

CELEBRATING THE *LIFE* OF
Maurice C. Williams

SUNRISE:
SEPTEMBER 19, 1959

SUNSET:
JUNE 3, 2024

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024
11:00AM FAMILY HOUR ♦ 12:00PM SERVICE

MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH
200 HARRIET ST. YPSILANTI, MI 48221
BISHOP HARRY S. GRAYSON, OFFICIATING

Obituary

Maurice Calvin Williams was born on September 19, 1959, at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI, to James Williams and Juanita Williams. He was the sixth child of nine siblings. As a child, Maurice displayed unique qualities and a glimpse of genius. He enjoyed playing Tonk and Monopoly with his siblings and entertaining the family with his Smokey Robinson renditions. Maurice attended Willow Run Public Schools, graduating in 1978, and remained an integral part of the community, earning recognition throughout Washtenaw County. During high school, he actively participated in football and basketball and admired the teachings of the Nation of Islam. While Maurice was not associated with a particular religion, he was more interested in spirituality and the total truth. Maurice was not only a philosopher but also a forward-thinker and master conversationalist.

As a young adult, you could always find Maurice riding around in his red convertible Renault Alliance. In 1988, Maurice encountered the love of his life during a serendipitous meeting at a friend's house while selling products for the Nation of Islam. He showed his entrepreneurial chops early on because he was able to sell Shonda his products and himself. They exchanged vows on October 29, 1988, and from their union, they were blessed with five children, raising a total of six.

While employed at the University of Michigan, Maurice acquired the skills necessary to establish his own business. In 1995, he co-founded Superior Cleaning, Inc., a 29-year venture he successfully managed alongside his wife. Additionally, Maurice pursued other entrepreneurial endeavors, including a t-shirt line reflecting his passion for motivating and inspiring others.

With a fondness for technology, Maurice consistently embraced the latest gadgets and trends, including his e-bike, which he rode daily throughout Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Known for his impeccable fashion sense, he often sported the sharpest and most colorful suits, complemented by his remarkable collection of alligator shoes, earning him the moniker 'gator man.'

While devoted to providing for his family, Maurice also prioritized enjoyment in life. Together with his beloved wife, Shonda, he explored various destinations domestically and internationally, he was particularly drawn to large cities. You would always hear him say, "I like cities, big cities, like Miami, New York, you know? Cities". In addition to traveling, Maurice embraced a healthy lifestyle, sharing his wealth of knowledge on nutrition and exercise with others, leading by example and motivating without judgment.

Maurice cherished spending time with his family, enjoyed moments at reunions and backyard barbecues, sharing his wisdom and everlasting smile. His legacy lives on through his family, friends, and those who he shared inspiration with daily, particularly through his Facebook posts. In the insightful words of Maurice, "I will think with you again, down the road at Godspeed."

He is survived by his devoted wife of 36 years, Shonda Williams; his children: Zimbabwe Williams of Inkster, MI, Paris (Denny) Allen of Miami, FL, Rashad Williams, Madinah Williams, Yestiny Williams of Ypsilanti, MI, and Violette Williams of Los Angeles, CA; his seven cherished grandchildren: Noah Hogan, Nubia Williams, Nor Williams, Alijah Williams, Leila Hogan, Enzo Allen, and Enki Williams; his siblings: Clayton (Tammie) Williams of Ypsilanti, MI, Thresa (Willie, Sr.) Thomas of Madison, AL, Jerard Williams of Ypsilanti, MI, Michael (Deborah) Williams of New Market, AL, Patricia Wilson of Ypsilanti, MI, Bernardi (Terri) Williams of Hoffman Estates, IL, Dorothy (Terry) Blackmon of Ypsilanti, MI, and Marvina (Troy, Sr.) Willis of Ypsilanti, MI; his father and mother-in-law, Willard and Annie Hicks; and a multitude of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and community. He is preceded in death by his mother, Juanita Williams, and his father, James Williams.

