



## Deacon Willie C Riley Sr.

May 15, 1948 - December 20, 2020

In 1948, as history was in the making, Apartheid began in South Africa, the Transistor Radio was created, the cost of a gallon of gas was 16 cents and The Washington Homestead Grays defeated the Birmingham Black Barons in the last Negro World Series. It also marked the commencement of the life and legacy of Willie Clarence Riley, Sr., affectionately known as "Boot."

Boot was born the middle son to the late Thomas Howard Riley, Sr. and Carrie Lee Riley on May 15, 1948 in Butler, Georgia. He came from a very close-knit and loving family and he had a passion for fishing and sports. Boot was a huge fan of "All Things Miami"; The Miami Dolphins, The Miami Heat, and the Florida Marlins! His family relocated to Goulds, Florida in 1957. At the age of 12, he gave his life to Christ and joined Second Baptist Church in Goulds, FL under the leadership of Reverend Charles Henry Graham. Boot matriculated in the Miami-Dade County school system graduating from the esteemed Mays Senior High School (Home of the Rams) in 1966, and thereafter joined the United States Army.

### Military Life

Boot joined the United States Army in 1967, where he became a part of American history by being enlisted and battled on the frontline in the Vietnam War. He did what many, serving in Vietnam, could not do, he was able to safely return home in 1969 where he was honorably discharged. He continued to serve in the Army National Guard after Vietnam and for this duty of service

he remained active for over 18 years.

### Civilian Life

Boot found his soulmate and love of his life, Phyllis Beasley in 1969, whom he later married on May 14, 1971. From this union, they created their legacy of 3 children: Wayna, Taneka and Willie Jr. (BJ). Boot was a member of the Supersoul 4 CB Club in Homestead, FL during the late 70's and 80's. Boot soon added another nickname "BloodStone" where he would travel to the Atlanta CB conventions with his family in tow, winning numerous awards. He also coached The Florida City Tigers, a local softball team. Boot continued his governmental career as a Food Service Supervisor for the Federal Bureau of Prisons where he retired in 1998. Boot's passion was to feed, minister, and become what others affectionately would consider him as, a community activist.

Boot joined Covenant Missionary Baptist Church (CMBC) in Florida City, FL and was ordained as a Deacon in 2003 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Thomas. Through his ministry, Deacon Riley served as Director of the Soup Kitchen Ministry for over 10 years, providing over 1200 free meals per month while ministering to the less fortunate. Deacon Riley was a dedicated servant, not only to the Lord, but to his family and the community. He took great care of his family, he fed the community and provided love through his culinary skills. Deacon Riley left Florida City, FL and brought that love to Atlanta, Georgia in 2014. He joined Pleasant Hill Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Ronald D. Dunnigan where he actively served in the Men's Ministry, Seniors Ministry, and Sunday School Ministry.

Into each life some rain must fall...On December 20, 2020 at 1:16PM, God, in His infinite wisdom, sent his angels to summon our beloved Deacon Riley from this earthly realm. He has now exchanged this life for one of eternal peace and rest. Although our hearts are heavy, we are comforted in knowing Deacon Willie C. Riley Sr. is free from the storms of this life and was

welcomed into eternal life. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Calvin Riley.

#### Life Legacy

Deacon Riley Sr. is survived by his wife of 49 years Phyllis Riley; three children: Wayna Ingram (Andre), Taneka Knight (Robby), and Willie C. Riley Jr.; six siblings: Lizzerrine Dukes (Sylvester) of Darlington, SC, Thomas "June" Riley Jr. (Dorothy) of Winder, GA, Henry "Smitty" Riley Sr. of Miami, FL, Clinton Riley Sr. (JoAnn) of Dacula, GA, Susie Riley of Darlington, SC, and Johnny Riley (Marilyn) of Bethlehem, GA; two beautiful grandchildren: Niya Price of Stone Mountain, GA and Javon Price (Olivia) of Cincinnati, OH; and a great-granddaughter Quinn. A Loving Mother-In-Law, who had a special place in his heart, Nettie Monds of Florida City, FL; Sister-In-Laws: Joyce Hood of Florida City, FL, Bersheba Sands of Florida City, FL, and Michelle Riley of Miami, FL; Brother-In-Law, Ulysses Randolph Monds of Florida City, FL; Daughter, Felicia Bowles; Goddaughter, Tranira Booker and a host of cousins, nephews, nieces, and beloved friends who are left with his everlasting memory.

#### Virtual Memorial Service

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Tuesday, December 29, 2020, 6:00pm

<https://www.lifestream.tv/pleasanthill-live/>

#### Final Resting Place

Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Drive

Canton, GA 30114

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Willie ( Boot) WAS A GREAT HUSBAND AND FATHER , I will cherish those great memories he made , he treated everyone with dignity and respect. He was one of a kind ..there were no strangers in his life .I really enjoyed being around him . I pray for healing to the family . hold to God. .I have many pictures ,memories and conversations he shared.*

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**Susie Beasley** - December 29, 2020 at 08:05 PM

WI

*Thank you so much!*

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**Wayna Ingram** - March 04, 2022 at 01:41 PM

NF

“ *Sending prayers to you and your family. May God bless you and comfort you.*

*From: Noreen Jones and Family*

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**Noreen Jones and Family** - December 29, 2020 at 06:19 PM

CA

“ We are praying for the family to get through this time with the peace that comes from the knowledge that God loves you and that He will take care of you. May the Lord bless thee, and keep thee: May the Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: May the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Numbers;6:24-26  
love, Prayers and Deepest Sympathy,

Cousins: Tangie , TShunta, Rolando, Carolyn & Family

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**carolyn** - December 29, 2020 at 03:40 PM

RM

“ Roy Matthews lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie C Riley Sr.



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**Roy Matthews** - December 29, 2020 at 02:44 PM

RM

Willie always faithful on the Grill Men's fish fry

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**Roy Matthews** - December 29, 2020 at 02:49 PM

EF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this time of sorrow. Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Thinking of you all.

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**Evans family** - December 29, 2020 at 03:32 AM

CF

“ *Clareatha Bowles & Family lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie C Riley Sr.*



**Clareatha Bowles & Family** - December 28, 2020 at 05:36 PM

CM

“ *James & Carolyn McPhail lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie C. Riley Sr "*



**Carolyn McPhail** - December 28, 2020 at 05:05 PM

YC

“ *Our sincere condolences to Mrs. Phyllis and the family. We will continue to pray for your strength and comfort during these unfortunate times. Mr. Willie will be missed by many. God bless you all and keep you all.*



**Yolanda & Towan Cook** - December 28, 2020 at 04:25 PM

DE

“ *May the peace of God that passes all understanding be with Willie Riley's family. God bless from Dwight and Delores Early.*



**Delores and Delores Early** - December 28, 2020 at 09:40 AM

RL

“ Robert & Edith Lacey lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie C Riley Sr.



Robert & Edith Lacey - December 28, 2020 at 08:58 AM

LL

“ Lonnell Logan lit a candle in memory of Deacon Willie C Riley Sr.



Lonnell Logan - December 28, 2020 at 12:35 AM

WC

“ Wendell Carr purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Deacon Willie C Riley Sr..



Wendell Carr - December 27, 2020 at 03:30 PM