



William James Rutland, Jr.

May 18, 1930 - July 2, 2025

William James Rutland, affectionately known as “Man” and later “Bill,” departed this life on July 2, 2025, at the age of 95. He was a cherished husband, stepfather, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and friend. He now rests in the loving embrace of Jesus along with his wife, Luella Rutland; parents, William and Freddie Mae Rutland; his brother, Freddie Rutland; his sister, Mary Alice Watts; stepson and stepdaughter, Ronald Lynn Ellis and Valerie Denise Smith and great-granddaughter, Serenity Danielle Ellis.

Born on May 18, 1930, in Barnesville, Georgia, Bill lived a life enriched with purpose, passion and love. Shortly after his birth, his parents moved the family to Winter Garden, Florida. At a young age, Bill started working at an orange grove. Later, he and his father were the only two African Americans that worked for a major milk dairy.

In 1954, he migrated to Buffalo, New York where he obtained a job at Western Electric Corporation. During the 1960’s, Bill acquired a Master Barber’s License to subsequently own a premier barbershop in Buffalo, while simultaneously working at Western Electric.

During the summer of 1971, Bill met Luella Ellis. He later proposed to her, and they wed on March 27, 1976. That same year, Western Electric was

purchased by the AT&T Corporation, and he was transferred to one of their facilities in Atlanta, Georgia. Soon thereafter, He and Luella made a strong commitment to dedicating their lives to serving the Lord. Together, they enjoyed a happy and fruitful life until he retired in 1990 and long afterwards.

A dedicated and skilled worker, Bill was known as a “jack of all trades”, earning him the admiration of many for his knowledge and ability to operate and repair machinery on the job. His resourcefulness and integrity made him a valuable figure to be praised.

Bill’s vibrant personality was demonstrated through his love for life’s simple pleasures. He had a deep appreciation for gardening and found joy in every moment of it.

A man of unwavering love, Bill shared 46 years of marriage with his devoted wife Luella. He is survived by his sister Frances Jones, stepson Danny Ellis, daughters-in-law Jacqueline Ellis and Melody Ellis, nine grandchildren, six great grandchildren and extended family of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Bill's free spirit, generosity and demeanor touched the lives of all who knew him. His legacy of love, creativity and passion for life will continue to inspire those who carry his memory in their hearts.

Cemetery Details

Kennedy Memorial Cemetery

2500 River Road
Ellenwood, Ga 30294

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (est)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Drive
Decatur, GA 30034

Celebration of Life

JUL 19. 1:00 PM (est)

Rainbow Park Baptist Church
2941 Columbia Drive
Decatur, GA 30034

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Warren family purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of William James Rutland, Jr..*



The Warren family - July 17, 2025 at 09:22 AM

SI

“ *Shasanmi Family Indiana purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of William James Rutland, Jr..*



Shasanmi Family Indiana - July 16, 2025 at 08:33 PM

SR

“ *Stefanie and Revlon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William James Rutland, Jr..*

Stefanie and Revlon - July 16, 2025 at 10:38 AM

SR

“ *Stefanie and Revlon purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of William James Rutland, Jr..*



Stefanie and Revlon - July 16, 2025 at 10:38 AM

LK

“ I worked with Bill for many years. He was a great guy and a good friend. We often went to lunch together. Always looked forward to having coffee with especially when Lou would send me a piece of her cake. Bill will truly be missed.

Lynn Kern - July 15, 2025 at 11:15 PM



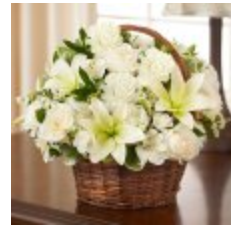
“ White Mixed Half Casket Cover was purchased for the family of William James Rutland, Jr..



July 15, 2025 at 06:36 PM

EF

“ Eniafe family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of William James Rutland, Jr..



Eniafe family - July 15, 2025 at 05:42 PM

PW

“ RIP MR.BILL 🙏



Paul Walker - July 13, 2025 at 04:46 PM