



Mr. William Billups, Jr.

April 4, 1938 - January 10, 2022

William Billups, Jr. was born on April 4, 1938, in Dermott, Arkansas, to the late William Billups, Sr. and Paige Ellis Billups.

William attended the public schools of Chicago, graduating from John Marshall High School in 1956, where he lettered as defensive tackle. He earned the Associates of Arts degree from Chicago City College, now Malcolm X College, in 1958. On February 6, 1959, he joined the United States Marine Corps to serve his country. Later, in 1966, he enrolled at Alcorn State University where he met his wife, Clemie, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. They married on November 27, 1969, and moved to Natchez, Mississippi. From their union, three girls were born – Kim, Erica, and Marla. He continued his education at Tuskegee University (1974), earning a Master of Education in Supervision and Administration. He became an educator in the Natchez Public School System. In 1976, William began a thirteen-year stint in the Army National Guard. He served as principal in the Jefferson County School System until he retired in 2001.

William never met a stranger. Over the years, he became known to many as “Big Red”. As an educator, he was known as a leader and disciplinarian. He was an avid reader, grill master, sports enthusiast, aficionado of the blues, and loving husband and father. He was also a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, the Alcorn State University Alumni Association, the Retired Educational Personnel of Adams County and a lifelong member of the NAACP.

On January 10, 2022, William joined the Lord. He leaves to mourn his passing: a devoted wife, Clemie Billups; daughters, Desiree Pitts (Richard), Myrna Baber, Dorothy Thomas-Wells, Kim Howard (Benjamin, Bailee), Erica Billups (Godfrey, Courtney), Marla Vaulx (Lanny, Lily, Preslee); brother, Earl L. Billups (Reo, Pam); brother-in-law, Lee C. English (Evelyn, Tyrone, Terry); sisters-in-law, Esterine Hinton, Martha Moses (Louis, Jr., Detrina, Myra, Louis III), Susie St. Vallier (Keithan and Kenneth), Eva Cooper (James, Iris, Katrina, DaQuann) and a host of relatives including Freddie, Mildred, Lula, Roosevelt and other cousins, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and special friends.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.westgatefh.com

Cemetery Details

West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

4000 Forest Hill Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **18**. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

West Gate Funeral Home (Natchez)
409 N Martin Luther King Jr Street
Natchez, MS 39120
(601) 445-2008
james@westgatefh.com
<https://westgatefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

West Gate Funeral Home (Natchez)
409 N Martin Luther King Jr Street
Natchez, MS 39120
(601) 445-2008
james@westgatefh.com
<https://westgatefuneralhome.com>

Committal Service

JAN 25. 9:00 AM (CT)

West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery
4000 Forest Hill Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. William Billups, Jr.*

September 17, 2022 at 03:10 AM



“ *Extending our deepest sympathy and prayers to the Billups family. May God give you strength and comfort during this difficult time.* 🙏

Ethel Scott - January 20, 2022 at 11:35 AM



“ *Sims Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Billups, Jr.*



Sims Family - January 18, 2022 at 08:22 PM



“ *Catherine Johnson Pollard lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Billups, Jr.*



Catherine Johnson Pollard - January 18, 2022 at 06:47 PM

RS

“ *Condolences to the family. 🙏🙏🙏*
Robert and Laura Smith



Robert and Laura Smith - January 18, 2022 at 01:27 PM



“ *Maxine Railey lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Billups, Jr.*



Maxine Railey - January 18, 2022 at 12:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. William Billups, Jr..*



January 18, 2022 at 10:28 AM

RP

“ *Richard and Desiree Pitts purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. William Billups, Jr..*



Richard and Desiree Pitts - January 17, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. William Billups, Jr..



January 16, 2022 at 04:51 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Mr. William Billups, Jr..



January 16, 2022 at 11:01 AM



“ *JACQUELYN POSEY* sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. William Billups, Jr.



JACQUELYN POSEY - January 15, 2022 at 09:38 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of Mr. William Billups, Jr..



January 14, 2022 at 02:56 PM

SM

“ Shirley Mazique lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Billups, Jr.



Shirley Mazique - January 13, 2022 at 02:07 PM

WH

“ West Gate Funeral Home and staff extends our deepest sympathy to the family. May God give you strength to walk these difficult days. We will continue to keep you in our prayers.

WEST GATE FUNERAL HOME - January 12, 2022 at 09:37 AM

WH

“ WEST GATE FUNERAL HOME lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Billups, Jr.



WEST GATE FUNERAL HOME - January 12, 2022 at 09:34 AM

RV

“ Rosie Woods Varnado lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Billups, Jr.



Rosie Woods Varnado - January 11, 2022 at 12:29 PM