

# Acknowledgements

The family of Rev. Jimmy D. Williams wishes to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your prayers, calls, text messages, flowers, gifts, visits, and all the expressions of love shown throughout our time of bereavement. We would also like to thank the staff of Methodist Hospital Germantown and Methodist Hospice Residence. A huge thank you to all who have ever provided a meal, a special treat, or words of comfort during dad's illness. A heartfelt thanks to Ms. Bonnie (Hollywood) Winters, S'erra Winters, and Mr. Earl Edwards for all the care and support for our dad.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to Pastor Howard Moss and the Breath of Life Christian Center for their kindness, hospitality and support. To the staff at Serenity Funeral Home, we are grateful for all that you have done. For the many years of friendship of Congressman Harold E. Ford, Sr., we are forever grateful. To the Amazing Artist Larry & Sharonda Walker, who took the time to layout the printed program and tribute video, we are very thankful for their creative assistance!

## Active Pallbearers

Shemar Calhoun  
Chance Love  
Lance Marks  
Tristian Spann  
TyRek Spann  
Devin Walker  
Torriq Williams  
Trennie Williams, Jr.  
Tylan Williams

## Entombment

### Serenity Columbarium and Memorial Garden

1638 Sycamore View Rd.  
Memphis, Tennessee 38134

## Repast

### Breath of Life Christian Center

3795 Frayser-Raleigh Road  
Memphis, TN 38128

## Services Entrusted to:

**Serenity Funeral Home**  
1638 Sycamore View Rd.  
Memphis, Tennessee 38134

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[www.myextracopy.com](http://www.myextracopy.com)

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A Life of Vision, Faith, Family, and Community Impact

# Rev. Jimmy D. Williams



**Sunrise**

February 9, 1947

**Sunset**

May 5, 2026

**Saturday, May 23, 2026**

**11:00 AM**

**Breath Of Life Christian Center**

3795 Frayser - Raleigh Rd.  
Memphis, Tennessee

# Obituary

Rev. Jimmy D. Williams, a devoted family man, visionary entrepreneur, community leader, and man of faith, peacefully transitioned from this life on May 5, 2026, following health complications. His life was one marked by purpose, perseverance, and a deep commitment to uplifting others.

## Life and Foundation

Rev. Williams was born on February 9, 1947, in Hartsville, South Carolina, to the late Robert and Olive Williams. He was raised in a large and loving family alongside his nine siblings, where the values of hard work, unity, faith, and resilience were instilled early in life.

Growing up in Hartsville, Jimmy developed a strong sense of independence and determination. He attended Butler High School, where he completed his formal education. After graduation, he remained in South Carolina for a period, gaining valuable work experience and developing the discipline that would later define his entrepreneurial success.

## A New Beginning in Memphis

In 1978, Jimmy made a life-changing move, relocating with his family to Memphis, Tennessee. With vision and ambition, he sought greater opportunities—not only for himself, but for his family and future generations. Memphis became the city where he would plant roots, build businesses, and leave an indelible mark on the community.

## Entrepreneurship and Business Leadership

Rev. Williams was a pioneering multi-business entrepreneur whose ventures reflected both innovation and purpose. In 1986, he founded the Memphis Silver Star News, a metropolitan newspaper that would serve the Mid-South region for nearly four decades. Through this publication, Rev. Williams:

- Provided a platform for community voices and local stories
- Promoted businesses and economic growth
- Highlighted positive achievements and cultural developments
- Strengthened communication and positive awareness throughout the Memphis metropolitan area