Order of Service

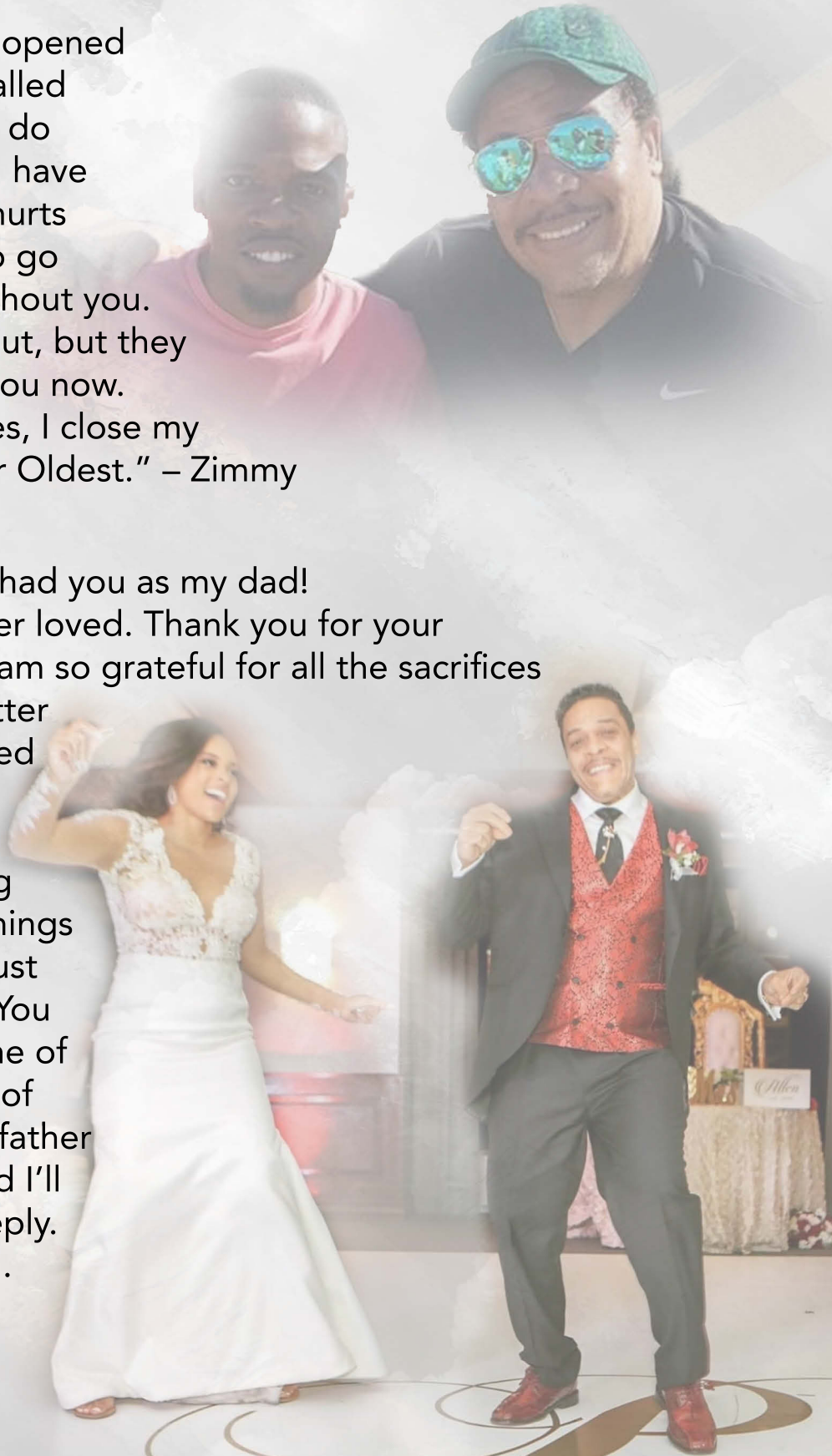
Mistress of Ceremony Leslie Locke Richardson
Prayer Pastor Grant Young
Old Testament Psalm 90:12-17 Willie (Bill) Thomas, Sr.
New Testament Matthew 6:3 Terry Blackmon, Sr.
Selection Messias Temple Praise Team
Closing of Bier Lord, Do it for Me by Zarcardi Cortez
Pulpit Remarks Willard Hicks, Thresa Thomas, and
Children of Maurice Williams
Selection Messias Temple Praise Team
Acknowledgement of Cards and Obituary Salisa Fortune – Heiligh
Remarks Family and Friends
(please keep remarks to 2 minutes or less)
Selection Darrin Patterson
Eulogy Bishop Harry S. Grayson
..... Recessional

