



## Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.

November 14, 1944 - January 24, 2026

TILLMAN SR., Mr. Ezra - Age 81, passed away Saturday, January 24, 2026 at Harper Hutzell Hospital - Detroit. Family hour 10:00 AM Friday, January 30, 2026, at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 1226 Beach St. with funeral service commencing at 11:00 AM. Pastor Ronald Bobo Sr., Host Pastor Rev. Ezra Tillman Jr., Officiating. Interment Detroit Memorial Park West Cemetery, Detroit, MI. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:00 AM Friday. Mr. Tillman Sr. will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd. and may be viewed from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Thursday.

Ezra Lee Tillman Sr., Beloved Family Man, Singer, and Servant of God

Ezra Lee Tillman Sr., affectionately known as “Nea Baby,” was born on November 14, 1944, in Bessemer, Alabama. The cherished firstborn of John Henry Tillman and Willie Gevena Horn. Ezra’s early life was raised in Choctaw, Alabama marked by devotion to his family, his faith, and his love for music.

Growing up, Ezra attended local Alabama schools, but life’s demands called him early to the cotton fields, where he worked to support his mother and younger siblings. His determination to better himself never diminished. Ezra later returned to his studies, earning certification in plumbing from A. Philip Randolph Career and Technical Center and graduating from Cass Technical

High School in Detroit, Michigan.

In the mid-1960s, Ezra joined his father in Johnstown and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There, his lifelong passion for music blossomed. He recorded with his band, Sunny & Till and The Sailors, sharing the scene with legendary artists like Solomon Burke, Garnett Mimms, The Showstoppers, and Lotsa Poppa. The 1970s brought him to the threshold of discovery of his talent being signed with Scepter Records, but contractual obstacles kept those dreams on hold.

Detroit became Ezra's home, and it was there, through his father's wise counsel, that he met the love of his life, Brenda Burt. "She's a good girl, sings in the choir, and gets happy at church, too!" his father said. Ezra and Brenda married on October 20, 1986, sharing 47 years of steadfast love, unity, and devotion. From this union they raised two sons, Ezra Lee Tillman Jr. and James Henry Tillman Sr., who became the pride of his heart (Cap and Skip). Ezra's faith deepened over the years. In 1995, he accepted his calling to preach and was licensed as a Minister of the Gospel. After retiring from James Steel and Tube Company in 2008, he was devoted to his church family at The New Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Dr. John L. Webb. He was faithful as a tither, Bible class student, and attended Sunday School regularly. Ezra's soul stirring vocals led him to singing in the Male Chorus and Mass Choir for more than three decades. Later, Ezra moved to Flint, Michigan, joining First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of his son, Dr. Ezra L. Tillman Jr. There, he served faithfully—singing, working in maintenance, and helping serving with the congregation through the Flint water crisis. His service was recognized by the White House EPA and the State of Michigan, a testament to his unwavering dedication to his community.

Music was Ezra's joy and ministry. He sang for Christ and for his loved ones, delighting family and friends at gatherings, always ready to start a song with his signature phrase, "Do you remember this one?" And ending his singing with his phrase "Alright that's enough!" His strong handshake and head nod

made all feel welcome.

In the spring of 2017, Ezra suffered a stroke that quieted his singing voice, but his spirit remained undimmed. He continued to be a devoted husband, father, and grandfather—modeling inner resilience and strength. Although his voice became faint, his ability to express his love and gratitude remained ever more. On Saturday, January 24, 2026, God called Ezra home to rest, and he made a peaceful transition to be with the Lord. Ezra had four brothers and three sisters of whom preceded him in death.

