

A Tale of Two George's *Legend to Legacy*

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4



**George "Zeno"
Washington, Sr.**

Sunrise: November 25, 1942
Sunset: September 7, 2024



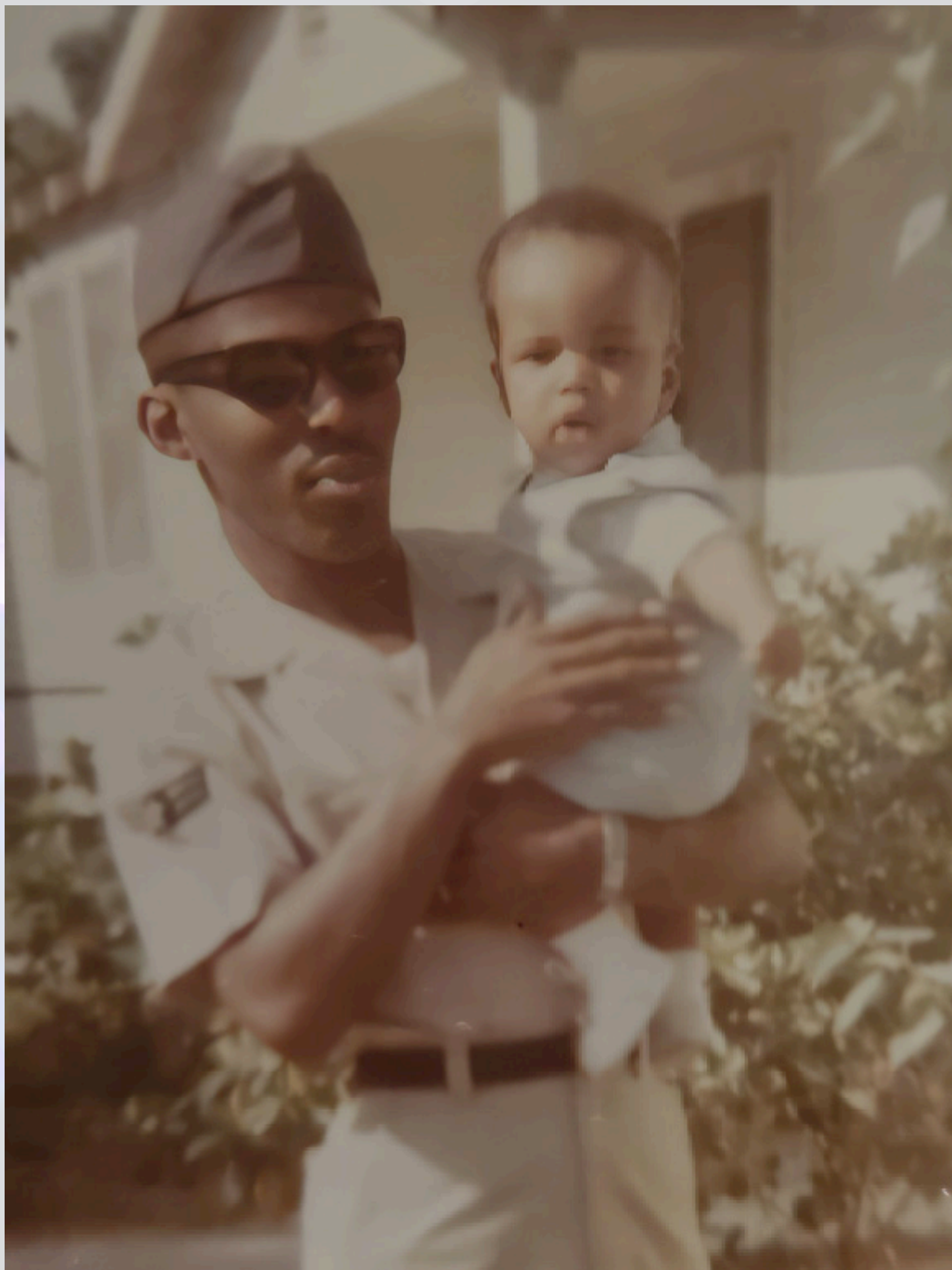
**George "Skitter"
Washington, Jr.**

Sunrise: September 23, 1966
Sunset: September 13, 2024

Saturday, September 28, 2024 • 10:00 AM

Rock of Ages Missionary Baptist Church • 6533 Acre Rd. Marrero, La 70072

Reverend Terrence Ranson, Host Pastor • Reverend Reginald Nicholas, Sr. Officiant
Olive Branch Baptist Church



