



## *A Godly Father*

*A Godly Father stands firm in his commitment to God in Christ,  
His family and his community; He leads by example*

*So that no doubt for right  
Is blurred by untruth;*

*He does not provoke his wife nor his children  
So that peace surrounds their home.*

*A Godly Father is wise to the influence of God's word  
As he seeks to share his faith.*

*A Godly Father does not place himself above that of God Himself  
But seeks to be the earthly example, leading to the one True God.*

*A Godly Father sees money as a means and not an end;  
Yet, remembering to leave an inheritance or his children and his  
children's children.*

*A Godly Father is a wonderful man who shares his time,  
His talents and his money.*

*A Godly Father is kind, quiet when needed, Courageous in face of  
danger, and ready to enjoy a good laugh and share a smile.*

*Finally, a Godly Father leaves a room vetter than he found it  
And is missed when he's gone.*

*Poppi, "Our Godly Father", we miss you already; never to be forgotten.  
Forever, Wilma*

*And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all  
you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause.  
II Corinthians 9:8*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11*

*Professional Funeral Services Provided By:*

*West's Mortuary*

*731 North Lee Street ~ Americus, Georgia 31709*

*(229) 924-2343*

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*"Serving Middle Georgia For Over 80 Years"*

## *Celebrating The Life Of*



*Deacon  
Willie Frank Wiley, Sr.*

**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Friendship Missionary Baptist Church**

**411 Cotton Street ~ Americus, Georgia**

*Bishop Melvin McCluster, Officiating*

## A WELL-LIVED LIFE

### *Deacon Willie Frank Wiley, Sr.*

Deacon Willie Frank Wiley, Sr., Chairman of the Deacon's Board at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, passed away quietly at home, May 5, 2022. He was a Christian man who loved his family and friends, his city, and his beloved church. Over his 100 years and 15 days of life, he touched many lives around the globe.

Deacon Wiley, affectionately called "Poppi" by family and friends, was born April 20, 1922, to the parentage of Linsey and Jennie (Reed) Wiley, share-croppers for Arch Helms off the Old Dawson Road in Americus, GA. Poppi was preceded in death by his parents, six sisters: Eura Bell Copeland, Eutha Gibson, Eunice McGrady, Bobbie Wiley, Walter Mae Floyd, and Vivian Cooper; three brothers: Clyde, James Bowman, and Charlie James Wiley; and grandchildren: Wiley Shelman Cooke and Mary Edwina Cooke-Hite.

As a child, he joined the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church. In 1950, he met and married Mary Elizabeth Wiley and, in 1961, joined the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church by Christian Experience where he faithfully served in many capacities including Sunday school teacher, Men's Choir member, Deacon, and Chairman of the Board of Deacons until his death.

Poppi received his early education at the Seay School for Colored Children on the Dawson Road excelling in math. His parents were forced to take him out of school by the farmer they worked for to help in the fields. On April 23, 2022, one of his greatest dreams was realized when he was awarded his high school diploma by the Sumter County Board of Education during the celebration of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

After leaving the farm and his parents, Poppi married Mary Watson. He began working at Still Gas Company making cement blocks for \$15.00 weekly. Later, he would work construction for Charles Wheatley who recognized his intelligence and sold him his first and only home, at Jacob's Lumber Company, and, finally, for the Georgia Department of Administrative Services Division of Surplus Property as a forklift operator retiring after 30 years of service as the Assistant Manager in 1989.

His community activities included the Civil Rights Marches for Justice and Freedom in the early 1960's, the Parent / Teacher Association while his children were in school, the NAACP, the Lincoln – Douglas Memorial Association as Treasurer, volunteering as a Red Coat at our local hospital for 18 years, Bailiff in the Americus City Court, the Prince Hall Masons F & A M District #14, the Third District Laymen, the Gum Creek Missionary Association, and the Georgia Missionary Baptist Convention just to name a few.

Deacon Wiley is survived by his wife, Bernice Smothers Wiley; two children: Wilma Wiley Cooke (Col. Charles E. Cooke, USMC, Ret. – deceased) and Willie Frank Wiley, Jr.; four grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, ten great-great-grandchildren and a host of devoted nieces, nephews, and other relatives.



### *Our Gratitude*

Our family is extremely grateful for all expressions of love, kindness and services rendered during our time of bereavement. May God richly bless each of you.

*The Wiley Family*

## *Order Of Service*

Processional

Hymn.....Brother Rodney Burks

Invocation.....Brother Tony Tyson

Scripture Readings

Old Testament.....Minister Horace Wimberly

New Testament.....Minister Gwen Harris

Selection.....Sister Sherrie Wiley

Reflections.....Brother Barry Blount

*Former Mayor of Americus*

Deacon Calvin Sims

*Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Deacon Board*

Third District Laymen Resolution

Song.....Reverend Horace Holloway, III

*Pastor, Zion Hope Baptist Church*

Eulogy.....Bishop Melvin McCluster

*Pastor, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church*

On Behalf of the Family.....Willie Frank Wiley, Jr.

Acknowledgements.....Staff of West's Mortuary

Closing Prayer

Recessional.....Bishop Melvin McCluster

## *His Earthly Place of Rest*

Staley Memorial Gardens

Americus, Georgia