

***A Celebration of Life***  
***for***  
***William Ralph Wright***

**October 1, 1953 – April 28, 2020**



***Wednesday, May 6, 2020***

**Viewing: 10:00 a.m.**

**Service: 12:00 noon**

***Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home***  
3910 Silver Hill Road  
Hillcrest Heights, Maryland 20746  
*Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor*

***“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die;...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)***

### ***A Time to be Born***

WILLIAM RALPH WRIGHT, the youngest of seven children, was born to the late Richard Wright, Sr., and the late Charlotte DeLesline Wright on October 1, 1953, in Charleston, South Carolina. William, affectionately known as Billy, received his early education in Charleston Public Schools. He received his secondary education at Bishop England High School in Charleston.

At a very young age, it was apparent that Billy was God conscious often engaging in spirited discussions with his father about the scriptures, and frequently speaking about Jesus. As a young boy, Billy was very disciplined, exemplifying maturity in his reasoning and thinking abilities. In his early teens, he became an uncle, a title he proudly embraced as a badge of honor, and required each of his nieces and nephews to address him as such. Billy loved his family and had a binding relationship with his brothers and sisters.

Billy an avid reader, developed a love of learning that carried over into his adult life. After graduating high school, he left Charleston to attend Howard University; and was able to continue spending time with his older brother Carland who resided in the DC metropolitan area.

In 1978, Billy received Jesus as his Lord and Savior and was diligent in studying the Bible. He taught Sunday School for a period of time at New Testament Church. Later, he joined From the Heart Church Ministries where he remained a devoted member until his death.

### ***A Time to Wed***

In 1976, Billy met Catherine Bishop and the couple was married in 1980. To that union three children were born. Billy's wife and children will be forever grateful for his love and support. Additionally, his family was blessed to have him as their designated head chef. Cooking was a skill he learned as a teenager and became adept at as an adult. Billy was always happy to prepare nourishing dishes for family gatherings.

### ***A Time to Labor***

Billy acquired an aptitude for information technology and increased his proficiency through the Information Technology Foundation Combination Certificate Program at the George Mason Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering; and Boston University's Microsoft Windows NT Administration. Throughout the years, Billy held various IT positions at public and private institutions including The World Bank, Howard University, and the University of Maryland. He enjoyed building and repairing computers. Billy also enjoyed annual travels throughout the United States, Canada, and the Bahamas.

### ***A Time to Rest***

In 2018, Billy's health began to gradually fail. After several hospital visits he entered eternal rest on Tuesday night, April 28, 2020. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

### ***Precious Memories***

Billy leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Cathy; son, Bryon (Tiearra); daughters, Christiana Wilson and Joy Wright; grandchildren: Taniyah Wright, Nehemiah Wilson, and Bryson Wright; siblings: Carland Wright, Sr. (Laverne), Richard Wright, Jr., Brenda Diggs (David), Robert Wright (Anna); brother-in-law, John Wesley; sisters-in-law: Elaine Bishop, Cheryl Bishop Nasai, and Linda Bishop Guthrie; aunts: Dorothy Kenney, Alice Greene, and Patricia Wright; uncles: Alexander DeLesline, Abraham Wright, and Lawrence Wright; nieces and nephews: Cheryl Warren (Creighton), Pamela Thomas, Roland Wright, Jr. (Edwina), Rolandra Wright, Rhumnusia Wright, Carland Wright, Jr. (Candida), Sean Bishop, Robert M. Wright (Blondel), Yolanda Guthrie, Demetria Gibbs (Amir), Karriem Nasai, Ebone Bishop, Terrell Wright (Tisheika), Rebecca Wright, Aqueelah Nasai, Carla Guthrie, Emmanuel Wright, Ayasha Nasai, Shalom Wright, Taheerah Nasai, Samuel Wright (Donna), Abigail Wright, James Wright, and John Wright (Loveth); a host of grandnephews, grandnieces, other relatives, and long-time friend, Anthony McKnight.

In addition to his parents, William was preceded in death by his brother, Roland Wright, Sr., and sister, Charlene Hogue.

