



Acknowledgements

We are grateful for all the support, prayers, acts of kindness, and assistance extended during the passing of our loved one, and to God for giving us such faithful relatives, friends and neighbors.



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Celebration of Life *For Willie "Marvin" Byars*

February 17, 1956 - September 17, 2018

Saturday, September 29, 2018

1:00 P.M.

Providence Baptist Church

1773 Hawthorne Avenue
College Park, Georgia 30337

Reverend Charles Nesbitt, Pastor
Eulogist

Obituary

Reverend Willie Marvin “Morehouse” Byars Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on February 17, 1956, the only child to the late Mr. Willie Marvin Byars Sr. and Ms. Barbara Ann (Johnson) Riggins. He grew up in Southwest Atlanta on Ashby Street with his grandparents, the late Deacon and Mrs. Marvin B. (Annie) Coleman. He was educated in Atlanta Public Schools where he attended M. Agnes Jones Elementary School and a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, Class of 1973. He joined the Mount Moriah Baptist Church at an early age where he was involved in the Children’s Choir and Youth For Christ Choir.

Marvin attended Morehouse College and Clark (Atlanta University) College in Atlanta, Georgia. He became a member of the Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity (Upsilon Chapter) in 1975. In Kansas, Marvin received the calling to become a licensed Minister of Music in 1983. Marvin worked for Fulton County Mental Health Department from July 1978 to June 2002. He also worked for the Georgia Department of Labor from 2002 until 2018, when he decided it was time to retire due to his health.

His love and passion for music began at an early age. He was a gifted self-taught musician who played by ear. He began working with Morehouse College band at the age of 7. Marvin continued his first love by touring with The Drifters for two years, then returning to Atlanta to perform with a local band, Anzio Diamond, as well as, recording his own original music. He worked with many Choirs and groups throughout Atlanta and across the United States.

He worked with the YAC of Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, Tom Carlton Choir of Beulah Baptist Church, Clark Atlanta Voice of Faith College Gospel Choir, Woods Memorial, Providence Baptist Church, New Macedonia Baptist Church, World Changers Church International, Butler Street Baptist, “A Blend of Men” of Carrollton First Baptist, Gospel Music Workshop of America and lastly the Newnan Chapel Gospel Choir, just to name a few.

Not only did Marvin love music, but he also loved to dance and teach line dancing. On October 10, 2008, he married the love of his life, the one who caught his eye on the dance floor, Ms. Theresa M. Perkins, where they “stepped” into each other’s lives. He was the Founder of U2 Smooth Line Dance Group with his lovely wife, Theresa Byars. Marvin has created several original line dances. His signature dance “Woop-Woop”, is well known all over the country. As U2 Smooth, Marvin and Theresa conducted many workshops, classes and Marriage Ministry Groups. He believed in sharing his love of dance just as David in the Bible, “danced out of his shoes with joy.” They have been involved with numerous groups throughout the city; Southside Steppers, Peach State Steppers, and All ‘Bout Steppin, just to name a few.

He leaves to cherish his memory; a sweet elderly mother, Barbara Riggins; loving and devoting wife, Theresa Byars and her two daughters, Natrina Perkins-Lawson and Natricia Perkins; as well as his children Benjamin Byars Sr. and Brandye Byars along with their mother, Rhonda Byars; grandson, Benjamin Byars Jr. (Little Marvin); and a host of relatives and friends that have added to his full life.



Order of Service

- Prelude
- Processional..... Clergy, Family & Friends
- Scripture Reading:
 - Old Testament Mr. Tony Sanford
 - New TestamentMs. Brenda McCloud
- Prayer Pastor Terri Lemons
- Selection.....Newnan Chapel UMC Gospel Choir
- Poem Mr. William L. Dent, III
- Memorial DVDDortch-Williamson
- Reflections (*two minutes please*) Mr. Mickey Wyatt, *Washington High Class of 1973*
Mr. Pete Thomas, *Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity*
Mr. Greg Barnett, *B.O.A.S.C.*
Ms. Charissee Jackson, *U 2 Smooth Line Dancers*
Mikki Grayson, *Cousin*
- Obituary (*read silently*)
- Selection Mr. Eric Jackson
- Eulogy..... Reverend Charles Nesbitt
- Acknowledgements Ms. Joanne Jackson
- Closing Dortch-Williamson Staff
- Recessional “I’m Going Up Yonder”
- Postlude

Repast

(Immediately following the service)
Providence Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall