



Willie J Bell Jr

August 9, 1924 - February 21, 2011

Willie James Bell, Jr. was born on August 9, 1924 in Smithville, Texas. He was the only child born to Willie James Bell, Sr. and Fannie Bryant Bell. Upon graduating from Smithville High School, he entered the U.S. Army in 1943. After serving in the U.S. Army, he attended Prairie View A&M College where he obtained a Bachelor and Master degree(s).

After college, his first job was with Forward Times Newspaper in Houston, Texas as a printer. He began his career with Prairie View A&M in 1947 as an instructor and later became the Head of the Printing Department. Willie retired in 1985 after thirty-eight years of dedicated service to the University.

On March 20, 1948, Willie met and married his college sweetheart, Esel Davis of Conroe, Texas. To their sixty-three years union there were (4) children: Chandra Marie, Felecia Denise, Willie James and Esel Andrea. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He had a strong devotion for his family and cherished every moment spent with them. He was very proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. With a charming personality and a kind heart, he had the ability to make friends with people everywhere. His great appreciation for food was expressed quite often as he prepared delicious meals for family and friends alike.

Willie was very dedicated to his church, Mt. Corinth Baptist Church and to the

Prairie View community. He was very active with Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He was a member for fifty-one years and positively affected the lives of many Sigmas at Prairie View A&M. He was also a member of the Prairie View Alumni Association and Athletic Club and a member of the Mason's (Prince Hall Affiliated).

Willie was preceded by his parents Willie James Bell, Sr. and Fannie Bryan Bell. He leaves to cherish his memories his loving wife; Esel Bell, his children; Chandra Johnson, Felecia Compton (Wayne), Willie J. Bell, III (Collis) and Esel Andrea Miller. Grandchildren; Demetria, Charles Jr., Scheherazade, Schelita, Candice, Willie IV, Gary Jr. and Matthew. Great grandchildren; Brooklyn, Braylon, KeChawn, Keon, Kierria, Gary III and Kandace. A host of family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Prairie View Cemetery

Prairie View, TX 77446

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Singleton & Sons Funeral Home
627 New Orleans
Hempstead, TX 77445
(979) 826-2425
info@singletonandsonsfh.com
<https://www.singletonandsonsfh.com>

Service

FEB **25**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Singleton & Sons Funeral Home
627 New Orleans
Hempstead, TX 77445
(979) 826-2425
info@singletonandsonsfh.com
<https://www.singletonandsonsfh.com>

Service

FEB **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Corinth Missionary Baptist Church
806 7th Street
Hempstead, TX 77445

Tribute Wall



“ *Willie J Bell Jr*

January 28, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *2 files added to the album The Bell Family*



Demetria Howard - June 23, 2014 at 04:30 PM



Their Love has been reunited!!

Demetria Howard - June 23, 2014 at 04:31 PM



“ *Papa, it has been 3 years since your home-going. I know you already know that your Puddin has joined you, but I just wanted to say I am so HAPPY that you and her are together again and resting in love and peace!!!! I love you Papa Bell and Miss you to pieces!!!*



Demetria Howard - June 20, 2014 at 11:27 AM

FC

“ *Daddy is been three years now and I miss you more than ever..... mom is slowly getting old, but she's hanging in there.....She misses you soooooo much.I miss you so much as we'll and will always love and cherish the times we had together. Please daddy!!!!stay watching over me meet your second child FE.*



felecia bell compton - December 28, 2013 at 11:55 AM



“ *Candice Bell lit a candle in memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Candice Bell - March 03, 2011 at 06:34 PM



“ *Candice Bell sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Candice Bell - March 03, 2011 at 06:32 PM



“ *Dear Papa Bell,
Words cannot express how much I will miss you. You were the most loving, caring and understanding Papa a girl could ask for. I will always remember spending every other summer in Prairie View with you and Grandma and my cousins, and how you would always make sure we started the day off the right way, with a delicious breakfast! And I will never forget our many fulfilled fishing trips at the Martin's pond! I will miss your warm and kind spirit and how you always knew how to make me smile. The great love you always showed for the family and the never ending love you had for Grandma Bell is irreplaceable. I know you are at peace now in a better place and watching over us, and I know one day we will meet again. You will always be in my heart! I LOVE YOU!!!
Your granddaughter, Candice Bell*