Order of Service

Processional

The Reverend Reginald Nicholas, Sr, Clergy, and Family

Devotional Period

Pastor Chris Bailey

Service Facilitator

Carmen J. Walters

Praise and Worship Period

Obituary "George, Sr."

Music Selection

As a Brother-in-Law "Zeno"/Nephew "Skitter"

Skitter as a Friend

Solo

Obituary "George, Jr."

Zeno as a Friend

Music Selection

Words of Encouragement

Myrtle Weber

Jarvis D. Hawkins

Ralph Shelby

"He Saw the Best in Me"

Yosheda Lightfoot

Leon Thompson

Pastor Albert Mikel

Macedonia Baptist Church

Condolences Lincoln Class of 1963

Theophilus Pritchard

Selection

Norris Byas

Reflections as a father/brother

Solo "I Can Only Imagine"

Karen Washington

T.C. Hawkins

Eulogy

Rev. Reginald Nicholas, Sr.

Acknowledgement of Visiting Ministers

Parting View **Military Salute (*Please Remain Seated*)

Recessional



George Sr...Becoming the Legend!

The Early Years and School Years

On November 25, 1942, in Darrow, Louisiana, George Washington was born to the late Kermit and Florence Harris Washington. Although he was named George at birth, his mother shared that an angel appeared to her during her pregnancy and told her to name him Zeno. After his birth, the angel reappeared, warning her that if she didn't name him Zeno, he would be taken from her. From that day forward, his family called him "Zeno," and his mother never referred to him as George again. He would learn later in life that the name Zeno is often associated with strength, wisdom, and intellectual curiosity; moreover, and remarkably, it was also the name of his paternal great-grandfather—a fact neither he nor his mother had known.

Zeno grew up in Marrero, Louisiana, after his mother relocated from Darrow and remarried Oscar Duckett, Sr., his stepfather, who played a significant role in raising him. Zeno deeply respected Oscar, often quoting his advice, and continued to follow his guidance long after his passing, such as not fishing on Sundays amongst other things.

As a child, Zeno was adored by his grandmother, Virginia Gable Harris, who affectionately called him "whiskers" because of his hairy mustache and beard when he became an adult. He was the only one she trusted to drive her to Darrow for family visits in his 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme. He would absolutely have to stop to purchase her favorite candy on the way! Zeno was a spirited and active child, often a handful for his mother. He was hard to manage even on his best behavior. She regularly resorted to putting him in a dress to try to curb his mischievous ways, though it never worked he carried on anyhow.

Many people are unaware that Zeno experienced paralysis as a young man. One day, while playing outside, he suddenly collapsed, unable to move his arms or legs. His childhood friend, Eddie Williams, carried him home on his back. Zeno remained paralyzed

and unable to speak for an extended period. His mother Florence, grandmother, Virginia, and aunt Madora Harris remained at his bedside praying continually. He had what in today's terms would be paralytic poliomyelitis. He was unable to move any limbs or speak. He would make eye gestures to communicate. One day, while they were still praying for him, he reached out and asked for a straw for his chocolate milk. A miracle had occurred! He made a full recovery with no lasting effects. Much later in his life, Zeno would experience another miracle when he survived an aneurysm of his main aorta. He always carried a "tough as nails" persona. He was grateful for what God had done for him and often spoke of it. When he reminisced about it, he would be in tears, never forgetting.

Zeno accepted Christ at the age of 27 and was baptized by the late Pastor Haywood Custer at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Marrero. He loved the Lord and really enjoyed talking about the bible especially Old Testament stories.

