



Mr. Willie R. Matthewson, Jr.

September 22, 1940 - April 8, 2019

On April 8, 2019, Willie Raphael Matthewson, Jr. left family and friends to take residence in a new home. Affectionately known, as “Ray” and “Tug”, he was born to the late Willie Raphael Matthewson, Sr. and Cordelia Watkins Matthewson in Tarboro, NC on September 22, 1940.

Ray was educated in the public schools of Tarboro, NC and graduated from Patilla High School. After enrolling in Winston-Salem Teachers College (now Winston-Salem State University) in 1962, he enlisted in the US Army in 1965 and served two years in the Korean Conflict as a military police. Following his Honorable discharge, he returned to Winston-Salem State University and received a B.S. degree in Elementary Education in 1971. After graduation, he pursued further education and certifications from Wilkes Community College, Wayne Community College and an automotive dealership as a certified Volkswagen mechanic.

Ray’s employment included working at RJ Reynolds Tobacco in Winston-Salem, Flow Motors as a certified mechanic, an elementary school as a teacher and group homes as a counselor. Most recently, he was self-employed as an entrepreneur. As an avid explorer and lifelong learner, he was a brilliant character, having a strong passion for people, dogs, cars and reading.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Ava "Yadie" Matthewson Bryant.

Ray is survived by three daughters, Minnie Ruth Bullock (David) of Tarboro, NC, Kimberly Broadnax (Lewis) and J. Denise Matthewson (Lamont Witherspoon) all of Durham, NC; sons, Darryl Earl Evans of Tustin, CA and Willie R. Matthewson, III of Bellevue, WA; brothers, H. Brent Matthewson, Sr. of Baltimore, MD, Kenneth E. Matthewson (Patricia) of Vacaville, CA; and sisters, Glenn Esther Cherry of Tarboro, Amy L. Matthewson of Oakland, CA, Tammy Johnson Collier of Durham, NC and Kristie Bryant of CA; nine grandchildren, Calandra Evans, Saquan Williams, Lewis Broadnax, IV, Jenna Broadnax, Christopher McMillian, Justin Matthewson Witherspoon, Keir Witherspoon, Joshua Witherspoon, and Nathaniel Raphael Matthewson; seven great-grandchildren; a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The service will be officiated by Pastor James L. Brown. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the:

Military Missions in Action (a veteran support non-profit agency), <https://www.militarymissionsinaction.org/> and the Edgecombe Rescue EMS, <https://www.edgecomberescue.org/>.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 14. 1:30 PM (ET)

St. Luke Church of Christ
101 Neville Street
Princeville, NC 27886

Celebration of Life Service

APR 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Luke Church of Christ
101 Neville Street
Princeville, NC 27886

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Willie R. Matthewson, Jr.*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *Selesta Whitehead lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie R. Matthewson, Jr.*



Selesta whitehead - April 16, 2019 at 11:20 PM



“ *Condolences to the family and loved ones.*

Gwen Tyson, Alexa, Jala, Evan Bryant - April 14, 2019 at 08:12 AM











“ *The Body heals with Play. The Mind heals with Joy. The Spirit heals with Laughter. I will think of all these when I think of you my dear cousin.*

You are Free- Rest in Paradise 🌺🙏❤️✌️



Ava Dowell - April 14, 2019 at 01:22 AM

PD

“ To one of my HEROES... I will truly miss you!!! You are a BRILLIANT CHARACTER!!! I know we'll meet again soon... ENERGY DIES. PEACE, LOVE AND BLESSINGS TUG   
    

Paula Dowell - April 14, 2019 at 01:21 AM

DJ

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Today, and always, may loving memories bring you peace, comfort and strength. Ray was such a dear longtime friend to the Hilliard family, and will be truly missed.

David T. Hilliard Jr., and family of Baltimore, Maryland.

David T. Hilliard Jr. - April 14, 2019 at 12:47 AM

DJ

“ To the Matthewson family, you truly have my deepest sympathies. I am deeply saddened to have lost a great and dear friend. Ray and I grew up together as we were in the same Kindergarten class, and other classes to follow. We remained friends and stayed in touch over the years. Such a fun guy to know and he kept you laughing. All of my family grew up with Ray and enjoyed hearing his stories, which often changed somewhat depending on which family member he was sharing the same story. Just the mention of his name or his presence would bring a smile. He truly lived his life of each given day to the fullest. I will truly miss our times of laughter and will cherish all the great memories. Ray enjoyed his family and often spoke highly of his love for his family. His family was his life. May God continue to grant you the peace and strength to carry on in faith. Due to travel restrictions, I will not be able to be there and sit among you and share in your time of grief but please know that my heart and love, across the miles, will be with you as you go through this difficult time of sorrow.

Delphine (Hilliard) Jones of New York

Delphine Jones - April 13, 2019 at 09:43 PM

WJ

“ Winfield E. Crews, Jr. lighted a candle in memory of "Ray" Matthewson.



Winfield E. Crews, jr. - April 13, 2019 at 09:17 PM

DJ

“ I am sorry for your loss, and I want you to know that I will be praying for strength, peace, and comfort for you and your family.

David Tyson, Jr.



David Tyson, Jr. - April 13, 2019 at 08:46 PM

CT

“ I pray the love of God enfolds you during your journey through grief. I send you thoughts of comfort. May God bless and keep you and your family in His care now and forever. You are in my Prayers.