Candice Bell - March 03, 2011 at 06:25 PM

OA

“ *You have my deepest sympathies. I have experienced the same loss as you have. I lost my only brother in 2001 and I grieved much. Only God saw me through. Remember our love ones are only on loan to us, therefore we have to cherish the happy moments we enjoyed with them. My prayers are with you and the family. God Bless you all.*

Sincerely Your Friend,

*Ophelia Averitt
NAACP National Life Membership Chairperson*

Ophelia Averitt - March 02, 2011 at 12:41 PM

MB

“ I GOT TO SAY THIS THAT BRO BELL WAS THE MOST LOVING EASY GOING BROTHER THAT I HAVE EVER MET . HE MADE ME WANT TO BE LIKE HIM.: IN WHICH I KNOW I AM. HE WAS DURABLE , HE WOULD BEND BUT HE WOULD NOT BREAK , HE WAS FLEXIBLE BUT YET HE WAS STERN AND STRONG AND HE MEANT EVERY THING HE SAID. HE MAY HAVE BEEN SMALL IN STATURE BUT HE STOOD TALL IN MY LIFE ; I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU BRO. WILLIE J BELL JR. -- BRO. MAURICE S. BLANKS JR.

MR BLANKS - March 01, 2011 at 12:46 AM

KE

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Willie J. Bell, Jr. My prayer is that God will bless and comfort all of you and that he will rest in peace.

Katherine Egland - February 26, 2011 at 10:57 PM



“ Collis Bell sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie J Bell Jr



Collis Bell - February 26, 2011 at 08:13 AM



“ Collis Bell lit a candle in memory of Willie J Bell Jr



Collis Bell - February 26, 2011 at 08:11 AM



“ Dear Mr. Bell,
What a gentlemen your were. I will always remember you for your calm, cool demeanor. You were a wonderful father-in-law and you made it so easy to love and respect you. I remember the many vacations we made to P.V. and how we enjoyed playing spades and dominoes with you and Mrs. Bell. You were just the best with delicious breakfasts and barbecue. I enjoyed the jokes and stories you would tell us. Thank you for the example you were for Willie and W.J. They carry on your name and I know that they will make you proud. I pray that Willie will love me with the same dedication and devotion as you loved Mrs. Bell. Rest in Peace Mr. Bell.

Collis Bell - February 26, 2011 at 08:02 AM

MJ

“ Uncle Bell I will miss you but the memories of the pass will linger on. Thanks for intro'ing me to tennis and the most interesting saying that you and your Father left behind. I quote it after every engagement. "I've enjoyed the elegance of going fishing" . To the family love y'all.

Melvin Jr - February 26, 2011 at 07:34 AM

YJ

“ My Mom and I have fond memories of Bell, as we call him. My Mom and Esel are first cousins. We are out here in California and do not get to Texas much, but when the Bells came out to our home in Los Angeles, Bell was a BBQ cooking (LOL). He always had a smile. He will be missed. The Bell clan has lost a wonderful human being. Rest in Peace my dear cousin.



Yolanda James - February 25, 2011 at 11:27 PM

YJ

“ *Yolanda James lit a candle in memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Yolanda James - February 25, 2011 at 11:23 PM

LV

“ *Lisa Villa lit a candle in memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Lisa Villa - February 24, 2011 at 07:59 PM

SC

“ *To my loving Papa Bell, thank you for everything you have done for me through out the years. You have taught me so much and I thank you for that. You maybe gone but never forgotten. I LOVE YOU ALWAYS..... SCHEHERA'ZADE D. COMPTON (Your 3rd Grandchild)*

Schehera'zade Compton - February 24, 2011 at 07:00 PM

KE

“ *PawPaw Bell was an intelligent man who liked to play with children and loved his family very much.He also cared,supported,and taught our family millions of things in our lives to make us happier than what we are today. We all think that he would be better off in heaven.I will always love you.Your great granddaughter,Keirria.*

Keirria - February 24, 2011 at 06:35 PM

RP

“ To the family of Brother Bell and my Brother Buddy and all my Sisters of Zeta Phi Beta, Mrs.Bell, Chandra, Andrea and Felecia . I grieve to hear of your loss.Brother Bell was the one person I could always go to in time of trouble. When I thought I had given enough as a Crescent and wanted to quit pledging, it was Brother Bell that encouraged me to hang on. He was always so wise and understanding, and because of him I became a Sigma Man . I know your courage will help you through this rough time. My love and prayers are with all of you.
Raymond Polk