Zeno attended Primary school at William Memorial and Rosenwald Elementary before proudly graduating from Lincoln High School with the Class of 1963. A fierce competitor, he played basketball and baseball and was known for his speed. He was accepted to and had planned to attend Grambling State University, but when his plans fell through, Zeno developed a new plan and in his own words, "ran away" to join the United States Air Force.

Military/Work Career

Zeno proudly served his country as an Airman in the United States Air Force. He enlisted on August 8, 1963. After completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX he was stationed at McCoy Air Force Base in Florida as a Vehicle Operator and Controller of air traffic. He also loaded bombs on the planes. During his service, he did a tour in Guam and other countries, and he distinguished himself through dedication and hard work. After four

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years of honorable service, at the end of his enlistment, he was discharged on August 8, 1967.

After his military service, Zeno took courses at Delgado Community College and Southern University at New Orleans. He worked at Celotex, Continental Grain Elevator, and after 30 plus years at Union Pacific Railroad, formerly Missouri Pacific Railroad (Mo-Pac) he retired in 2009. During the Mo-Pac railroad strike of the 1980s, he also worked in security.

Family Life, Hobbies and Fun Times

In 1965, Zeno married his high school sweetheart, Thelma "Tiney" Hawkins. Together, they had five children: George, Jr. "Skitter," Pamela Gisell, Karen, Kermit Michael, and Keshell. As an avid fisherman, Zeno frequently took his family fishing and crabbing in Lafitte and Boutte. Even when he could no longer fish for himself, he loved watching fishing shows on TV. Family gatherings were a highlight for Zeno, complete with badminton, homemade ice cream, and boiled crabs, always accompanied by the sounds of Maze, Grover Washington Jr., or smooth jazz in the background. Zeno loved artists like The Temptations, The Impressions, Sam Cooke, Brook Benton, and he kept a small album collection.

Zeno also had a passion for gardening and lawn care. He took pride in the vegetables he grew and in his beautiful plants, which he would place in everything from coffee pots to storage containers. His green thumb was undeniable, and he was known for his perfectly manicured lawn. Residents of Haydel Manor often heard his frequent proclamation, "Get off my grass!" He kept it as neat as a carpeted floor!

Zeno had a deep love for music and always kept it playing. Whether sitting outside on the porch on Cohen St. or relaxing with the radio playing from his truck, music was a constant companion. He carried a winning attitude wherever he went and loved to boast

about his successes—whether it was hitting the blackout at Bingo, landing a winning spot on the football pool, or having a good night at the casino. Gaming was a favorite pastime of his, and he enjoyed picking his "Pick 3" or Lotto numbers, often with an uncanny ability to remember digits. He could pull numbers from anywhere—even your vehicle's license plate! In the latter half of his life and throughout his remaining years, he enjoyed spending time with his companion Olivia "Poochie" Scott. They shared many things in common and were often inseparable. He enjoyed teasing and joking with her and traveling to casinos on bus trips. They shared a love for watching church on TV, football, and movies.

He loved football. He would watch diligently and would hang up on you if you called in the middle of the game. He taught his children to love the game as well and he frequently enjoyed the Monday armchair quarterback conversations with them. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren. He referred to them as "chips off the ole block".

Zeno was a passionate card player and spent countless days playing Spades or Bid Whist with friends from around the community. He even pulled his daughter in and taught her to play with and beat the best of them. A genuine family bond was formed over 30 years with his card-playing-family. His winning attitude and demeanor were passed down throughout his children and grandchildren. He would often declare, "If Ya weak, Ya beat!"

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Zeno would spend one day a week with his friends at Boomtown Casino's buffet. He looked forward to it. This was one of his favorite pastimes. He loved to eat! He called it grubbing! If you were not looking, he would eat yours too!

He loved reading the paper everyday and was upset when the Times-Picayune stopped printing every day. He kept up with current events and what was happening around the

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world. From his military days, he was always punctual. If you were scheduled to pick him up for a certain time, and you were on time, he would tell you that you were late! He was not a huge telephone man but would sit on the porch with you for hours on end.

