



Deacon Willie Sumlin

January 13, 1931 - May 8, 2022

It is with heartfelt sympathy, the management and staff of Luke Strong and Son Mortuary, Ltd. are saddened to announce the passing of Deacon Willie “Billy” James Sumlin, 91, of Doerun, Georgia, transitioned from this earthly life on May 8, 2022 at his residence surrounded by his beloved wife, Mrs. Jessie Lee Sumlin.

Deacon Willie “Billy” James Sumlin was born on January 13, 1931 in Sylvester (Worth County), Georgia to the late Charlie and the late Mattie Mitchell Sumlin.

Deacon Sumlin was married to Ms. Jessie Lee Broner on August 12, 1950 at the Colquitt County Courthouse in Moultrie, Georgia. Their marriage has been sustained by God almighty for seventy one years. To this union, eleven children were born in which four of them has preceded them in death.

He was a faithful and enthused soldier of God’s army as he was always built for battle and ready to serve. His earthly place of worship was the First African Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Willie Love, Jr. He served in several capacities at First African Baptist such as the Deacon Board, Choir Member, Devotion Leader, and many other capacities.

Specifically, he served as a deacon for more than forty years. He was an esteemed servant of God until his health declined. In his spare time besides

going to church, he loved playing checkers, watching the Atlanta Braves and Gunsmoke, and spending time with his family.

During his time on Earth, he was a profound carpenter at the Marine Corps Logistics Base of Albany, Georgia. Before his career began at the marine base, he assisted in the building of the marine base. He began his career in 1950 until retirement in 1986 in which his daughter Janice begin her career at the marine base shortly before his retirement. After retiring, he continued to offer his abilities of serving his family and all those he could by ways of lawn care, carpentry, transportation, and any other acts of kindness through service under the leadership of God our Father.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Sumlin; four children, Lucille Sumlin, Shirley Ann Sumlin, Gwendolyn Sumlin, and Kenneth Sumlin; eight brothers, Charlie Sumlin Jr., O.B. Sumlin, John Sumlin, Elijah Sumlin, Ozell Sumlin, Robert C. Sumlin, Lawrence C. Williams, and Eddie D. Sumlin; eight sisters, Annie Pearl Robinson, Fannie L. Higgins, Madine Pollard, Essie Mae Sumlin, Ethel Lee Mitchell, Alice Mae Mitchell, Annie Grace Brinson, and Doretha Coe.

He leaves to cherish his beloved, dedicated wife of 71 years, Mrs. Jessie L. Sumlin of Doerun, Georgia; three sons, Charlie James Sumlin, James "Teddy" Sumlin both of Doerun, Georgia, and Tony Sumlin (Inge) of Leesburg, Georgia; daughters, Ocie B. Richardson of Doerun, Georgia, Linda (Earnest) Molden of Funston, Georgia, Janice (Walter) Brown of Dawson, Georgia, and Shelia (Willie Lambright) Sumlin of Funston, Georgia; adopted daughter, Cindy Jones of Moultrie, Georgia, special great-grandson, Tevores Sumlin of Moultrie, Georgia; special great-granddaughters, Ja'Khiya Jones and Janazha Toombs; special nephew, Wayne (Mary Alice) Daniels of Doerun, Georgia; two god daughters, Audrey Bryant of St. George, South Carolina, Willie Joyce Copeland, and Suprina (Harry) Green, both of Doerun, Georgia; one sister in

law, Dorothy Ruth Daniels of Doerun, Georgia; 18 grandchildren, 46 great grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY 13. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Luke Strong And Son Mortuary, Ltd.
20 First Street Northeast
Moultrie, GA 31768
(229) 890-1717

A Celebration of Life Service

MAY 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

First African Baptist Church
2903 Funston-Doerun Road
Doerun, GA 31744

Tribute Wall



“ Luke Strong and Son Mortuary created a Celebration of Life for Mr. Willie James “Billy” Sumlin in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin



Luke Strong and Son Mortuary - May 13, 2022 at 08:22 PM



“ Deacon Willie Sumlin

October 04, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ Deacon Willie Sumlin

September 18, 2022 at 05:56 AM



“ Deacon Willie Sumlin

September 18, 2022 at 03:24 AM

AM

“ A great family man that I had the pleasure of meeting through my Uncle Walter & Aunt Janice many years ago....This family connected with ours like we already knew one another.....Mrs Jessie as sweet as can be and all of her children....(know that we love you all)...We the Thomas /Brown Family send our deepest condolences to all of The Sumlin family....Mr. Billy will be sorely missed.....Rest In Paradise.....🕊️

Angela Morris - May 15, 2022 at 08:36 PM

JB

“ He was always the first voice in the church I'd hear leading us in song. He was always the first to greet us at family gatherings. He always had a story or word to share. He was a pillar to the family and will be missed, but never forgotten. Rest in Honor and enjoy your everlasting reward.

