



Mr. William G. Washington Sr.

March 20, 1931 - June 14, 2025

WASHINGTON, Mr. William G. Sr. - Age 94, passed away June 14, 2025, at his residence. Family hour 12:00 PM Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at Fairhaven Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1379 Louis Ave, Flint, MI 48505 with funeral service commencing at 1:00 PM Chaplain Seth Brownwell, officiating. Interment Cherry Valley Township Cemetery, 3712 Knight Street, Idlewild, MI. Mr. Washington will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed Monday, June 23, 2025, from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM, with family present from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM to receive friends. William Gilbert Washington Sr. was born March 20, 1931 in Idlewild, Michigan to Alexander and Artelia Washington. William grew up in Idlewild, also known as the Black Eden, where prominent members of the Black community began vacationing. Idlewild was a thriving beach town amidst the forest of Northern Michigan that offered a safe haven during the Jim Crow era that denied Blacks rights and equality. During those years William developed a strong work ethic from his father and the foundation of his spirituality from his mother. A female Holy Nazarene Pastor from Chicago began having house meetings for the year-round residents which Mother Washington and her children would attend. These meetings were held on the Saturday Sabbath and led to William's subsequent baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist church and his love for Sabbath rest. William attended elementary school in Reed City, Michigan and high school at Adelpian Academy in Holly, Michigan. His high school studies were completed however when on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corp. After

his discharge from active duty in the Marines he attended automotive classes at General Motors Technical Institute. But definitely held on to the identity of "Once a Marine always a Marine." His work experience includes roofing and construction, snowplowing, railroad, Boeing airplane mechanic, surveying, photographer for Flint Observer and 30+ years with General Motors. He is best known throughout Michigan and Northern Ohio for his hobbies of roller skating, photography and riding a motorcycle (not a rice burner but a Harley). He had several alias titles: Wild Bill, The Picture Man but most knew him as just Mr. Bill. That is of course unless you grew up with him in Idlewild where he was called by his middle name Gilbert.

William loved his family and had good strong values which he taught to his children. His deeply held religious beliefs lead him to spend hours in his prayer room interceding for not only his bloodline but also for his church family. What shaped those prayers was his daily checking in with the family and his attendance at the weekly church prayer meeting. Something he called "Checking Traps." When asked on occasion what was his secret to long life he would reply Ph.D. And to the confused looks he would add "Pray Hard Daily." William Gilbert Washington Sr. leaves to cherish his memory: wife of 42 years Phyllis Whitley-Washington Mt. Morris, Michigan; children, Susan (Morris) Woods, Sylvia Anderson, both of Oceanside, California, Duane (Twill) Washington, Chester Washington, Darlene (Algin) Bonner, Sonya Washington, all of Flint, Michigan, Alphonso (Ame) Washington of Everett, Washington; Timothy (Princess) Washington of Burton, Michigan, Ivan Collins of Gypsum, Colorado, Derhun (Verona) Sanders of Dumfries, Virginia and Marcus (Shakira) Leonard of Glencoe, Alabama; step-son, Tyrone (Monica) Hicks of Ann Arbor, Michigan; 40 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; brother, Nathaniel Washington Sr. (Catherine) of Mt. Morris, Michigan; a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends including special Friends, Diane Rankins of Flint, Michigan, Mable D. Jenkins of Montrose, Michigan and Shirley Woods of Glencoe, Alabama. William was preceded in death by his first wife, Margaret Taylor; sons, William

G Washington Jr. and Troy Hicks; grandsons, LaRouse Robinson, Desmond Ireland and Anthony Washington; parents, Alexander Washington and Artelia Washington; sisters, Irene Gayle, Pricilla Washington-Davis, Beverly Harper and Phyllis Washington; brothers, Arthur, Daniel, Jerry, Joseph and Cornelius Washington; daughter-in-law, Barbara Washington; son-in-law, Charles Anderson; granddaughter-in-law, Simone Knapp.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

JUN **23**. 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 Present

JUN **23**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Family hour

JUN **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Fairhaven Seventh-Day Adventist Church
G-1379 W. Louis Ave.
Flint, MI 48505
<http://fairhavensda.org/index.htm>

Service

JUN **24**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fairhaven Seventh-Day Adventist Church
G-1379 W. Louis Ave.
Flint, MI 48505
<http://fairhavensda.org/index.htm>

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Confolrnces to the Washington family..Bill and i along with the family Rollerskated together 4 decàdes..Flint and many other cities..R.I.P. Big Bill..!!*



Marvin A. Benton - August 27, 2025 at 12:56 AM

AG

“ *Our condolences and prayers to the family and all who know and loved Bill. He was a part of our lives for so, so very long, more than can be remembered. My mind goes back to those times at the skating rink, he'd be skating backwards, smiling and taking pictures of us, never did see any of those photos! The moments we didn't know he captured until he handed over the snapshot. Such a special, fun, and loving person, what a "Great Joy" and "Beautiful Blessing". He will remain near in heart and dearly missed until That Glorious Day of The Lord's Coming. Bette Green, Gina Norton and Angela Gomez*

Angela Norton Gomez - July 20, 2025 at 09:59 PM

SC

“ *Sandra Copeland lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.*



Sandra Copeland - June 29, 2025 at 04:46 PM

“ Derhun Sanders... sharing something wrote up for Dad... love y'all!!!

