friends for a lifetime; and VOTE in every election.

Healthwise, this was a difficult year for you. The hospital is the place you did not want to be, especially due to COVID. You did not make it easy on medical staff—they continued until the last to get proper diagnoses. You always did things a bit differently.

Love Letter continued

We worked to be sure you had all you needed to get better. Your friends, especially Sarah & Lamar, Sam & Jeanette, and Lonnie were there for you. Bob was at the hospital and your home almost daily for hours. We queried the doctors, worked to get second opinions, and were happily surprised as you seemed to get better each time. Prayer circles surrounded you. You were on your way to be closer to us ... but time did not allow.

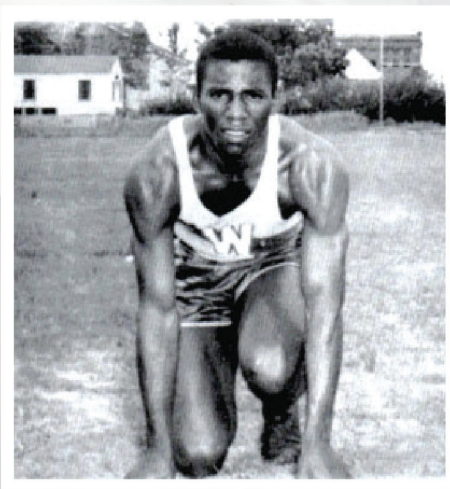
We will miss you. You also taught us to leave something meaningful from your life here on earth. You proudly shared Georgia peaches and pecans with your friends. You remembered birthdays and seemed to choose just the right card for the right person. You are quite the artist, a gentleman and a scholar. We will play Miles Davis and add a little hot sauce and think of you always.

So much love to you,

Sister-Mama's girls

Broken Chain
Ron Tranmer©

We little knew that morning God was to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you, You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you, The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories, Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you, You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one, The chain will link again.



OBITUARY

Calvin Davis, born in Fort Valley/Peach County, Georgia and more recently of Jeffersonville, GA passed away on November 26, 2022. He was the middle child of Robert Frank Davis and Mary Belle Ragin, who passed away when he was only six years old. Calvin was also preceded in death by his parents; his wife Connie Jackson Davis; three brothers- Robert, Rudolph, and Ernest; niece, Anita Hogan; nephew, Larry Revear; nephew, Tony Davis; and grandnephew, Dominique.

As a young boy, Calvin moved to Perry to live with his grandfather/Papa, Willie Frank Ragin on his farm. There were some of his early lessons hard work, discipline, and the importance of an education. He got up early, feeding animals, milking cows, and studying hard. Papa was a self-educated man, without much formal education, but he was a community leader, respected by everyone, black and white. Observing Papa and members of his church, Trinity Baptist Church gave him a template of how he wanted to live his life.

He moved back to Fort Valley for High School and excelled at sports. Calvin lettered all four years in basketball, football, and track at H.A. Hunt High School. He set records in track. His hard work and talents took him west on a full scholarship to Wiley College in Marshall, TX. There, he won all his high- and low- hurdle events each of his four years, as well as at all S.W.A.C. (Southwest Athletic Conference) events during this time. As a result, he was named All- S.W.A.C. for three years and ranked 7th and 8th nationally by the N.C.A.A. and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (N.A.I.A.) in 1957 and 1958.

Calvin truly believed that education is the key to success. Education could be college or learning a trade, but lifelong learning is essential. He worked hard to be the first in his family to obtain a college degree, which was at least as important to him as the training he put in to become the best in the southwest in low- and high-hurdles. He excelled both on the field and in the classroom and graduated on time from Wiley College with a degree in Biology, Health and Physical Education in 1958. Calvin was inducted into the Texas African American Sports Hall of Fame (2004) and into the Wiley Athletics Hall of Fame (2015). In 1959, Calvin entered the Armed Forces Special Services and was able to use his skills and his degree to coach track and football, and to run track and play basketball. He won the hi - and low- hurdles championships with 'all-5th, Corp and' All-8th Army Teams. Calvin continued his education and earned a Masters Degree from Fort Valley State College University.

Calvin was a self-described poor country boy. In fact, his was the image represented in an early 1940s anti-poverty campaign in Georgia -" Help 1,000,000 Georgians help Georgia". The campaign picture was taken by the first President of Fort Valley State College (University), Dr. Horace Mann Bond (1939-1945) This image was used on the stationery of Fort Valley State College (University) for some time. Even so, he was a true renaissance man; he traveled across the country with his track competitions, and he