



Rass Wilkerson

October 9, 1913 - November 5, 2016

Rass Wilkerson was born to Charlie and Lula Wilkerson on October 9, 1913, in Clinton, MS. His siblings were Andrew, Lester, Moreast, Mary, Janie and Marcilee, who all preceded him in death. He was married to Gertrude Varnell, and to this union one daughter was born, Mary Wilkerson. Rass was remarried to Gladys Jackson and remained a most devoted and loyal husband to her, until her death in March, 2000. Rass received Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at an early age and was baptized at Lynch Chapel Methodist Church in Clinton Mississippi. He received his formal education at Mt. Hood School. Rass was drafted into the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of thirty and served his country with honor and bravery. He served on the newest ship at that time which was known as the USS. Wasp. Later, his ship was bombed by a Japanese Suicide Plane and many of his ship mates were killed. Due to his bravery and heroic acts during the attack, many sailors' lives were saved. He assisted in putting out fires on the ship and making sure any of his shipmates were taken to the infirmary where they received needed medical care. Even though he was injured, he put the lives of his shipmates before his own. For his love of country, fellow shipmates and his heroism he was awarded 10 Bronze Stars and 3 Stripes.

He was inducted into the Silent Mysteries of the Far East Imperial Domain of the Golden Dragon in the USS Wasp ship by the August Ruler of the 180th Meridian in 1945. He was a member of the Task Force Fifty Eight, the Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet Ancient Order of the Deep and fought in battles in the

Atlantic Pacific, the American Theatre Philippine Liberation, which was the cause of his early discharge in 1945 merely because of his bravery.

As faithfully as he served his country, he also served Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church. He served for over 50 years as an usher; was the president and head usher for 26 years, sang in the Men's chorus for over 40 years, and still dutifully contributed financially to the church. Taylor Memorial was blessed to have had Mr. Rass Wilkerson as a formidable Christian Warrior for the many years he has served there.

Among his other accomplishments, he was instrumental in starting a Mason's Lodge in Columbia, Mississippi; and was a member of the ACACIA Lodge, in California for more than 60 years. This year on November 10, 2016 in a heartfelt commemorative ceremony he was inducted as a decorated veteran and his name placed on the Wall of Honor at the Veterans VA Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Rass was a true lover of life, and enjoyed being surrounded by family and friends. He loved eating good home cooking and going out to dinner at some of his favorite restaurants. He especially enjoyed soul food -- Bar-B-Q ribs, fried cat fish, fried chicken wings and he definitely loved Church's Chicken fried okra!! He was an excellent cook himself and everyone, family and friends, would wait, fork in hand, for his delicious roast!

He was a real "party animal" starting at the age of 90 – where his first "Big Family Birthday Party" was held at Taylor Memorial UMC. He was truly surprised, and that set the tone going forward. Thereafter each year he celebrated his birthday, at his own home, surrounded by family and friends! He was an avid sports fan and loved baseball; The Los Angeles Dodgers were his favorite team.

He peacefully closed the final chapter on his book of life on Saturday, November 5, 2016 surrounded by family. He is survived by his only daughter, Mary D. Wilkerson, of Chicago, Illinois, 8 Grandchildren: Taft Wilkerson (Crystal), Suquita Mays, Yolanda Wilkerson, Jessica Evans, Rosa Taylor, (Baron), Kenyata Jackson (Gerald), and Nicole Walker (Robb). 13 Great

Grandchildren, and 7 Great, Great Grand children. He has 2 Nieces from California; Arlee (Ralph) and Deborah. 11 Nieces - 9 from Mississippi: Gloria, Lenora, Bobbie, Gladys, Amy, Clotie, Edith, Annie and Virginia; 1 from New York: Lois and 1 from Chicago: Vivian, 5 Nephews from Mississippi: Glen, Alonzo, John Curtis, Floyd, Johnny ("Smitty"). 3 Great Nephews: Denecko, Marcus. Ellis ("Jr."). 3 Great Nieces: Arletha, Markunya, and Starkisha. And one God Daughter: Sylvia. Special Friends: Celestine Cannon, Edna Perry and Clyde and Cora Preston. Rass Wilkerson has been "the GLUE that held our family together". He was a true Patriarch who was loved and cherished and will be amorously missed. He will remain in the hearts and thoughts of his family and many, many dear friends always.

Cemetery Details

Chapel Of The Chimes

32992 Mission Blvd
Hayward, CA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Harris Funeral Home Legacy Center
1331 San Pablo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 525-1331
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomelegacycenter.com>

Service

NOV 14. 11:00 AM (PT)

Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church
1188 12th Street
, Oakland, CA 94607

Tribute Wall



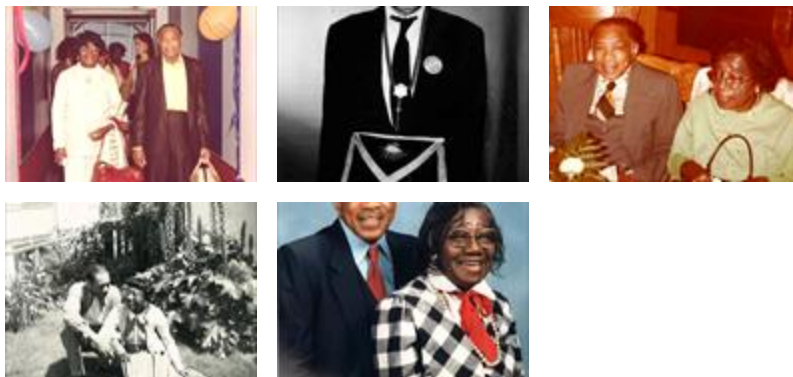
“ Harris Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rass Wilkerson



Harris Funeral Home - November 13, 2016 at 12:10 PM



“ 20 files added to the album Memories Album



Harris Funeral Home - November 14, 2016 at 06:06 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harris Funeral Home - November 13, 2016 at 11:51 AM