Early last Saturday morning, our father — William “Mr. Bill” Washington Sr. — peacefully made his transition at the age of 94.

To the world, he was Mr. Bill. To us, he was Dad, Daddy or Pops. And one of the greatest blessings in our lives.

We were all able to be with him on Friday night. We sat together, listening as he shared his heart. None of us knew it would be our last time together — but it was a beautiful moment we’ll treasure forever.

This is the man we got our smiles from. Our work ethic. Our positive outlook.

We’re especially thankful to Mama Phyllis for taking care of him and being by his side.

Dad provided for us faithfully. He was steady. Present. Loving. We each have our own memories — phone calls, simple check-ins, and time spent together at the skating rink or out taking pictures. Ordinary moments with him were full of wisdom, humor, and love.

He was deeply rooted in faith. He loved God, his family, his church, and his community — and he showed that love through service, generosity, and consistency.

He also had his own way with words — the famous “Mr. Bill” sayings we all came to know and love.

He’d begin every call with:

“Peace be unto you.”

And we’d reply:

“Peace be multiplied.”

From “May the good Lord take a likin’ to you,” to “Keep the wheels on the road,” or “Take all you want, but eat all you take,” his voice carried wisdom that sticks with us to this day.

He often reminded us:

“If you take care of the body, the body will take care of you.”

He had a phrase for everything — and for everyone — but it wasn’t just what he said. It was how he lived. With faith. With resilience. With heart.

Even now, our hearts are full — not because he’s gone, but because we got to have him.

As the saying goes,

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.”

At the end of every call, Dad would say:

“10 4 and a copy...I’m dropping the hammer.”

And we’d always reply:

“Hammer down.”

So today, we say it one last time —

Hammer down, Dad... Hammer down.

*“Henceforth there is laid up for you a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give you at that day — and not to you only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.”
(2 Timothy 4:8)*

We love y’all!

We love you, Dad. Always.”

Marcus Leonard - June 25, 2025 at 10:19 AM

CH

“ *Cassandra Hughes lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.*



Cassandra Hughes - June 24, 2025 at 09:01 PM

TT

“ *On the behalf Allen and Princess and the entire Washington family my deepest condolences to you may Hod continue to give you strength during this time of grief we will continue praying for you.
Tina and Carl Thomas Bassett Va.*



Tina Thomas - June 24, 2025 at 04:05 PM

CA

“ *Clarence Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.*



Clarence Anderson - June 24, 2025 at 02:36 PM

CH

“ Remembering the many days of roller skating!
Mr. Bill Washington was one of the floor
guards, and an excellent skater and he took
many, many pictures...

Sending my condolences to his entire family,
May God grant you peace and comfort during your time of
bereavement;

Our thoughts and prayers are continually with you.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

James and Carolyn Hudson



Carolyn Hudson - June 24, 2025 at 10:27 AM

RM

“ RONNIE & LANOMA MARTIN lit a candle in
memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



RONNIE & LANOMA MARTIN - June 24, 2025 at 09:49 AM

NJ

“ I’m reminded of the family reunion in Alabama. Uncle Bill shared the
story of riding in the his RV from Michigan. Uncle Bill said when
Aunt Phyllis was driving it was smooth. But he knew when they
switched drivers because they bounced him down the hwy while he
laid in bed. He said I know I can get on my lawnmower with all this
bouncing and shaking 🤔🤔 “love that nephew” “ Hammer 🔨 down
“

Nathaniel Jr - June 24, 2025 at 08:56 AM

CD

“ Cynthia (Anderson) Davis lit a candle in memory of William Washington



Cynthia (Anderson) Davis - June 24, 2025 at 08:56 AM

DM

“ Duwanda Moman lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Duwanda Moman - June 24, 2025 at 12:23 AM

DS

“ Sending our love condolences & prayers to the entire family!



Denise & Emanuel Summers - June 23, 2025 at 09:42 PM

GJ

“ Gwinda Jefferson lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Gwinda Jefferson - June 23, 2025 at 09:16 PM

DE

“ Debra Evans sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Debra Evans - June 23, 2025 at 06:46 PM

TC

“ Love Prayers 🙏 and Condolences to the Washington Families! 🌸
Frank & Stella Crawford



The Crawfords - June 23, 2025 at 12:20 AM

DP

“ Thank you so much for being a strong, viable presence and assisting with creating this man. Love you! May God bless each and every Washington family member.