Ezra Lee Tillman Sr. leaves behind a rich legacy of love and music, cherished by his beloved wife of 42 years, Brenda; his sons, Ezra Lee Tillman Jr. (Catrina) and James Henry Tillman Sr.; five grandsons, Ezra Lee Tillman III, Micah Nathaniel Tillman, Isaac Christopher Tillman, and Luke Josiah Tillman of West Palm Beach, FL and James Henry Tillman Jr. of Grand Blanc, MI. Two special grandchildren, Marcus Davis and Ashleigh Davis. Six sisters; Barbara Jean Gordan of Detroit, MI, Janie “Boo baby” Blakeney ( Roy) of Chicago IL; Brenda “Peter rabbit” Powell of Joliet IL; Callie Ann Reed Choctaw, AL; Gloveta Lawson of Detroit, MI, Sharon Tillman, Philadelphia, PA and countless family members, friends, and community members who were blessed by his presence.

His life was a song of faith, family, and service—a melody that will echo in our hearts forever

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JAN **29**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, Inc., Flint  
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.  
Flint, MI 48505  
(810) 789-6666  
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com  
<https://lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

## Family hour

JAN **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church  
1226 Beach Street  
Flint, MI 48502

## Funeral Service

JAN **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church  
1226 Beach Street  
Flint, MI 48502

# Tribute Wall

TW

“ *Teretha Wallace lit a candle in memory of Ezra Tillman*



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**Teretha Wallace** - January 29 at 11:10 PM

MP

“ *Michele Parker lit a candle in memory of Ezra Tillman*



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**Michele Parker** - January 29 at 07:54 PM

CQ

“ *Prayers to the entire family.*



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**Caitlin Quiggin** - January 29 at 05:43 PM

MM

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy to our Pastor Ezra L. Tillman Jr. and Family. We are praying for your peace and comfort in the days ahead.*

*Marian McCann & Tanya Hickson*

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**MARIAN MCCANN** - January 29 at 04:11 PM

EJ

“ Praying with you and for the family.  
God is God can and God will. Be it all.

*Minister Craig & Elder Anna Johnson .*



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**Elder Anna Johnson** - January 29 at 01:56 AM

MS

“ Malirria Snowden-Peters lit a candle in  
memory of Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.



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**Malirria Snowden-Peters** - January 28 at 10:00 PM

JB

“ My condolences goes to the entire Tillman  
Family



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**Jeanette Brown** - January 28 at 09:38 PM



“ Carolyn D Davis sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.



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**Carolyn D Davis** - January 28 at 07:21 AM

PF

“ To Pastor Tillman and his family our prayers go out to you on the passing of your father.

Posey Family - January 27 at 11:56 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Burns lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.



Dorothy Burns - January 27 at 05:32 PM

PW

“ Pamela lynne Williams lit a candle in memory of Ezra Tillman



Pamela lynne Williams - January 26 at 09:22 PM

SM

“ Sharon Mixon lit a candle in memory of Ezra Tillman



Sharon Mixon - January 26 at 08:11 PM

JD

My deepest condolence to the Tillman family

Julius L Dantzler - January 27 at 06:45 PM

TS

“ Trina Renee Stewart lit a candle in memory of Ezra Tillman



Trina Renee Stewart - January 26 at 07:27 PM

OG

“ Ondria Gillespie lit a candle in memory of Ezra Tillman



Ondria Gillespie - January 26 at 01:57 PM

KS

“ KATIE STEWART lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.



KATIE STEWART - January 26 at 11:45 AM

KS

“ KATIE STEWART sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.



KATIE STEWART - January 26 at 11:44 AM

AD

“ My condolences to the entire family during their time of sadness!



AC Dumas - January 26 at 08:56 AM

SM

“ Sharon Mixon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.



Sharon Mixon - January 26 at 04:57 AM

JK

“ Jesse Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.



Jesse Kirksey - January 25 at 06:26 PM

DB

My condolences to the Tilman's family 🙏❤️. A

Dorthy Burns - January 27 at 05:44 PM

CB

“ *Christine Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ezra Lee Tillman Sr.*



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**Christine Brown** - January 25 at 05:14 PM