Crystal Tyson - April 13, 2019 at 08:44 PM

TF

“ We just wanted to let you know our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family through this heartbreaking time. Nothing we can say will ease your pain but just wanted you to know we are thinking of you. Only God can know what you are feeling in your heart now, and only He can restore your spirit. We're praying that the light of God's face shines on you in the darkness of your grief. You and your family are in my prayers. Sorry to hear of your loss.

The Tyson Family



Tyson Family - April 13, 2019 at 08:41 PM

TF

“ *The Tyson Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie R. Matthewson, Jr.*



The Tyson Family - April 13, 2019 at 07:17 PM

ED

“ *To Glen and the entire Matthewson Family,*

From our family to yours, we send our deepest and sincerest condolences. May God grace you with strength, comfort, peace and understanding as Tug ascends to his heavenly home.

*Sincerely,
Edna, Karen and Eugene
Washington, DC*

Edna, Karen and Eugene of Washington, DC - April 13, 2019 at 04:24 PM

CS

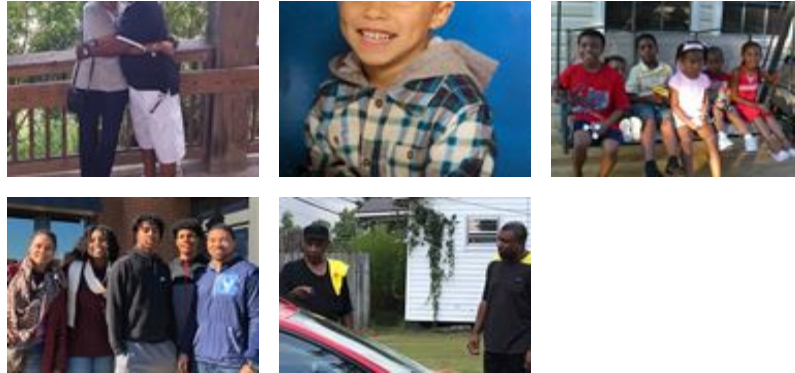
“ *Congleton Funeral Home And Staff sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie R. Matthewson, Jr.*



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - April 13, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ 9 files added to the album Life Tributes



Congleton Memorial Mortuary - April 13, 2019 at 10:27 AM

WG

“ Sending condolences to The Matthewson Family.
Wanda D Glass & Family
Tarboro NC 27886

Wanda D Glass - April 13, 2019 at 07:31 AM

SF

“ So sorry for your loss , Tug was a loving compassionate cousin. Our prayers are with the family.

Sheila Dowell Dodson & Freddie - April 12, 2019 at 11:41 PM

MC

“ MINISTER DORA COX lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie R. Matthewson, Jr.



MINISTER DORA COX - April 12, 2019 at 10:37 PM

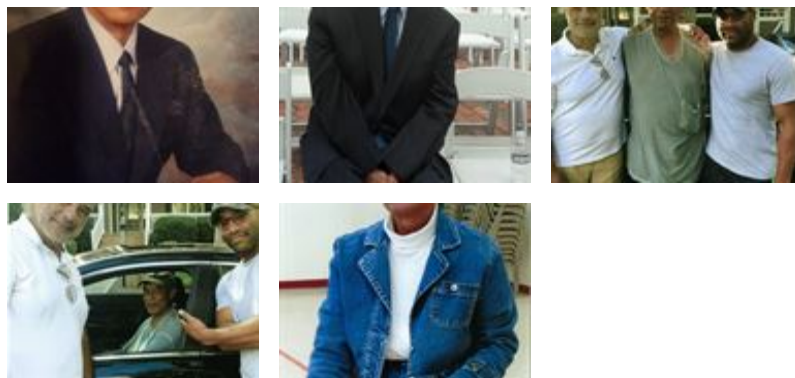
AH

“ So sorry for your loss. May God be of comfort to Family & Friends as well. It saddens my heart to know we all have to go but it saddens even more that you have to go due to callings other than the Lords. There will always be a special place in my heart for Mr. Matthewson. He respected me to the upmost and in return I respected him as well. I admired his Character very much. His desire for fine things. The way he dressed sent a message to me. It didnt matter if it was old or new dirty or clean. It was the finest quality. And i never told him that but i think he knew it. I could tell he was very choicely. But his attitude was a little disturbing. and disrespectful when i first met him. so we exchanged a few words and he was big enough to come to me and apologize to me . I was big enough to accept it and from then on it was all good. Very Admirable but not a person i would wanna spend the rest of my life with as a husband but as a friend by all means cause he did speak with great intentions and as if he was well educated. If i asked him a question. He will answer me and then say the reason why he why i say this is because... and it made perfectly good sense as if he was a teacher or something. I could tell he came from a loving caring family. 🙏🙏🙏. He will be truly missed.

Arlene Harper-Williams - April 12, 2019 at 10:01 PM



“ 28 files added to the album Life Tributes



Congleton Memorial Mortuary - April 12, 2019 at 05:17 PM

WJ

“ We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Willie "Ray" Mathewson, Jr. May our loving God comfort the family in this time of grief

Winfield E. Crews, jr. - April 12, 2019 at 03:48 PM

SR

“ Synilla Tyson Reaves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie R. Mathewson, Jr.



Synilla Tyson Reaves - April 12, 2019 at 01:13 PM

SR

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Mathewson family. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Synilla Tyson Reaves - April 13, 2019 at 08:34 PM

GH

“ May God Continue To Give You Comfort. Evsanglist Gwen Hudson.

Gwen Hudson - April 12, 2019 at 09:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie R. Mathewson, Jr..



April 10, 2019 at 03:02 PM