***“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”  
(Revelation 21:7)***

# Order of Service

**Invocation**

**Congregational Hymn** ..... “Love Lifted Me”

**Scripture Reading**

*Old Testament: Psalm 23  
New Testament: John 14:1-6*

**Prayer of Comfort**

**Selection**

**Acknowledgements**

*Roland Wright, Jr., Nephew  
Robert Montell Wright, Nephew  
Tanyah Wright, Granddaughter*

**Obituary** (*Read Silently*)

**Song of Preparation**

**Message of Hope** ..... *Reverend Porter Lawson, Jr.*

**Call to Christ**

**Committal**

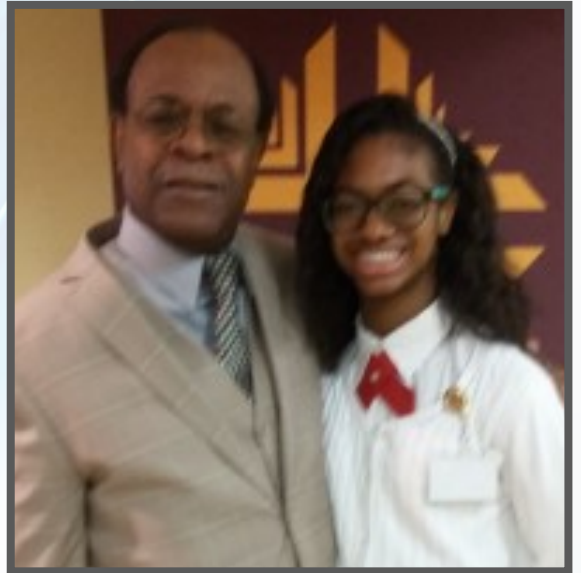
**Benediction** ..... *Pastor Carland Wright, Sr.  
New Testament Church  
Yonkers, New York*

**Recessional**

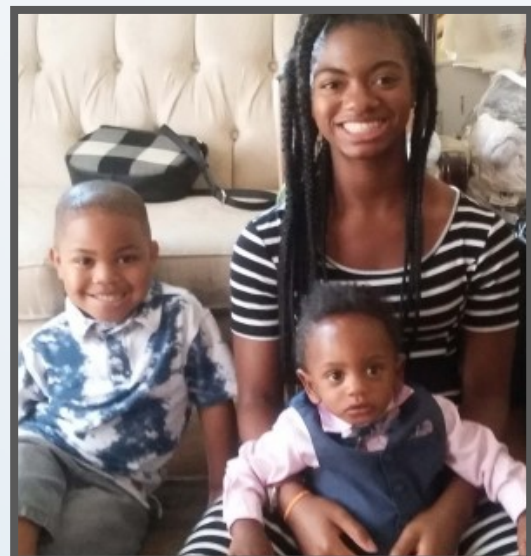
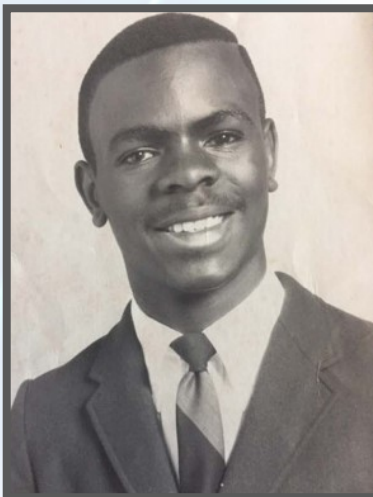
**Interment**

*National Harmony Memorial Cemetery  
Landover, Maryland*











## TRIBUTES

*Dear Daddy,  
I will miss...  
Your constancy  
Your reflections  
Your affection  
Your help  
Your resolution  
Your support  
Your strength  
Your devotion  
Your wit  
Your charm  
Your love  
You are missed and forever loved.*

*Your loving daughter, Christi*



### Remember Me

*Author Unknown*

*Remember me with smiles not tears.  
For all the joy through out the years.  
Recall the closeness that was ours,  
A love as "sweet" as fragrant flowers.*

*Don't dwell on thoughts that cause you pain,  
We'll see each other once again.  
I am at peace....try to believe,  
It was my time...I had to leave.*

*But "what a view" I have from here,  
I see your face, I feel you near,  
I follow you throughout the day,  
You're not alone along the way.*

