

Obituary
"The Journey Home"

My heart has been set free from loving and caring for the ones who loved and cared for me. Now
I'm your guardian angel to watch over Thee, what a miracle my body has been set free.

Mr. Fredrick Gissendanner was born August 9, 1949 in Ozark, Alabama to the late Fred and Willie
Claud Gissendanner.

At an early age Fred joined St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church. He was an active member serving faithfully in many organizations, including The Trustee Board, The Steward Board, Lay Council, President of the Male Choir, A class leader and Chairman of the Building Committee. One of his favorite songs was "Clean Up, What I Messed Up". "Mr. Fred" or "Uncle Fred," as he was known by the children and youth in our community, always took time to encourage them and showed them love.

Fred attended Ozark city schools and graduated from DA Smith High School in 1967, where he was a proud member of the DA Smith High School Marching Band playing the drums. After graduating Fred enlisted in the United States Marine Corp Delta 1/7 Vietnam Marines and also served in the United States National Guard. As a Marine he deployed to the Vietnam War. Within his military career he received a honorable discharge, he was a combat wounded veteran and he earned he Purple Heart Medal, National defense service medal , Vietnam Service Medal , the combat action medal and Vietnam Campaign medal w/device.

Upon relocating back to Ozark, Alabama he accepted a job as a firefighter with the Fort Rucker Fire Department. After he retired from the fire department he was employed with Lewis & Lewis Funeral Home helping where he was needed.

Sixteen years ago Fred found a friend in Bill W. His whole life changed and his 2nd life began. He lived by the prayer "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change ... courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."

Fred was involved in many organizations including: The Concerned Citizens, Member of Leisure Services, Friends of Ozark, Vice President of CHS boys basketball Booster Club, CHS Band Boosters, Quarterback Club, Dale County Court Referral program, The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters and D-1/7 Marines Association. He made many trips to prisons and parole hearings, and always helped and gave encouragement to anyone in need.

The Lord called him home October 24, 2017 at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Alabama. The gates of heaven opened up and extended a welcome hand unto him. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by his family, friends, and loved ones.

Fred leaves many precious and fond memories to be cherished by the love of his life, his loving and devoted wife, Retha Gissendanner. Four Daughters, Kina Gissendanner Charlotte, NC, Marlana Grider Daleville, AL, Dashanda (Eric) Grider of Ozark and Asia K Cofield of Plainfield, NJ. One son preceded him in death, Daniel Gissendanner. Four granddaughters Deliarra (Cordaro) Gissendanner, Deshanna, De'Siona, and Ma'Nyah Grider. Two great grandchildren. His greatest love, his great-grandson, Cyrus Gissendanner and great-granddaughter, Ce'Lena. Four sisters, Ozella Johnson, Atlanta, GA, Willie Mae (Edward) Norfleet, Midland City, AL, Jeleeta (John) Walker, and Linda Gissendanner of Ozark, AL. Two sisters preceded him in death, Marie Gissendanner and Angeletta Macklin. Two brothers Rufus (Lisa) Cowthon of Dothan, AL, Samuel (Jennifer) Gissendanner of Headland, AL. A mother-in-law, Lovie Grider Flowers. One sister-in-law, Vivian Marshall of Cherry Hill, NJ, and one brother-in-law, Arnold Cuyler of Charlotte, NC. Four Aunts, Mae Lou (Edgar) Harper of Ozark, AL, Kate Ellis of Plainfield, NJ, Mary Lee Boykin of Bellwood, AL, and Mary Ann Brooks of Ozark, AL. One Uncle, Wilbur Brabham of Slocumb, AL. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, extended family and special friend, Debra Hand, Gene Lynn, Tyrone Crittendon, Lee Curtis Shipmon, Bill Brock, Chief Len Stanford, Calvin Turner, Junior (Bug) Thompson and all the friends of Bill W.

Order of Service

Rev. Joseph Ellington, III, Presiding
Pastor, Pleasant Grove A.M.E. Zion Church
Ozark, Alabama 36360

The Prelude.....	Bethel Terry Jeffery Roseboro
The Processional.....	Ministers and Family
The Hymn.....	Congregation "Trust In The Lord"
The Prayer.....	Rev. E.L. Norfleet, Pastor, Athens Chapel and Kings Chapel A.M.E. Zion Churches Luverne, Alabama
The Scriptures:	
Old Testament.....	Rev. Loretta Payne, Pastor, Rogers Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church Wetumpka, Alabama
New Testament.....	Elder Jerry Boykins, Associate Pastor, Living Waters CGIC, Hartford, Alabama
The Solo.....	Sylvester Williams
The Prayer for Serenity.....	Rev. Paul Grider, Pastor, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Enterprise, Alabama
The Selection.....	Ozark's Community Mass Choir
The Reflections and Tributes:	
Hazel Turner.....	St. Mark's Church
Gene Lynn.....	A friend
City Of Ozark.....	The Honorable Judge Stan Garner
Friends of "Bill W.".....	
The Solo.....	
The Obituary.....	Read Sliently Soft Music
The Acknowledgements.....	Debra Benton
The Resolutions	
Yolanda McFarlin.....	St. Mark A.M.E. Zion
Honorable Mayor Bob Bunting.....	City of Ozark
Sis. Theresa Locke.....	DA Smith High School Marching Band
The Solo.....	Donna Bivins
The Eulogy.....	Rev. Boyd Fuller, Pastor, St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church Ozark, Alabama
They Prayer Comfort.....	Bishop Curtis William, Pastor, Lively Stones Ministries Worship Center Ozark, Alabama
The Recessional.....	

The Repast
Ozark's Civic Center after the Interment

Interment
St. Rose Cemetery
Skipperville, Alabama