

*Flower Bearers*

Nieces & Friends

*Casket Bearers*

Nephews & Friends

*Acknowledgement*

The family of the late Willie Joe Gary wishes to acknowledge with great appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, calls, and all acts of kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. May God continue to bless each and everyone of you.

A special thanks to Pastor Burgess and the New Tate's Grove Baptist Church family as well as the professional staff of Mack's Funeral Home & Cremation Services. A more personal acknowledgement will be made at a later time.

Services Entrusted To

**MACK'S FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE**

Post Office Box 991 ~ Hartwell, Georgia 30643

Elberton Chapel  
320 College Ave  
Elberton, GA 30635  
(706) 283-4566



Hartwell Chapel  
266 Maple Street  
Hartwell, GA 30643  
(706) 376-7566

Email: [macksfuneralhome@att.net](mailto:macksfuneralhome@att.net)  
Visit us online at [www.macksfuneralhome.com](http://www.macksfuneralhome.com)

Designed and Printed at **LA SOUNDS** (864) 401-6336

# *Home Going Celebration*

Heaven Sent: March 28, 1938

*Willie "Joe Louis" Gary*

Heaven Bound: March 11, 2021



Saturday, March 20, 2021

Eleven O'Clock in the Morning

Mack's Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
320 College Avenue  
Elberton, Georgia 30635

Pastor Patrick Burgess, Officiant



Order of Service

Processional.....	Clergy, Bearers, and Family
Selection.....	Mr. Robert Mattox
Inspiration from Scripture.....	Psalms 23.....Pastor Patrick Burgess
Prayer.....	Pastor Patrick Burgess
Selection.....	Mr. Robert Mattox
Remarks.....	Family and Friends.....Limit 2 Minutes Please
Acknowledgement.....	Melesa Gary
Selection.....	Mr. Robert Mattox
Eulogy.....	Pastor Patrick Burgess
	New Tate's Grove Baptist Church
Recessional.....	Clergy, Bearers, and Family

Interment  
Lincoln Heights Cemetery

Daddy,  
You were my first love. Although I'm heart broken, I'm so happy for all the years God allowed you to be in my life. You taught me how to catch my first Walleye. You said take your time, reel it in slow and get the net when it's time to bring it in the boat. As a kid, it seemed like hard work. You taught me anything you want in life you have to work for it. Thank you so much for being a strong father and for pushing me to get a higher education.  
  
You are my superman. Now it's time to take off your cape and put on your angel wings. Until we meet again, Rest in Power Daddy!!!!

Your loving daughter,  
Tonya



Dad,  
You were the true epitome of a man, a true father, leader, friend. You taught me so many things; from working on cars to catching catfish with corn. You showed and taught me what it is for a man to lead his family and household. You taught me to be strong and never give up and to keep my head up even when the odds were against me.  
  
Thank you for teaching me and giving me the tools to follow in your footsteps!!!! You will truly be missed!!!!

Your loving son,  
Perry







## *Remembering the Life of Willie "Joe Louis" Gary*

Joe Louis was born on March 28, 1938 in Elbert County, Georgia. He was the son of the late Lonnie L. Gary and Patience (Dubose) Gary-Banks. He gained his wings and transitioned to eternal rest on March 11, 2021.

The dictionary defines resilient as a person able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult situations. Joe Louis was the epitome of resilience. He attended Elbert County schools until 8th grade. Times were tough for his mother, so he briefly went to Pennsylvania to live with his aunt, Zora. He knew he wanted more for himself so he enlisted in the Army at Fort Benning, Georgia, where his occupation was a light truck driver for 1 ½ years. After the military a friend paid him to drive him to Chicago but they had to make a pit stop in Detroit first. This "pit stop" turned into him planting roots. He met and wed Mary Lomax and from that union two children were born.

Joe Louis got hired at Ford Motor Company in 1965 at the Rouge plant and worked on the assembly line making the Ford Mustang. His resiliency allowed him to work for 33 years until he retired in 1998. Joe Louis worked hard and believed in saving his money. His savings allowed him to invest in several real estate properties on the Northwest side of Detroit. He was an entrepreneur at heart and also started his own home improvement business. He loved to garden and fish. He purchased several boats where he enjoyed going out on the water and showing his children how to fish. Joe Louis was the face of a survivor. He survived the Detroit Riots of 1967, survived being shot and he beat two different types of cancer. He was even part of a motorcycle club and got kicked out. So what did he do? He started his own motorcycle club and named it "The Outcasts." This club is still in existence in Detroit.

In 2004, Joe Louis returned to Elberton, Georgia to live out his retirement of fishing and gardening until the Lord called him home.

Joe Louis was preceded in death by his parents, step-father, Oliver Banks; siblings, Mamie Lou Harris, Thelmer Downer, Marie Turman, Clifford Gary, Lonnell Gary, J.T. Gary and Anthony "Bernice" Gary.

Joe Louis leaves to cherish his memory a son, Perry Gary of Detroit, Michigan; a daughter, Latonya (Amir) Kegler of Rochester Hills, Michigan. Five grandchildren, Deon Key, Audi Fontaine, Audrei Gary, London Kegler, and Amir Joseph Kegler. Four great-grandchildren; three sisters-in-law, Elaine Gary (Delaware); Wilhelmina Lomax (South Carolina) and Christine Alexander (South Carolina); a special niece, Genora Hamm of Elberton Georgia and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



SISTERS



Patience G. Banks  
our Mother



Mamie Lue Harris  
NO-1



Oliver Banks  
Step-Father

Patience G. Banks  
our Mother



Marie Turman  
NO-3



Thelma Downer  
NO-2



Lonnie L. Gary



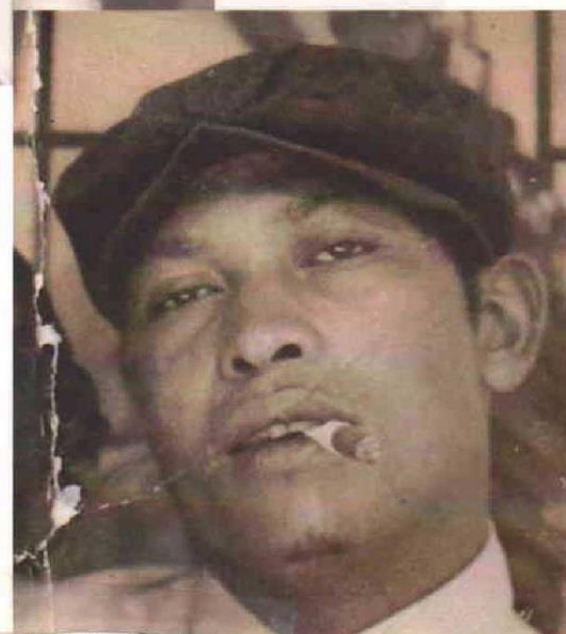
J T Gary



Clifford (B) Gary



Willie J. Gary



Bernice (Anthony) Gary