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he....” ~ Proverbs 23:7

Children Sentiments

"You were the second person I opened my eyes to. The first person I called when I needed to know how to do anything. I always knew I would have to go on without you, but this hurts now that I have to. I'm about to go through every great debate without you. You said that family might fall out, but they don't stay out. My baby, I got you now. Sometimes, I cry, but most times, I close my eyes, and I spot you. Love, Your Oldest." – Zimmy

"Daddy, I am so proud to have had you as my dad! You were the first man that I ever loved. Thank you for your support in all that I did in life. I am so grateful for all the sacrifices you made to make my life a better one. Thanks for all the unsolicited life advice, even when you thought I wasn't listening – I was. Thank you for always being there for me, and even doing things outside of your comfort zone, just because I wanted you to do it. You walking me down the aisle is one of the greatest memories I'll have of you. You were literally the best father a daughter could ever have, and I'll forever miss you. I love you deeply. Until we meet again, gator man. Your oldest daughter."
– Paris



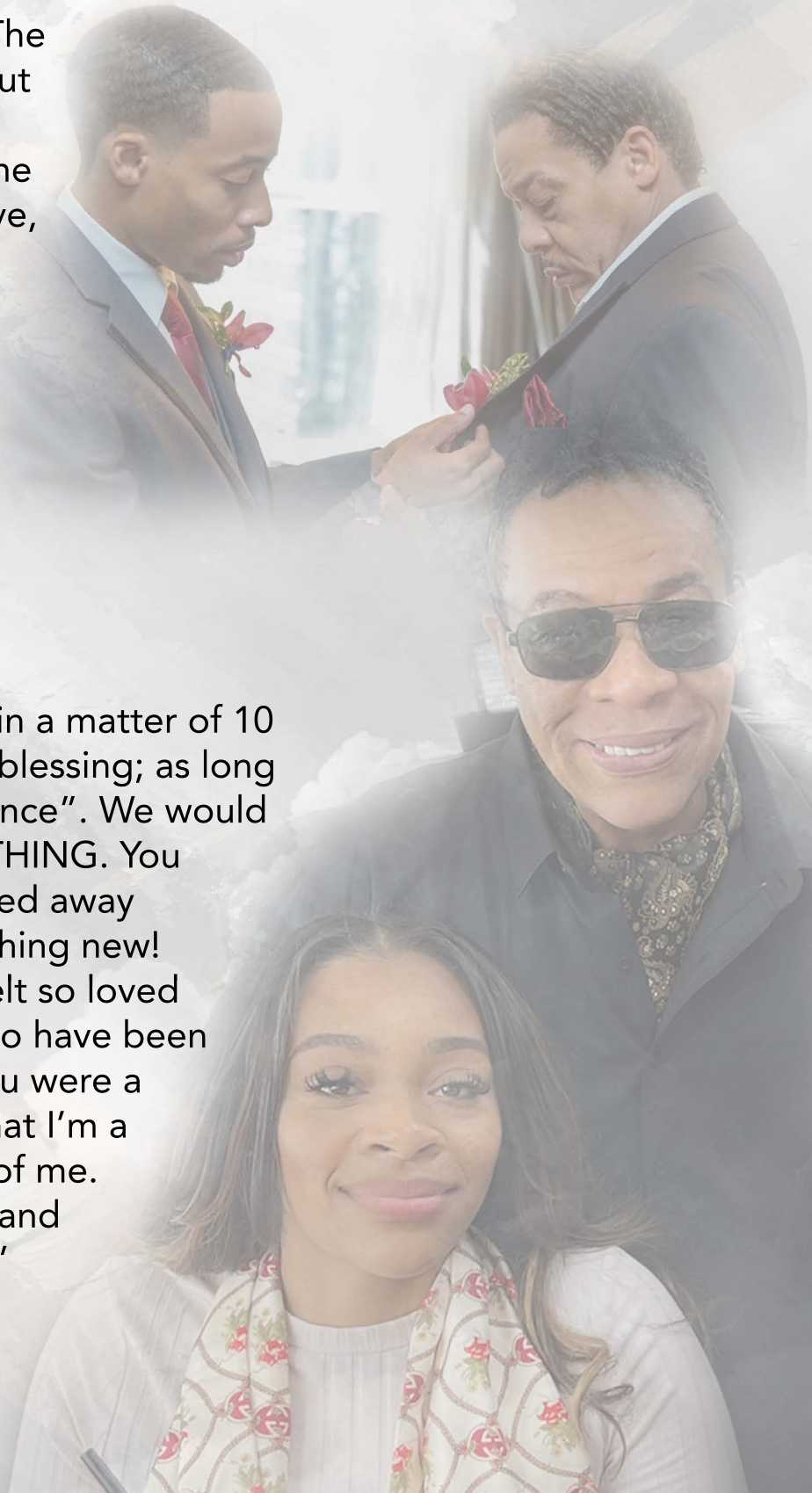
Children Sentiments

"To my Dad, I lost my best friend. The only person that I could talk to about anything. When you left, you didn't leave me unprepared. You taught me everything: How to think, how to live, and you were an amazing example of a father. I'm going to carry the torch, to keep your legacy alive, and I'm going to be here for my mother and sisters. Love and Miss you dad."

– Rashad

"Wow, my entire world has shifted in a matter of 10 minutes. You always said, "Life is a blessing; as long as you're living there's always a chance". We would sit and talk for hours about EVERYTHING. You were a philosopher, so I never walked away feeling like I haven't learned something new! I'm sensitive about this because I felt so loved on a mental level, but I'm grateful to have been able to tell you to your face that you were a great dad. In return, you told me that I'm a good mother and you're so proud of me. RIP to my daddy. My realest friend and the sharpest man in all of Ypsilanti."