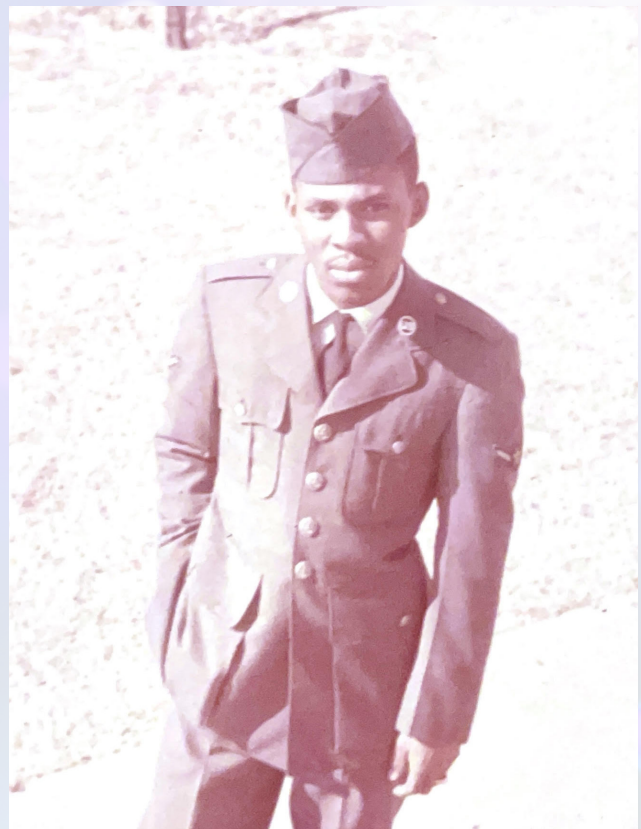
Zeno will be missed for his quick wit and ability to poke fun in a way that makes you laugh at your own shortcomings without hurting your feelings. He was indeed a no-nonsense man. Whatever he said, he meant. He was straight with his words and would often say, "Don't cross me!" At the same time, he also had a tender heart. He possessed a strong work ethic that he passed down to his children and grandchildren. He was always so proud to hear about his grandchildren not only working but advancing and performing well on their jobs and while in college.

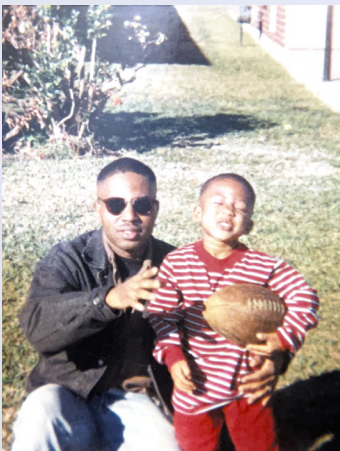
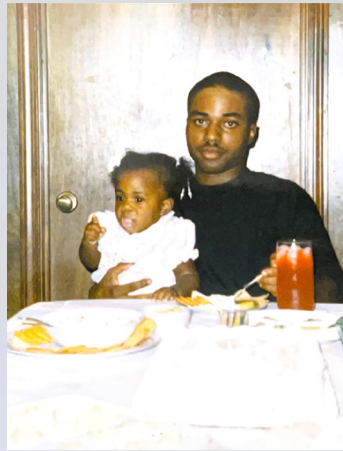
Cherished by

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kermit Washington, Sr., Florence and Oscar Duckett, Sr.; his father and mother-in-law, Thomas "Do-Man" and Ophelia Hawkins, Sr.; his children, Pamela Gisell, Kermit Michael, and Keshell; his siblings, John Washington, Birdie Johnson, Lorena Davis, Delores Marshall, Kermit Washington, Jr, Joseph Washington, Sr., Ralph Washington, Oscar Duckett, Jr., Gloria Duckett, and Lionel Duckett; sisters-in-law Helen Grace Washington, Ruby Coats Becker, Dorothy Jean Hawkins, Idessa Ruth Hawkins; brothers-in-law Ronald Hawkins, James Rodney Hawkins, and Marvin Michelle Hawkins, T. J. Becker and Wayne Walters.