*And when God calls you... you will be,  
Right by my side....right here with me.  
Till then, I'll wait by Heaven's door,  
We'll be united...evermore!*

### Uncle

*The morning air,  
crisp gray sky.  
The sun barely announcing its presence.  
This past night, sleep easily wrapped  
Its gentle arms snugly  
as heartbeats  
found a steady rhythm  
and the air hummed.*

*No one knew you would take death's cloak  
and leave this natural world so soon.  
Did you whisper sweet dreams before your departure?  
In our own time,  
We will send you a sweet good goodbye.  
Old friend,  
Let me wipe your eyes  
We have too many memories to lose.*

*In all this world  
Your wondrous eyes sparked laughter and joy.  
Your tender embrace stilled the chatter  
Your warm voice sounded like home.*

*Old friend,  
Let me dry your eyes  
We have too many memories to share.*

*Written by Dametria Gibbs (Niece)*



### A Limb has Fallen

*Author Unknown*

*A limb has fallen from the family tree.  
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for  
me."  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.  
The good life I lived when I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Countless traditions, no matter how small.  
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls.  
I miss you all dearly, so hold up your chin.  
Until the day comes, we're together again.*

# TRIBUTES

## ***From a Loving Nephew***

*I love all my uncles and aunts dearly, but I must honestly admit that Uncle Billy was my favorite uncle. He would always remember my birthday when I was young and give me a present or take me out to eat. I remember spending a couple of weekends with him when I was little and it was so exciting for me.*

*I always considered Uncle to be one of the most wise and knowledgeable people that I've ever known. After my own father, I can't think of another man that I regarded any higher. I admired him and saw him as a role model. His contribution to any discussion was invaluable. What he brought to the table can never be replaced. I always looked forward to spending time with him just talking about any topic. He was a very thoughtful and smart man. I would always look forward to getting his thoughts on any subject, whether I agreed with his take or not. He reminded me of my father in many ways. I could always look forward to hearing fun Wright family stories when Uncle was around. He remembered everything about all the uncles, aunts, grands, cousins, etc. Details that everyone else had forgotten he would remember and recount. There was always much laughter and joy whenever he discussed family stories. He really, really loved, cared, and valued everyone in the family. He was very kind, friendly, and personable. He was also a man of conviction, principle, and backbone. He was very loving but very firm and "old school" in his sense of discipline and responsibility.*

*Uncle's passing is a huge loss for our family and leaves us with an enormous void. Our only source of comfort is knowing that he is now at home with the Lord Jesus in Heaven, where he has no pain, suffering, or physical limitations at all. And we look forward to seeing him on the other side. I can imagine him greeting us with that big smile, hug, and laughter that we are missing right now.*

*Carland Wright, Jr.*



## **Congregational Hymn**

### **LOVE LIFTED ME**

*I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,  
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,  
But the Master of the sea, heard my despairing cry,  
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.*

#### **REFRAIN**

*Love lifted me! Love lifted me!  
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me*

*All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling,  
In His blessed presence live, ever His praises sing,  
Love so mighty and so true, merits my soul's best songs,  
Faithful, loving service too, to Him belongs.*

#### **REFRAIN**

*Souls in danger look above, Jesus completely saves,  
He will lift you by His love, out of the angry waves.  
He's the Master of the sea, billows His will obey,  
He your Savior wants to be, be saved today.*

#### **REFRAIN**

### ***Pallbearers***

*Bryon Wright, Carland Wright, Jr., Emmanuel Wright, and Friends*

### ***Honorary Pallbearers***

*Carland Wright, Sr., Richard Wright, Jr., Robert Wright, David Diggs and Anthony McKnight*

### ***Flower Bearers***

*Family and Friends*

### ***Acknowledgement***

*The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and deepest appreciation for the many acts of kindness shown during their period of bereavement. The prayers, comforting words, phone calls, texts, emails, thoughts and rendered services were and will always be remembered and appreciated. The family would also like to thank From the Heart Church Ministries and New Testament Church Yonkers. We praise God for His gifts to us through you. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you.*

*Services Entrusted to:  
Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home  
Suitland, Maryland*