

"Gone Fishin'..."

*I've finished life's chores assigned to me,
So put me on a boat headed out to Sea.
Please send along my fishing pole
For I've been invited to the Fishin' Hole.*

*Where every day is a day to fish,
To fill your heart with every wish.
Don't worry, or feel sad for me,
I'm fishin' with the Master of the Sea.*

*We will miss each other for a while,
But you will come and bring your smile.
That won't be long – you will see,
'Til we're together, you and me.*

*To all of those that think of me,
Be happy as I go out to Sea.
If others wonder, why I'm missin',
Just tell 'em....I've gone fishin'.*

ACTIVE PALL BEARERS

Joe Edwards, Josh Edwards, Sylvester Edwards, Steve Hendricks, Vince Edwards, Charles Hendricks, Ralph Falu

FLOWER ATTENDANTS

Family and Friends

INTERMENT

Mt. Aid MBC Church Cemetery

In Appreciation

We the family of the late Billy Ray Edwards truly thank God for each one of you! Your outpouring of prayers, love, kindness, and support has sustained us during the passing of our loved one. A very special thank you to Pastor Silvanus Harris and the entire Mt. Aid Family and Pastor Amos Barnes and the St. John Baptist Church Family.

Also, thank you to the staff of Crown, and a special thank you for several of his Caregivers: Almeda Pruitt and Rolanda Cullom, along with Corinthian (Ms. Ann) & Deacon Tony Tate, his dear friend Russell (Lolisa) Watson, and Deacon Samuel Simpkins for always being a phone call away. We also extend our sincerest thanks to the Mother of his children and forever friend, Verdean Hollings ("Dean Martin" he called her), who was his caregiver as well for several years.

May Gods richest blessings bestowed upon each of you is our prayer. We take comfort in 1 Corinthians 2:9....

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man,
the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

– The Family of Billy Ray Edwards



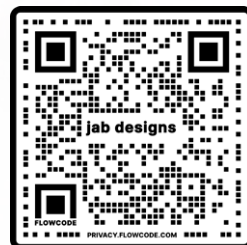
Small's Mortuary, Inc. & Cremation Services

950 South Broad Street, Mobile, AL 36603 • (251) 431-0559

smallsmortuary.com

more than a program by **jab designs** orlando 407/381-9339

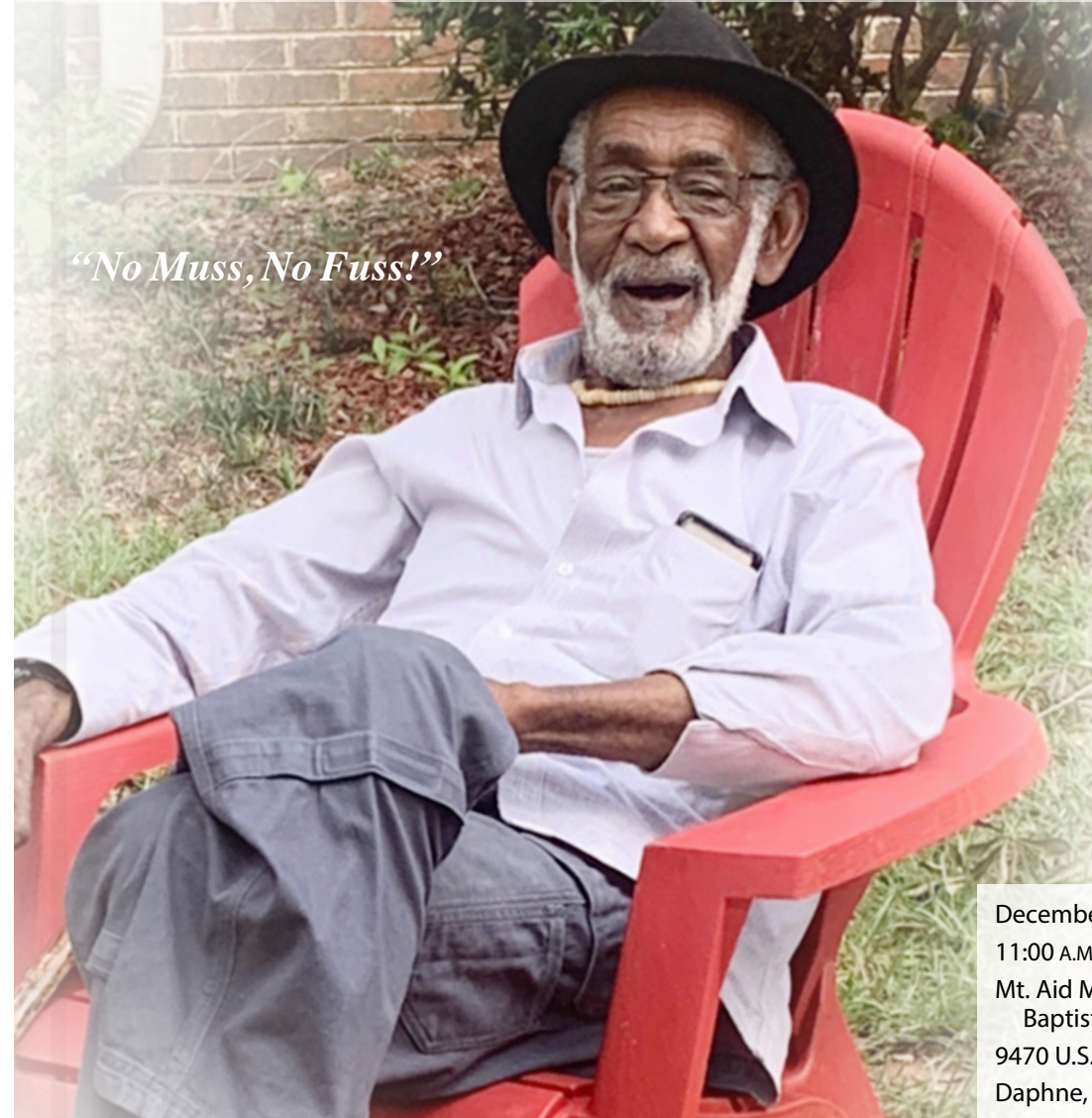
©2023
jabdesigns.com



SCAN ME for a Digital Program and to zoom in on photos.