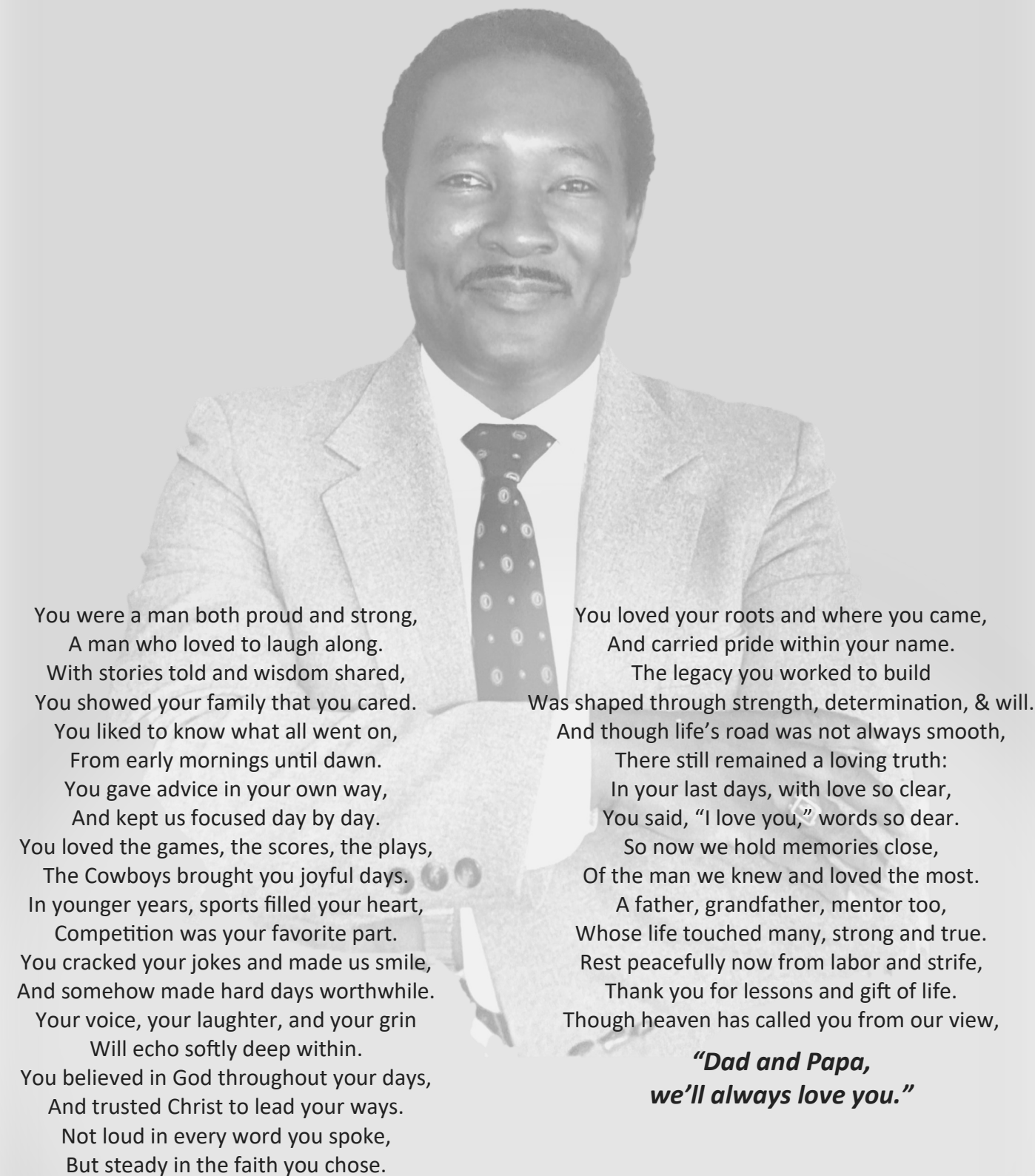
The Memphis Silver Star News became more than a newspaper - it became a trusted voice and a cornerstone of community engagement. Jimmy further expanded his entrepreneurial reach by establishing the Memphis Candle Light Ballroom, located in the historic Orange Mound community. This venue became a place of elegance, celebration, and connection. The Memphis Candle Light Ballroom served as:

- A venue for social gatherings and formal events
- A place for community celebrations
- A hub for networking opportunities that brought people together

Through this business, relationships were built, milestones were celebrated, and community bonds were strengthened.

**Continues on next page...**

# To Our Dad and Papa



You were a man both proud and strong,  
A man who loved to laugh along.  
With stories told and wisdom shared,  
You showed your family that you cared.  
You liked to know what all went on,  
From early mornings until dawn.  
You gave advice in your own way,  
And kept us focused day by day.  
You loved the games, the scores, the plays,  
The Cowboys brought you joyful days.  
In younger years, sports filled your heart,  
Competition was your favorite part.  
You cracked your jokes and made us smile,  
And somehow made hard days worthwhile.  
Your voice, your laughter, and your grin  
Will echo softly deep within.  
You believed in God throughout your days,  
And trusted Christ to lead your ways.  
Not loud in every word you spoke,  
But steady in the faith you chose.