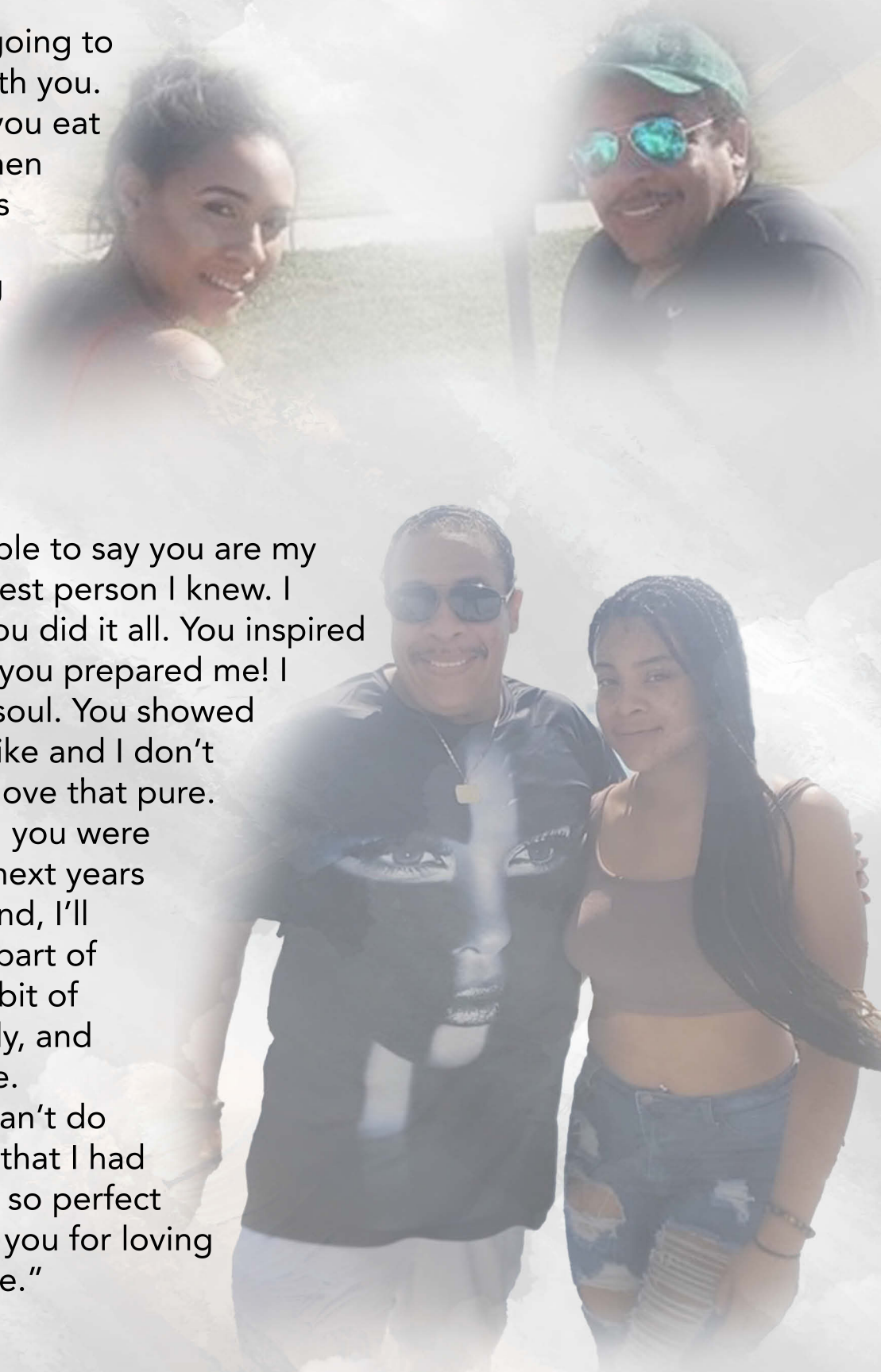
– Madinah



Children Sentiments

"Daddy, I miss you. I'm going to miss watching movies with you. I'm going to miss when you eat my healthy snacks and then deny it. I'm going to miss your advice. Most of all, I'm going to miss waking up to your voice. I love you so much and I can't wait until we meet again." – Yestiny

"I'm so honored to be able to say you are my dad. You were the smartest person I knew. I don't understand how you did it all. You inspired me, you fueled me, and you prepared me! I love you with my entire soul. You showed me what real love feels like and I don't think I could ever find a love that pure. Whenever I needed you, you were there. So, daddy, these next years of my life I'll miss you. And, I'll always know you'll be a part of me and beside me. A lil bit of momma, a lil bit of daddy, and a wholeeee lotta Violette. Goodbye best friend. I can't do anything but thank God that I had a dad like you, you were so perfect for me and to me. Thank you for loving me and taking care of me." – Violette











"Maurice -isms"

"Your boat will forever float, if you don't allow water to get in."

"No matter what people say about you, you're alright with me."

"My zodiac sign is money, mmmhmm, money."

"Family fall out, but don't stay out."

"Life is a blessing, as long as you're living, there's always a chance."

"Have a blacktastic day!"

"Jesus loves you, but I'm his favorite."

"Don't tell God how big your problems are... tell your problems how big your God is!"

"Don't worry about the mule being blind, just load yo' wagon,
and pull yo' line, and you'll be doing fine (wink)."

