

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

Ecclesiastes 3:12

# Legacy of Love

A dad, a granddad, a great granddad too,
This is the legacy we have from you
You taught us love and how to fight
You gave us strength, you gave us might.
A stronger person would be hard to find,
And in your heart you were always kind.
You fought for us all in one way or another
Not just as a dad, not just as a granddad and great granddad.
For all of us you gave your best
And now the time has come for you to rest.
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,
Your love in our hearts we'll eternally keep.

By Unknown



## **Acknowledgments**

The family gratefully acknowledges your kindness, love and prayers. We genuinely appreciate all expressions of sympathy and support shared in the loss of our loved one.

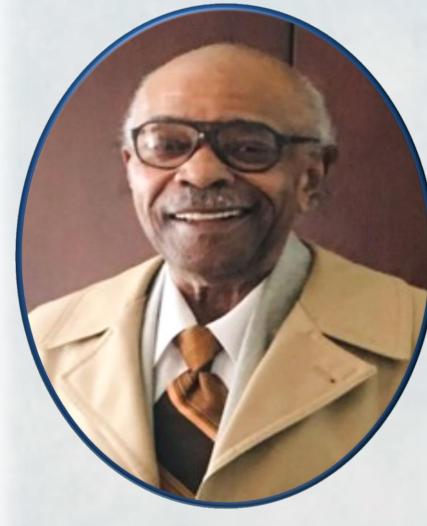
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# Gelebrating the Life of



McNeil Baldwin

Sunrise: July 26, 1937 ~ Sunset: January 10, 2022

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:00 PM

**Baldwin Family Cemetery** 

Whiteville, North Carolina

Reverend George Jones, Eulogist Reverend Dr. Elzenia Baldwin McKoy, Officiant

#### ~ Order of Service ~

**PRELUDE** 

OPENING SELECTION......Mrs. Augustine Clarida

**SCRIPTURES** 

OLD TESTAMENT.......Dr. Elzenia Baldwin McKoy

Psalms 121: 1-8

NEW TESTAMENT..... Ms. Theldene Baldwin Robinson John 14:1-3

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Elder Larry McKoy

CHANT......Mrs. Augustine Clarida

OBITUARY/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS......Ms. Deborah K. Baldwin

REFLECTIONS.....Frankie White, Jr., Grandson Miss. Gariel Bell, Granddaughter

Mrs. Julia Jenkins, Sister

SONG......Mrs. Augustine Clarida

EULOGY.....Reverend George Jones

Service of Committal



### ~ Obituary ~

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23: 1-4

**McNeil Baldwin,** son of the late Wylie Oscar Baldwin and Doreather Shipman Baldwin, was born July 26, 1937 in Whiteville, NC. He transitioned this earthly life on the evening of January 10, 2022, at home in Wake Forest, NC.

McNeil was raised in the Welches Creek Township where he attended Welches Creek Missionary Baptist Church. He believed in God and the power of prayer.

McNeil displayed passion, pride, and confidence daily. He was passionate about family, proud of his work history, and confident of his direction. Early in life, he exhibited hardworking qualities and a thirst to get things done. He was a 1957 graduate of Artesia High School, Hallsboro, NC. He proudly drove a school bus during his high school years, earning an award for his safety skills and dedication. He entered the workforce after graduation: Baldwin's ESSO Station, following in the footsteps of his oldest brother, Lennon; Lee's Gas and Service Station; and Pridgen Brothers' Construction, where he learned his trade, developed visions of an entrepreneur, and saw them later come to fruition.

He was a man, though with an acquired taste, who enjoyed the simplicities of life, such as opportunities to fellowship and reminisce with family and friends whether under a pecan tree, sitting on a doorstep, picnic table or at an establishment; doing for the community: disking fields, growing and sharing produce (watermelons, corn, peanuts, sweet potatoes, and more); tinkering: with his tractors, pieces of equipment; cruising around in one of his vehicles; and of course, hosting gatherings.

McNeil married Ernestine Troy. Five children were born to this union. Their youngest, his namesake, McNeil Baldwin, Jr., preceded the former couple in death. McNeil Baldwin also, had four siblings to enter into eternal rest before him, Lennon Baldwin, Jettie Baldwin Moore, Earlie Baldwin and John D. Baldwin.

Surviving are four daughters, Marilyn Baldwin Richards (Harden) of the home; Alice Faye Baldwin Gross of Wilmington, NC; Brenda Mae Baldwin White (Frankie) of Silver Spring, MD; and Maxine Baldwin Bell (Gary) of Durham, NC; sisters, Betty Ann Baldwin of Whiteville, NC and Julia Baldwin Jenkins of Greensboro, NC; brother, Booker T. Baldwin (Linda) of Bridgeport, CT; sister-in-law, Lula Mae Baldwin of Whiteville, NC; grandchildren, Jazmin Gross Owens Cooper (Kyle); Frankie L. White, Jr., Abram B. White and Troy B. White; Gariel M. Bell and Baldwin G. Bell; great-grandchildren, Gianna A. Owens and Kai S. Cooper; and a host of relatives and friends.

## ~ Obituary, Continued ~

#### **Entrepreneurial Dream...Turned Lifelong Journey**

McNeil Baldwin was a visionary. His interest and training in the construction industry as a young man, made him determined to one day be self-employed. Smart, eager and with a go-getter attitude, he ventured out to make his dream a reality. What we today identify as his entrepreneur spirit, back then, was simply curiosity, pure grit and sure will power.

McNeil was a self-motivator. His work history started in Whiteville. Later, he traveled to Pennsylvania, where he spent time in Philadelphia under the tutelage of the John B. Kelly Construction Company. He was well on the path to owning his own business.

He eventually started his own business, Baldwin Sandblasting Company. With more experience and better equipment, clientele grew bringing about a name change, McNeil Baldwin Brick Cleaning Company.

McNeil became a successful businessman and sub-contractor. This gained him the opportunity to work with several renowned NC construction companies including: SHELCO, D. R. Allen, Cook, and Brantley. Sandblasting and pressure washing bricks were his trademarks.

He "cleaned" a multitude of complexes, buildings, and structures throughout NC, as well as, bordering states. Some of his largest jobs included: US Army PX, Fort Bragg; Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh; Cross Creek Mall, Fayetteville; Four Seasons Mall and the Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro; the entire First Union (now Wells Fargo) Operations Campus, Charlotte; Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem; Handy Hugo Stores, Wilco Stores; several Churches; and other hard surfaces.

McNeil brick washed buildings on at least four NC HBCU campuses: Winston-Salem State University (Marilyn); Fayetteville State University (Faye); NC Central University Law School (Brenda); and NC A&T State University (Maxine). His four daughters graduated from the above listed institutions.

#### **Fondest Accomplishment**

McNeil founded the Baldwin Family Reunion, in honor of son, McNeil Baldwin, Jr., and was presented the "You Make A Difference - Appreciation Award," by the Baldwin Family Reunion Committee.