The remaining loved ones who share many memories include; his wife Thelma (Tiney) Washington; his daughter, Karen Washington of Baton Rouge, LA; his grandchildren, Brittney Washington of Orlando, FL, Guy Jackson (Veronica) of Marrero, LA, E'naira Washington of Dallas, TX, and Gavaun Washington of Houston, TX; his great-grandchildren, Kaeden

and Kyli Jackson; his godchildren; Desiree "Dookey" Johnson, Edward "Pokey" Jackson, Ismail Jackson; his siblings Rosemary Pinkney (Samuel) of Atlanta, GA, Robert Duckett, Malinda Bell, and Emelda Washington of Darrow, La; five Sisters-in-law Claudette Autrey, Debra (Kenneth) Johnson, Carmen Walters, Angela (Shanan) Horne, Iris Hawkins, Elaine Hawkins, Jonnie Mae Duckett; four brothers in law Thomas Hawkins, Jr, Alton "TC" Hawkins, Kirbie Hawkins, Jarvis (Vera) Hawkins, Robert Johnson; his devoted and loving companion and caretaker, Olivia "Poochie" Scott and all of the Scott family whom he spent many years with especially Olivia's mother Hester "Ma-Ma" Scott, a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.





George Jr... built a legacy upon the foundation laid by his Father, his Hero, the Legend!

George Washington, Jr. was born on September 23, 1966, to his adoring parents, George "Zeno" Washington, Sr. and Thelma "Tiney" Washington. At the time of George Jr.'s birth, his father, Zeno, was serving in the United States Air Force. As he prepared to board a plane to Guam, he received the joyful news of his son's arrival. In that moment, he told his wife, Tiney, "Call him 'Skitter'," in honor of a dear friend from the military. From then on, George Jr. was lovingly known as "Skitter" or "Skitterman". His father also fondly referred to him as "#1 Son."

Skitter was raised in Marrero, LA, in the Haydel Manor subdivision. A lively and adventurous child, he spent countless hours outdoors with neighborhood friends, always finding excitement in activities like playing football, riding bikes, and skateboarding—anything that fueled his daredevil spirit. Skitter fancied himself as Evel Knievel, always eager to push the limits.

He was often found near canals and ditches, catching tadpoles and frogs, embracing every bit of adventure he could find. Despite his small stature, Skitter was a talented athlete, excelling in neighborhood games of touch football and basketball. Like his father, he was an exceptionally fast runner, a skill that earned him respect on the playground. No game or fun was complete until well after the streetlights came on—Skitter was always the last to head home, soaking up every moment of his childhood.

Skitter accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at the tender age of 8 years old. He was baptized by Pastor Haywood Custer at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Marrero, LA. In his younger years he would participate in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and the Youth Choir.

Skitter began his elementary education at Miller Wall in Marrero, LA, and later completed

Junior High at All Saints School in Algiers, LA. He went on to attend John Ehret High School, where he graduated with the Class of 1985. Skitter's commitment to personal growth continued at Lincoln Cuillier Career Center, where he developed practical skills that laid the foundation for his active and successful working career.

Skitter loved to share stories about his breakdancing days in high school. He was a member of the "Cosmic Rock Breakers". They traveled and performed while carrying a large piece of linoleum with them to make the performance smoother. Skitter was very good at doing the "windmill!". His group performed with another group of pop lockers called, "The Mechanical Puppets". The groups performed at High School Football halftimes and at the 1984 World's Fair. There was even a commercial for Shoe Town.

Skitter's work journey began with positions at Gene's Transmissions and Evans Cooperage before he found his true calling in 1996, joining Union Pacific Railroad in Livonia, LA. As a 4th generation railroad employee, Skitter carried on the family's legacy working as a Carman until his retirement in 2019. Following his father's legacy on the railroad, he was fondly referred to as "Lil George". Not necessarily due to his stature but from following his legendary father, referred to as "Big George", who was also employed with and retired from Union Pacific. Throughout his career, he took great pride in his punctuality, attention to detail, and dedication to doing things right. His commitment to safety was exemplary, earning him numerous safety awards for maintaining a perfect record with no safety incidents—a testament to his commitment and careful approach to every task.

