

## *If Tears Could Build A Stairway*

If tears could build a stairway,  
and memories a lane.  
I would walk right up to Heaven  
and bring you back again.

No farewell words were spoken,  
No time to say "Goodbye".  
You were gone before I knew it,  
and only God knows why.

My heart still aches with sadness,  
and secret tears still flow.  
What it meant to love you -  
No one can ever know.

But now I know you want me  
to mourn for you no more;  
To remember all the happy times  
life still has much in store.

Since you'll never be forgotten,  
I pledge to you today~  
A hollowed place within my heart  
is where you'll always stay.

*Author: Unknown*



## *When We Ask Why*



God's purpose and plan  
Is sometimes concealed,  
But someday His purpose  
Will be revealed.

Someday God's wisdom  
Will make it clear and plain  
Why problems were permitted  
And how He uses pain.

We'll see the Lord's purpose  
From Heaven's point of view,  
And we will understand  
In ways we never knew.

Till we are home with God  
Some answers have to wait.  
"Lord, we'll trust and obey-  
Lord, help us walk by faith."

By: Perry Tanksley

### *Acknowledgement*

We, the family of Franklin Delanore Gillespie, pause to express sincere thanks for your expressions of sympathy and many personal services which shall always be remembered in the minds and hearts of each of us.  
We shall remain forever grateful.

707 Vinson Boulevard  
Whiteville, NC 28472



Phone: 910-642-4055  
Fax: 910 642-8535

Website: [www.peoplesofwhiteville.com](http://www.peoplesofwhiteville.com)  
Email: [peoplesofwhiteville@embarqmail.com](mailto:peoplesofwhiteville@embarqmail.com)

## *Homegoing Celebration* *for*

# *Franklin Delanore Gillespie*

Sunrise: May 9, 1938 ~ Sunset: January 18, 2022



Wednesday, January 26, 2022  
11:00 PM

### *Peoples Funeral Chapel*

707 Vinson Boulevard  
Whiteville, North Carolina

Reverend Gregory Taylor, Eulogist



~ Order of Service ~

GATHERING OF THE FAMILY 10:00 – 11:00 AM

CLOSING OF THE CASKET           Wife and Children

SOLO                                   Ms. Brenda Blanks

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER       “The Lord’s Prayer”

SCRIPTURES  
Old Testament (Psalm 23)  
New Testament (John 3:16)

REMARKS     (2 minutes)   Children and Grandchildren

SOLO                                   Ms. Janice Thompson

EULOGY                               Reverend Gregory Taylor

~ Mortician in Charge ~

RECESSIONAL

SERVICE OF COMMITMENT & INTERMENT  
Lewis Cemetery  
Round Branch Road  
Bladenboro, NC



~ Obituary ~

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,  
I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7*

On the morning of January 18, 2022, GOD sent angels to escort Franklin Delanore Gillespie to his eternal rest from New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC after a brief illness.

Franklin was born May 9, 1938 to Dorothy Gillespie and Archie Shipman (both deceased). At the age of 18 months, when he lost his biological mother, he was blessed to be reared by Alice Glaspie who preceded him but loved him like her own. He was an extraordinary fella as a kid. He got into some of everything, but was always that respectful, suave, debonair gentleman that people loved.

He joined First Baptist Church of Bladenboro as a child and attended until he became ill. He was faithful with paying his tithes and offerings. He attended Spaulding Monroe High School in Bladenboro where he played basketball and football. He was finished with school in the 11th grade and decided he would work instead. In the mid 50s, he courted Carnie Gillespie, and they were joined in holy matrimony on November 19, 1957 at The Church of GOD in Bladenboro NC.

To this union, six children were born. He decided to venture out and moved to New York. He was smart and very ambitious when it came to work. He provided for his family and made sure no one harmed his family.

~ Obituary ~

Franklin was extremely talented and was a jack of all trades! He could see something that he liked and go home and build it. It was as if he was magical with his hands. He loved to sing, played various instruments, and even tried his hands as a welterweight boxer. Everything he made...worked! He made many friends and was well known for always lending a helping hand to those he knew and didn't know. He was strict when it came to his daughters...they didn't have a chance! The icon of Bladenboro is no more!

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife: Carnie Gillespie of the home; children, Lutia Spivey of Bladenboro, NC and Adrienne Brockington (Rickey) of Bladenboro, NC, Loretta Kimbrough of High Point, NC, Dorothy Mansfield (Alick) of Bladenboro, NC, Franklin Gillespie, Jr. (Nikki) of High Point, NC, Shenique Gillespie of Linden, NC, and Judy Brown (Maress) of Bladenboro NC; sister, Edith Uneil Ward of Silver Spring, MD; 20 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, 14 great-great-grandchildren, brother-in-law, Elroy Lewis; sisters-in-law, Vernetta Harris and Johnia Carter; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