Celebrating the Life of

"No Muss, No Fuss!"



December 30, 2023
11:00 A.M.
Mt. Aid Missionary Baptist Church
9470 U.S. Hwy 90
Daphne, AL 36526

Billy Ray Edwards
SUNRISE – May 31, 1936 • SUNSET – December 19, 2023

A Legacy™

A Heritage: Character Qualities, Memoirs...

Billy Ray Edwards

Billy Ray Edwards, a native of Mobile, Alabama, was born May 31, 1936, to the union of Andrew Edwards and Minnie L. Richardson Edwards in Nymph, Conecuh County, AL.

On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, he departed this life at a skilled nursing facility in Bay Minette, AL.

Billy Ray loved the Lord and was a member of St. John Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon until he was unable to attend.

Billy Ray worked at the Alabama State Docks in Mobile, AL as a dockman (where he was fondly known as “Milk Cow”), for over 35 years until he was injured by electrocution, which occurred several times, and he retired after that unfortunate tragedy. Two of his co-workers were Rev. Thamus Douglas and Rev. Johnny Longmire. Rev. Douglas said they would leave work and go fishing every evening.

Billy Ray had a passion for fishing like no other, and if you knew him you knew that he loved to fish with his boots and wader suit on Battleship Parkway, commonly referred to locally as the “Causeway,” and catch green trout and red fish. We would ask “What do you do when the alligators approach you?” and he replied, “*Just don’t move, be still, and keep fishing!*”

When he wasn’t wading, he would take his boat out in the river with one of his fishing buddies. He loved being outdoors; you could always find Billy Ray in the yard working, or planting a garden that yielded fresh greens, tomatoes, and hot peppers, flowers, and other vegetables and fruits.

You would find him at McDonalds daily for his favorite, a hot cup of coffee, anytime of the day, to the point that where many of the employees looked forward to seeing him. He loved watching basketball and football (Roll Tide!). For a pastime, you could find him cooking and preparing some of the most unusual meals with a wiener, such as wieners and dressing, wieners and macaroni & cheese, and wiener soup! Sometimes he would top a honey bun with a slice of cheese, and microwave it for 15 seconds (mmm!), but he was most famous for his mouth-watering homemade apple pie.

Billy Ray was a man of many words of wisdom, and he was a great story teller – he would share some of the funniest stories that you have ever heard, including stories on how to fish. And he gave everyone a nickname! Billy Ray was loved by many, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Preceding him in death were his **parents** – Minnie and Andrew Edwards, **3 sisters** – Frances E. Johnson, Elizabeth E. Hendricks, and Rochester E. Hunter, all of Mobile, AL, **4 brothers** – Andrew Edwards Sr., of Atlanta, Georgia, and Rev. Hosea Edwards, Michael Edwards, and Cornelius Edwards, all Mobile, AL, and one **granddaughter** – Tyeshe E. Anderson, from Spanish Fort, AL.

Billy Ray leaves behind to cherish special memories of him:

two **daughters** – Damita Jo Cook, Birmingham, AL, and Michelle Artavia Edwards from Sacramento, California; two **sons** – Rev. Darryl Ray (Artensie) Edwards from Leakesville, Mississippi, and Gerald Andrew (Robin) Edwards from Jessup, Maryland; one **brother** – Raymond (Jackie) Edwards; one **sister-in-law** – Barbara Edwards; 8 **grandchildren**, aka “*The Banditos*,” and 8 **great-grandchildren**; a **close friend** – Russell Watson; his childhood and **lifelong loyal friend** Raymond Heninburg of Spanish Fort, AL; 2 **grand-nephews** whom he cherished – Kaiden and Kameron; many **nieces** and **nephews**, and a host other relatives, and many friends.



Order of Service

Officiating – Pastor Amos Barnes / Presiding – Dr. Silvanus Harris, Sr.

Prelude / Processional Officiates & The Family

Welcome and Introduction Dr. Silvanus Harris, Sr.

Scripture of Comfort

Old Testament Rev. Johnny Longmire [Mt. Aid MBC]

New Testament Elder Pearl Jenkins [Mt. Aid MBC]

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Malachi Jones [McCann MBC]

Selection Mt. Aid MBC Choir & Friends

Special Reflections (limit your remarks to no more than 2 minutes, please)

As a Fisherman – Alfred Jenkins

As a Church Member – Deacon Enoch Tate

As a Family Member – Fred Richardson, Jr.

Words of Encouragement Rev. Thamus Douglas

Solo Briana Cook [Granddaughter]

Resolutions and Acknowledgments Elect Lady Monica Barnes

Selection Mt. Aid MBC Choir & Friends

Words of Comfort [Eulogy] Pastor Amos Barnes [St. John Baptist Church]

Recessional Officiates & The Family

A Repast

Immediately following the interment, please join the family for a Repast here at the church.

Yet we have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy!

– Isaiah 26:19_{NLT}

To me, Grandpa Billy was one of the funniest, creative, and most loving human beings I’ve met. I have very fond memories of him, despite me living in Maryland and not seeing him often. Whenever I think of him, I can still hear his voice and laugh....I love you, Grandpa Billy, and thank you for being present in my life the best way you could with your mind, body, and soul.

– Your grandson, Ausar