Skitter was the proud father of four children: Brittney Lachell Washington, Guy De'John Jackson, E'naira Ayanna Washington and Gavaun Khalid Washington. He absolutely

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adored his two grandchildren: Kaeden De' John Jackson and Kyli Paige Jackson. Skitter found immense joy in spending time with his children and grandchildren, embracing the simple pleasures of life. Whether it was laughing together over snowballs, riding bikes, or playing with train sets, Skitter cherished every moment. His playful nature and love for family created countless treasured memories, and he always made sure to bring fun and laughter into the lives of those he loved most. Skitter was a man of many talents and passions. Whether it was sports, working with his hands, or learning something new, he mastered whatever he set his mind to. Skitter was skilled at building engines, making minor repairs, and taking on any project that challenged his creativity and precision. He also loved thrifting, always on the hunt for hidden gems that he could restore and generously gift to family and friends.

From the time he could walk, Skitter had a deep love for cars. His early fascination began with Hot Wheels—each trip to Woolworth's with his parents meant adding a new car to his collection. That passion soon grew into an obsession with creating elaborate Hot Wheels racetracks, arranging them in different shapes and watching the tiny cars zoom around the track. One trip to Woolworth's ended in a whipping after he put a Hot Wheel in his pocket after his parents said no!

As he grew older, Skitter's interest in cars evolved into assembling model cars, and today, he proudly owns more than 100 models. His love for automobiles didn't stop there—Skitter became a bona fide car enthusiast. He began building his own hot rods, starting with his father's 1972 Cutlass, the first of many cars he would lovingly restore. One of his particular favorites was his 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle SS. Over the years, he collected high-performance vehicles, each one carefully maintained and kept immaculately clean. His attention to detail and love for cars were a constant throughout

his life.

Skitter's childhood adventures near the canals sparked another lifelong passion—fish and aquariums. What began as a curiosity turned into true love, making Skitter a well-known Aquarist, someone who manages aquariums either professionally or as a hobby. At one point, he proudly had 15 aquariums in his home, each filled with a variety of exotic fish. His dedication extended to his backyard, where he built a stunning koi pond that was a centerpiece of his aquatic collection.

Skitter wasn't just a hobbyist—he became a mentor to others interested in aquariums, always willing to share his knowledge and help others get started. He guided many in learning the essentials of properly setting up and maintaining aquariums, from choosing the right fish to balancing the environment for their health. Skitter was a true student of aquatic life, constantly reading detailed literature and striving to expand his understanding of fish species and aquarium care. His love for aquariums was not only a personal passion but a way of bringing beauty and knowledge into the lives of others. The sounds of the water running through the pumps in the aquariums brought him a peace that no one understood. Skitter was a huge football fan, eagerly awaiting the start of the season each year. Saturdays were dedicated to college football, where he would hunker down to catch all the action, but Sundays were his true passion. Skitter was a die-hard fan of the New Orleans Saints, and cheering for his beloved team was one of his greatest joys.

He loved talking about the Saints with his father, uncles, friends, and sister, always eager to discuss the team's wins and losses in detail. Whether the Saints were on a winning streak or enduring a tough season, Skitter remained loyal, finding camaraderie in sharing the highs and lows with his family. Football wasn't just a sport for Skitter; it was a way to bond, laugh, and enjoy time with those closest to him. He

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also enjoyed picking early in the season which of his sister's season ticket seats he wanted to use to attend a game.

He loved fishing with his family and friends and enjoyed hunting as well. He would fish every day if time allowed and make videos of his catch and cleaning of the fish. He loved to narrate the videos explaining the tools he used to clean the fish and how he planned to cook them. His sister would always tell him that he needed a YouTube channel.

He loved to talk on the phone with his buddies about everything! He was easy to talk to and a chatter box at times. He loved various subject matters and watched the news everyday religiously.