Darryl Patterson - June 21, 2025 at 11:50 PM

SL

“ Sandra Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Sandra Lewis - June 21, 2025 at 10:53 PM

JM

“ Jeannie Mayberry lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Jeannie Mayberry - June 21, 2025 at 12:54 PM

SH

“ Sending my condolences to the Washington family .Mr Bill was a king on skating wheels. My you rest in peace.



Sheila M Hemphill - June 21, 2025 at 10:27 AM

RB

“ Rosa Burnett sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Rosa Burnett - June 20, 2025 at 09:01 AM

RB

“ Rosa Burnett lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Rosa Burnett - June 20, 2025 at 09:00 AM

CB

“ *Mr. Washington Sr has been removing the snow from my driveway, which is near his church for over 40 years. He has had the same beautiful and pleasant personality since the first day I saw him at FSDA church. I also had the pleasure of meeting his Beautiful Wife. I pray that God hold The Washington Family closer in His loving arms as only He can, in Jesus name I pray...Amen*



Caroyn Brock - June 19, 2025 at 06:45 PM

FC

“ *Condolences to the family* 🙏



Fredricka Bonner Cross - June 19, 2025 at 08:09 AM

TF

“ *Cool Breeze our love and condolences go out to your whole family.* ❤️



The Lewis family - June 19, 2025 at 08:05 AM

KH

“ *My sincerest condolences goes out to the Washington family. The Hamilton Family...*

Karen Hamilton - June 19, 2025 at 06:41 AM



“ *To the Family of Mr Bill*

*May it comfort your hearts to know that we
ate praying for you during this difficult time.
Mr Bill will always be our favorite " Camera
Man" at Skateland. He watched us grow up
the past 30+ years*

Red & Lisa ☐☐

Francia Malone - June 19, 2025 at 04:54 AM



MR

“ *This man and his photography legacy will be dearly missed.
Especially with our Michigan roller skating community. 🙏
Kenny Booth
Michigan United Roller Rink Rats*

Michigan United Roller Rink Rats - June 19, 2025 at 03:43 AM

GR

“ *Gwendolyn Rosborough-Goodrum lit a candle
in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.*



Gwendolyn Rosborough-Goodrum - June 18, 2025 at 04:05 PM

LM

“ So many memories of Brother William Bill Washington and all of the pictures he took over the years of me and my family at Fair Haven SDA Church. He will always be remembered.



LORI MCBRAYER - June 18, 2025 at 03:52 PM

SN

“ Sandy Neal lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Sandy Neal - June 18, 2025 at 11:51 AM

JB

“ On behalf of the Men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.- Iota Beta Sigma Chapter, we extend our heartfelt condolences to our dear Brother William Washington III and his family. May God give you strength, courage, and peace in your hour of need.

Joshua Brown - June 18, 2025 at 01:06 AM

SW

“ My prayers and condolences goes out to The Washington Family



Shantel L Williams - June 18, 2025 at 12:38 AM

CP

“ COREY PIERCE lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



COREY PIERCE - June 17, 2025 at 08:10 PM

VP

“ Thank you, Uncle Bill, for always putting a smile on my face and making me laugh with some of those rhyming little sayings that you always came up with. You were such a sweetheart, and I loved you dearly. Now you get a chance to rest. No more working; just rejoicing in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! 🙏🕊️😊❤️🎉



Venetia Petteway - June 17, 2025 at 06:40 PM

LG

“ Linda Gulley lit a candle in memory of Mr. William G. Washington Sr.



Linda Gulley - June 17, 2025 at 06:23 PM

PH

“ praying hands lit a candle in memory of William Washington



praying hands - June 17, 2025 at 02:06 PM

KR

“ *My husband David and I..send our sincere condolences..to the Washington family. Please know we love you all. Rest in Heaven..Sir. 🙏*



Karen Russell-Woods - June 17, 2025 at 12:39 PM

DP

Lit a candle in the memory of Mr. Bill Washington. Thank you so much for being such a strong, viable presence and assisting in creating this Man. Love you. Blessings to all the Washington family.

Darryl Patterson - June 21, 2025 at 03:36 PM

BF

“ *Sending Our Prayers And Love To the Washington Family The Billings Family*



Billings Family - June 17, 2025 at 10:29 AM

JG

“ *Jeanette Grady lit a candle in memory of William Washington*



Jeanette Grady - June 16, 2025 at 09:40 PM

PW

“ *Princess Washington lit a candle in memory of William Washington*



Princess Washington - June 16, 2025 at 06:09 PM