Jeremy Brinson - May 14, 2022 at 11:44 AM

AR

“ To Mrs. Jessie Lee Sumlin (Aunt Bird) and Family. With deepest sympathy and our condolences from Mae C. William's Family.



Antoinette Roberts - May 13, 2022 at 04:39 PM

FM

“ So sorry to hear about your loss, Daddy Billie will truly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. David, Lisa, Trai, and Jasmine.

Felicia Murray - May 13, 2022 at 04:02 AM

T,

“ *The Brockington & Family ,Sis.Gillam purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



The Brockington & Family ,Sis.Gillam - May 13, 2022 at 12:13 AM

TR

“ *Tomeka Reeves lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Tomeka Reeves - May 12, 2022 at 10:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



May 12, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



May 12, 2022 at 06:33 PM

LB

“ *LILLIE BENYARD purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



LILLIE BENYARD - May 12, 2022 at 04:45 PM

CW

“ *Children of Lillie Mae Higgins Williams purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



Children of Lillie Mae Higgins Williams - May 12, 2022 at 12:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



May 12, 2022 at 08:16 AM

MG

“ *Monique Green lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Monique Green - May 12, 2022 at 08:11 AM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



May 11, 2022 at 07:31 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



May 11, 2022 at 05:30 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deacon Willie Sumlin.*



May 11, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ *I will truly miss Deacon Sumlin (my daddy) but I know he is in a better place. No more trial, temptation, and pain. Every day will be Sunday and never goodbye.*



Linda Molden - May 11, 2022 at 07:47 AM



“ *Willie Thornton sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Willie Thornton - May 11, 2022 at 04:45 AM

WH

“ *REST IN PEACE UNCLE, YOU WERE ALWAYS THERE FOR MOM. I KNOW YOUR FAMILY WILL KEEP YOUR MEMORY ALIVE, YOU WERE A GREAT MAN AND YOU WILL BE MISSED NO TEARS IN HEAVEN CONDOLENCE TO AUNT BEE BIRD AND FAMILY DARLENE ARNOLD-HARRIS AND WALTER HARRIS*



walter harris - May 10, 2022 at 10:36 PM

CE

“ *Charlene Edwards lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Charlene Edwards - May 10, 2022 at 06:51 PM

VM

“ Veronica Martin lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin



Veronica Martin - May 10, 2022 at 11:05 AM

TO

“ Rest in sweet heavenly peace Uncle Billy! Please give my granny Lillie a hug for me. 🙏❤️

Tonya - May 10, 2022 at 08:05 AM

WH

“ Wilma “Lanette” Hadley sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin



Wilma “Lanette” Hadley - May 09, 2022 at 09:06 PM

RA

“ Rose Almond lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin



Rose Almond - May 09, 2022 at 08:02 PM

SM

“ *Sheree Marshall lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Sheree Marshall - May 09, 2022 at 07:14 PM

JB

“ *Jennifer Bender lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Jennifer Bender - May 09, 2022 at 04:58 PM

LM

“ *LAKAIETHA FARRELL MCDANIEL lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



LAKAIETHA FARRELL MCDANIEL - May 09, 2022 at 04:41 PM

LM

“ *LAKAIETHA FARRELL MCDANIEL lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



LAKAIETHA FARRELL MCDANIEL - May 09, 2022 at 04:36 PM

LM

AUNTIE WE SEEN OUR LOVE TO YOU SWEETHEART WE SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS I GIVE YOU MY LOVE AND CONDOLENCES WE WILL SEE YOU SOON.

LAKAIETHA FARRELL MCDANIEL - May 09, 2022 at 04:39 PM

BL

“ Condolences and prayers to the family



Betty Shannon Lingo - May 09, 2022 at 03:41 PM

TO

“ Deepest sympathy 🙏



Tonya - May 09, 2022 at 02:55 PM

RT

“ Regina Toombs lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin



Regina Toombs - May 09, 2022 at 02:28 PM

TW

“ *Traci Hill Williams lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Traci Hill Williams - May 09, 2022 at 01:43 PM

RT

“ *Rosie Thornton sent a virtual gift in memory of Deacon Willie Sumlin*



Rosie Thornton - May 09, 2022 at 01:12 PM