You loved your roots and where you came,  
And carried pride within your name.  
The legacy you worked to build  
Was shaped through strength, determination, & will.  
And though life's road was not always smooth,  
There still remained a loving truth:  
In your last days, with love so clear,  
You said, "I love you," words so dear.  
So now we hold memories close,  
Of the man we knew and loved the most.  
A father, grandfather, mentor too,  
Whose life touched many, strong and true.  
Rest peacefully now from labor and strife,  
Thank you for lessons and gift of life.  
Though heaven has called you from our view,

***"Dad and Papa,  
we'll always love you."***

# Order of Service

## Prelude

## Processional

### Musical Selection

*When You Hear Of My Homegoing, Don't Worry About Me*  
BOLCC

### Scripture Reading Old Testament

Pastor Larry Rucker  
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

### New Testament

Pastor Bradford Benham III  
Liberty's Mass Church

### Prayer of Comfort

Pastor Anthony Williams

### Expressions

*(Please limit to two minutes)*  
Earl Edwards *(Friend)*  
Ruby Payne *(Friend)*  
Chance Love and Devin Walker *(Grandchildren)*

### Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Minister Ruthie Bradley

### Silent Reading

*(Obituary)*

### Video Tribute

### Musical Selection

***Mississippi Poor Boy***  
*(The Boyland Brothers Quartet)*

### Eulogy

Minister Trennie Williams

### Recessional Musical Selection: Promises

### Community Leadership and Lasting Impact

Rev. Williams was deeply committed to giving back. He believed that success was not complete without service. He was a champion for youth and education, making a lasting difference through:

- Providing scholarships to support students pursuing higher education
- Hosting and sponsoring special events for youth
- Donating to schools and educational initiatives
- Encouraging young people to strive for excellence and leadership

One of his most notable contributions was the Achievers Award Banquet, hosted through the Memphis Silver Star News for approximately 20 years. This prestigious event honored outstanding individuals across the community, attracted major corporate sponsorships, and featured nationally and internationally recognized celebrities. It also elevated the visibility of excellence throughout Memphis and the Mid-South. Through this platform, Rev. Williams celebrated success, inspired others, and brought recognition to those making a difference.

### Faith and Ministry

At the core of Jimmy's life was his unwavering faith in God. He accepted Christ at an early age and carried that commitment throughout his life. Later, he answered the call to ministry, becoming an ordained minister. He attended the William Herbert Brewster Theological School in Memphis, where he further developed his spiritual foundation and leadership.

Rev. Williams later served as pastor of New Antioch Missionary in Memphis, Tennessee where he preached the Gospel, provided spiritual guidance, served and uplifted his congregation. His faith was not only spoken—it was lived daily through his actions, generosity, compassion, and leadership.

### Family and Personal Life

Rev. Williams was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and patriarch. He was united in marriage to Doris Pate Williams in 1966, and their union lasted 38 years. From this marriage, he was blessed

with three children and a loving family foundation. Doris and eight of his siblings preceded him in death. Later in life, he was married to Diane Rice Williams.

“Papa” enjoyed seeing the family come together for holidays, birthdays, and special dinners. Earlier in his adulthood, he enjoyed fishing, playing baseball, and traveling. He valued family, fellowship, and togetherness, and he found joy in seeing others happy and united.

He leaves to cherish his memory his sons, Trennie Williams (Kiwayna), Christopher Spann (Shannette), and Justin Williams; his daughters, Demetrius Marks (Curtis) and Kimberly Love; and his brother, Marion Latroy Williams (Nell). He also leaves behind a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family members, and dear friends whose lives were enriched by his presence.

### Character and Legacy

Rev. Williams was a man of vision, integrity, and purpose. He was known for:

- His entrepreneurial spirit and independence
- His commitment to community upliftment
- His generosity and willingness to give back
- His ability to bring people together
- His faith-driven leadership

He did not simply build businesses—he built opportunities. He did not simply live life—he impacted lives.

### Final Tribute

Rev. Jimmy D. Williams leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations. From South Carolina to Memphis, from humble beginnings to lasting influence, his life stands as a testament to what can be achieved through faith, determination, and a heart for others. His work, his family, and his impact will live on.

**“Well done, good and faithful servant...”**

Matthew 25:23

# Memories