Family time meant a lot to Skitter. He loved traveling to Texas to see his children and watch his baby boy play football. He was truly overjoyed. Now that his grandson would be playing, he could not contain his excitement. His children's accomplishments of graduating college, playing football, and traveling the world performing brought him so much excitement. Skitter was close to his mother who he lovingly referred to as the "General". He would laugh at how she would give orders continually. When he would call the "General", there would be so much laughter there it would break any tension that would be occurring at the time.

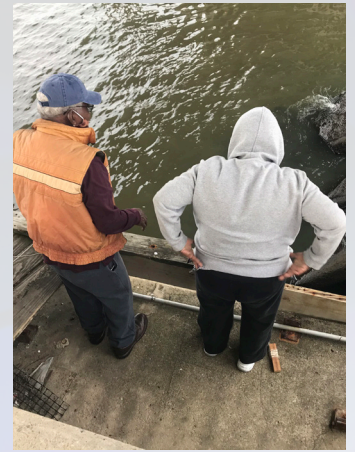
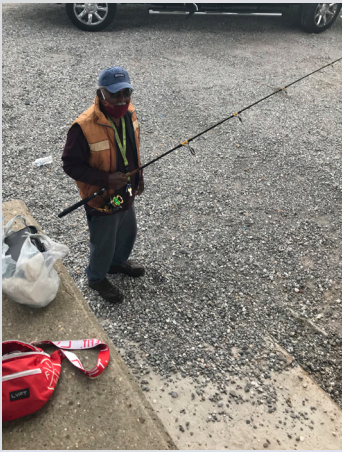
Skitter will be missed dearly for his huge heart and simplicity. He wasn't complicated and enjoyed simple pleasures like watching animals in their habitat. The zoo was one of his favorite outings with his family. He was truly a loyal friend to all and was loved by many. His father was a legend that he looked up to and he carried the legacy that his father created and passed it to his children and grandchildren. He did everything with his father and has shared passions to include the love of cars, fishing eating, sports, an excellent work ethic, humor, and time with family. They would talk for hours about it all! He duplicated his father's efforts

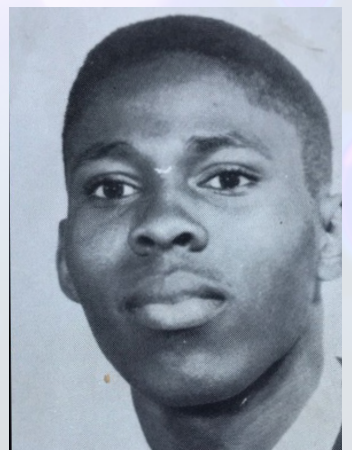
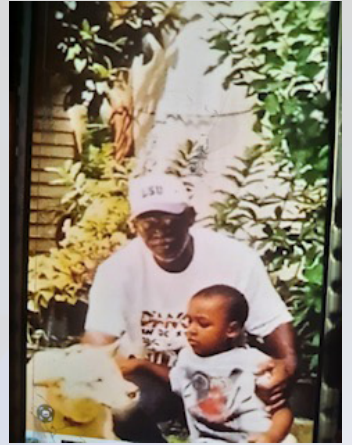
to be a respectable man. His family was proud of him and the man that he showed himself to be. Now the Two George's are together as the two peas in a pod they always were.