"White man's heaven is a black man's hell."

"I have more life in back of me, than I do in front of me;
I gotta do what makes me happy"

"Everything in this world started with a thought."

"God is within me, in my mind and in my heart."

"I did it, I said it, and I'm here to represent it."

"I'm the sharpest man in all of Ypsilanti."

"Don't ever say I never gave you nothin'."

"More powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a
single mile. It ain't Batman it's BLACKMAN.... And white boy Robin"

"I'm not worried about it; I'm talking about it. I'll put it in
the newspaper, so you can read about it."

"As long as I owe you, you'll never be broke."

Acknowledgments

Pallbearers

Denny Allen
Ned Hargress
E'Sean Hogan
Charles Taylor
Blake Washington
Ryan Williams
Troy Willis, Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Melvin Chisolm
Willard Hicks
Lazon Hicks
Clayton Williams
Jerard Williams
Michael Williams
Bernardi Williams
Jerry Coleman
Corey Williams
Willie (Bill) Thomas, Sr.
Terry Blackmon, Sr.

Flower Bearers

Family & Friends

Interment

United Memorial Gardens
4800 Curtis Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Final Arrangements

C & H Community Home for Funerals
411 S Adams St
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Repast

SOHO Banquet Center – Magnolia Room
34615 Warren Rd
Westland, MI 48185

Acknowledgments of Appreciation

The family of Maurice C. Williams wishes to express our most humble and gracious appreciation for your thoughts, tributes, prayers, and condolences during our time of bereavement. A more personal acknowledgment will be made at a later date.

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