

In Loving Memory of
JOHN J. WILLIAMS



April 23, 1932 – October 10, 2022

Friday, October 21, 2022

Kappa Service: 9:30 am

Viewing: 10:00 am

Service: 11:00 am

www.shilohbaptist.org/livestream

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

1500 Ninth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20001

The Reverend Wallace Charles Smith, DMin, Senior Minister

www.shilohbaptist.org



John Junior Williams was born on April 23, 1932, in Greenville, NC. His father was John Henry Williams and his mother was Ida Mae Perkins. His siblings are Carrie Baldwin, Donald Williams, Charles Williams, and Oscar Williams, and he is survived by his sister Hattie Forbes. He would later leave North Carolina for Baltimore, Maryland, to join his family and attend college. Eventually, he would later move to Prince George's County, MD. His loving wife is the late Rev. Loretta Wright Williams, and his three children are his sons, John Andre Williams, Tewodross Melchishua Williams, and Daryl Jose, Williams.

John was a devoted father, grandfather, husband, veteran, and mentor and exhibited pure agape love in his everyday life. He was also an educator, activist, community leader, mentor, translator, deacon, entrepreneur, and radio producer. John attended Morgan State University where he earned his BA in Foreign Languages. He received his Master's in French Language and Literature from George Washington University and completed additional studies and certificates at the University of Maryland Overseas, Morgan State University; College Park, Georgetown University, and American University. John was a foreign language teacher at Richmond County HS in Warsaw, VA, and at Fairmont Heights HS. He was also a Full-Time Substitute teacher at Central HS and Full-time Retiree-Rehiree. He also joined the brotherhood of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. in 1954, through the Alpha Iota Chapter at Morgan State; and as a lifetime member in the Hyattsville-Landover Chapter. John also served in the United States Army and worked in intelligence while stationed in Germany. John was a member of his beloved Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, DC, and served as a Deacon for many years. Later, he would be awarded Deacon Emeritus. He also ran for office in Prince George's County for the House of Delegates in 1978 under the Democratic Party.

John helped to "change the face of the county" in terms of education and activism, as he was the organizer and lead plaintiff in the 1972 desegregation versus Prince George's County Public schools. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a class action suit on behalf of all African American students and nine of their parents in the county. The action sought to further eliminate segregation within the County's Schools. *Vaughns v. Board of Education of Prince George's County*, which resulted in the transfer of approximately 33,000 students to abolish the last vestiges of the dual-school system. The decision was a landmark and a point of pride and achievement in the African American community. John was the recipient of numerous awards and recognition such as the outstanding Educator and Teacher of the Year, The Theresa D. Banks Award (1982), Prince Georgian of the Year (1995), Leadership in Service Award by the Harlem Renaissance (2010), Certificate of Appreciation from the Southern Poverty Law Center; Black Living Legend Award by the City Council of Baltimore (2011). He was selected by the Prince George's African American historical Preservation Group to provide an oral history of Prince George's County and was interviewed as part of the documentary (2009). He also assisted with humanitarian efforts and helped to raise more than \$100,000 in scholarships and medical supplies for the country of Haiti, a country that he would often visit.

John taught English, French, Spanish, German, and Journalism while at Fairmont Heights HS. He was also the chairperson of the foreign language department for over 48 years. At Fairmont Heights HS, John was the faculty sponsor of the chess program, school newspaper, and senior class and wrote the curriculum for French cooking. He also taught and worked with the Upward Bound program at Howard University. John always encouraged entrepreneurship, and financial empowerment and created many investment clubs in the community and at church. He operated several businesses and was a consultant to other business start-ups. As the father of a son with special needs, John tirelessly served on the Board of Directors for The ARC and worked with New Horizons Supported Services, where he and his wife Loretta sought to improve the lives of those with disabilities. He was a champion for social justice, education, desegregation, equal rights, and opportunity for all and worked tirelessly to better the lives of people here in Maryland and around the world. John also worked as a full-time substitute teacher at Central HS and taught English as a second language for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at Oxon HS and Flintstone Elementary, where he worked with international students new to the county. He would eventually retire from PGCPs in 2007.

John is survived by his son, Tewodross and daughter-in-law, Jennifer Gee Williams (Capitol Heights, MD); and son, Daryl (Bowie, MD). His grandchildren are Laila Williams (Atlanta, GA) and Adriel Williams and his granddaughter-in-law is Asako Williams, and great-granddaughter, Uta Lula Williams (Japan). His other grandchildren are Asukile Melchishua (Washington, DC.), Sakile Melchishua (Denver, CO), Belaynesh Melchishua, Bayyana Melchishua, and Malcolm Williams (Capitol Heights, MD). His wife Loretta Williams transitioned in 2014 and soon after, his son John Andre Williams transitioned in 2015. In his final years, John was cared for by his dedicated grandchildren, Bayyana and Belaynesh, great caregivers, certified nursing assistants, and his son Tewodross. John loved music, dancing, eating sweet potato pie, walking in the park, and spending time with his family. John would live to the age of 90 years old before he made his transition.



Order of Service



Organ Prelude.....	Evelyn Simpson-Curenton
Procession of Clergy and Church Officials Call to Worship and Invocation	
Hymn of Praise	"Blessed Assurance"
Scripture Readings	Old Testament: Psalm 45 New Testament: John 19
Prayer of Comfort	Apostle Angeloyd Fenrick
Musical Selection.....	"It Is Well With My Soul"
Acknowledgments	
Tributes..... <i>limit to 2 minutes please</i>	Ministry of Deacons, Charles E. Hall, Chair Torch Bearers Circle, Rita Bibbs-Booth, Leader Daphne Bell, Fairmont Heights Alumni Association Friends of the Family Family Members Poem, Tewodross M. Williams
Musical Tribute	Brandon Felder, Bowie State University
Eulogy	Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith
Recessional and Musical Postlude	Bowie State University Gospel Choir LaTonya Wrenn, Director



INTERMENT

Fort Lincoln Funeral Home and Cemetery
3401 Bladensburg Road
Brentwood, MD 20722

PALLBEARERS

Tewodross Melchishua Williams
Bayyana Melchishua
Brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Ministry of Deacons



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hyattsville-Landover Alumni Chapter
Bowie-Mitchellville Alumni Chapter
Alpha Iota Chapter, and
Prophets of Persistence, Fall '88
of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Shiloh Baptist Church
Torch Bearers Circle
Music Ministry, Shiloh Baptist Church
The Gateway Media Arts Lab
Mount Rainier Artist Lofts
Bowie State University Gospel Choir
Brandon Felder
LaTonya Wrenn
Michelle Darden Lee
Laquanda Forbes
Desire Dubose
Department of Fine & Performing Arts
Bowie State University
Fairmont Heights Alumni Association
Millwood-Waterford Neighborhood Association



Marshall-March Funeral Home
4308 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20746

program designed by Tewodross M. Williams