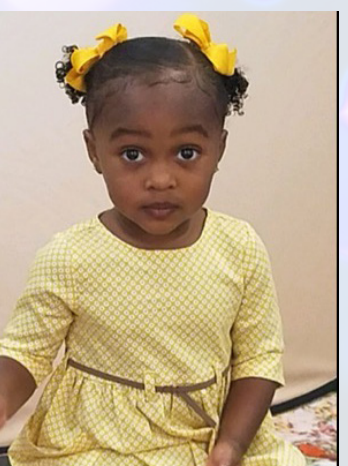
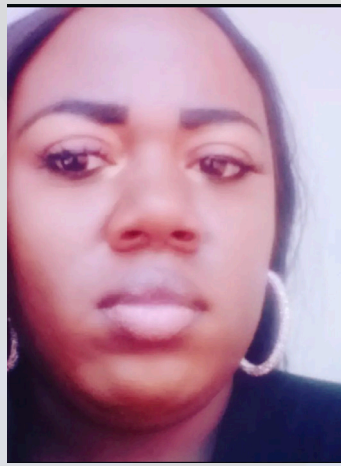
He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Kermit Washington, Sr., Florence and Oscar Duckett, Sr.; his maternal grand-parents, Thomas "Do-Man" and Ophelia Hawkins, Sr.; his siblings, Pamela Gisell, Kermit Michael, and Keshell; his uncles and aunts, John Washington, Birdie Johnson, Lorena Davis, Delores Marshall, Kermit Washington, Jr, Joseph Washington, Sr. Ralph Washington, Oscar Duckett, Jr., Gloria Duckett, and Lionel Duckett; Helen Grace Washington, Ruby Coats Becker, Dorothy Jean Hawkins, Idessa Ruth Hawkins; Ronald Hawkins, James Rodney Hawkins, and Marvin Michelle Hawkins, T. J. Becker, and Wayne Walters.

The remaining loved ones who share many memories include; his mother Thelma (Tiney) Washington; his sister, Karen Washington of Baton Rouge, LA; his children; 2 daughters, Brittney Washington of Orlando, FL, E'naira Washington of Dallas, TX, and 2 sons; Guy Jackson, and Gavaun Washington of Houston, TX; his grandchildren, Kaeden and Kyli Jackson; one daughter in law, Veronica Franco Jackson; his aunts and uncles Claudette Autrey, Debra (Kenneth) Johnson, Carmen Walters, Angela (Shanan) Horne, Iris Hawkins, Elaine Hawkins, Thomas Hawkins, Jr, Alton "TC" Hawkins, Kirbie Hawkins, Jarvis (Vera) Hawkins, Rosemary Pinkney (Samuel) of Atlanta, GA, Robert Duckett, Malinda Bell, and Emelda Washington of Darrow, La, Jonnie Mae Duckett, and Robert Johnson. Godparents, Ike Hunter, Jr. and Joyce Antoine.









ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

George Washington Sr.

Ismail Jackson
Edward "Pokey" Jackson
Lavar Duckett
Vincent "Bo Leg" Bailey
Anthony Hawkins
Zachary Scott, III

George Washington, Jr.

Jairus Hampton
Ralph Shelby, Jr.
Corey Johnson
Deon Daniels
George "Pookie" Perique, Jr.
Jarvis Hawkins

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

George Washington, Sr.

Robert Duckett, Sr.
Devon "Nooda" Jackson
Kirbie Hawkins
Allen Scott
Zachary Scott
Gavaun Washington

George Washington, Jr.

Kyrone Pugh
Derek Boudreaux
John "Roni" Washington, Jr.
Guy Jackson
Kaeden Jackson
Ron Davis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The families of the two George's are so grateful for all the condolences and expressions of love shown to us during our time of grief and bereavement. We appreciate every call, text, donation, and act of kindness and support. Special thanks to Fresenius Kidney Care of both Marrero and Baton Rouge, LA. A very special thanks to the Baloney Family (Courtney, Julie, and Sheila), to Trachell Alexander, Vivian Allen, Queenat Young, Marvis White, and Tamara George. To the team of superhero rescuers, "TC" and Thomas Hawkins, Jr., Noble Clark, James Jimmy Williams, Gary "Piggy" Clark, Louis "Spongy Boy" Helton, Darius Simmons, Kenneth Winters, and Terrance "Terry" White

INTERMENT

George Washington, Sr.

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery
34888 Grantham College Dr.
Slidell, LA. 70460

George Washington, Jr.

Restlawn Park Cemetery
3450 US Highway 90
Avondale, LA 70094

Repast

Servant's Heart Outreach
Behind Lincoln School Ames Blvd.
(old 4th Ward/Joshua Butler)

Treasures of Life Funeral Services
315 E. Airline Highway, Gramercy, Louisiana