Raymond Polk - February 24, 2011 at 05:56 PM

SC

“ Schelita Compton lit a candle in memory of Willie J Bell Jr



Schelita Compton - February 24, 2011 at 05:14 PM

SC

“ *To My Grandfather*

Thank You. Thank you for all the love that you have giving to me. The memories that i will always hold dear to my heart. Thank you so much for the things that you have taught me. What i remember the most about my grandfather is all the time that he gave to his grandkids. If we had a problem we could go to pawpaw and he help us solve it. He taught us right from wrong. Showing us what is expected from us as children and adults. Instilling in us to trust and belive in God. And to treat people with respect. As a child i remember wakeing up in the summer morning with my pawpaw cooking a big breakfast for all his grandkids. I remember all the fun family vacation's and fishing trips we had. PawPaw I LOVE YOU! I will strive to be someone that will make you proud.. I will cherish all that you taught me and keep you in my heart..... Until we meet again your granddaughter Schelita Compton

Schelita Compton - February 24, 2011 at 05:04 PM

CA

“ In my mid thirties, I have been grateful enough to see what it is I shouldn't nor aim to be. As the man of my household, I'm understanding what a true role model qualities consist of. The most important would have to include the possession of knowing foundation, or from which we came. "Paw Paw Bell", It's clear and evident that the role you played within this family is far beyond by mention. The core values of establishing love, faithfulness, and humbleness not only reverberates throughout your good deeds here on earth but also has been unleashed through the family and friends close to you. To be surrounded with your aura has only been a blessing given by God....Learning certain values to create a God fearing, brotherly loved home can only be erected from the core. "Paw Paw bell..... YOU are that core. I thank you for what you've done here on earth, and I hope you smile above knowing that you did accomplish what many others strive to do or be.....a strong black man....a real role model. Something this family can hold their heads high and most definitely be proud for. Paw Paw, keep a watchful eye over Maw Maw even though i know you will reside in her heart forever, and may your spirit continue to hug and embrace this family as you have done from day one. With love and respect,
Cedric Allen

Cedric Allen - February 24, 2011 at 03:18 PM



“ *Brother Willie J Bell, Jr is a loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, an outstanding man in his community and Sigma Brother, and educator of thousands of students at PVA&M. I have known Brother Bell and his family since I was a kid and always will consider them as close friends of my family.*

To Sorors Mrs. Bell, Chandra, Felecia, and Andrea, and Brother Willie (Buddy), you all have the sincere prayers and love of our family.

Robert and Valerie Deese and the entire family.

Robert Deese - February 24, 2011 at 03:14 PM



“ *PawPaw I love you.*

Keon Compton

Ke'Chawn Compton - February 24, 2011 at 03:13 PM

KC

“Wow, PawPaw Bell he has set a great influence on everyone especially on his first Great Grandson Ke'Chawn. I remember when you used to come outside with me and play catch and kickball with me. You also helped me in school work and when I had nightmares you said "Come sleep by me." Also when I wanted to go some where with you, you always said "Yes come on". I remember on the summer of 2007 when I was only six years old, you taught me to ride a bike and you was holding me while I was pedeling and all of a sudden you let me go and I didn't know it. Soon I said PawPaw help you let me go and he said "I know you learning how to ride a bike on your own" then as soon as he said that I fell off the bike and ran and hugged you without feeling the pain. Here is a poem I wrote about you.

P- Pleasing

A- Always Caring

W- Wonderful

P- Perfect

A- Awesome

W- Willing

B- Beliving

E- Extraordinary

L- Loving

L- Lots of Intelligence

"I love you"

Ke'Chawn Compton

Ke'Chawn Compton - February 24, 2011 at 03:12 PM

JB

“ *Jessica Butler-Grant sent a virtual gift in
memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Jessica Butler-Grant - February 24, 2011 at 11:16 AM

JB

“ *My Family,*

I extend my sincere and heartfelt sympathy to my sister, Esel, nephew, Willie III, nieces, Chandra, FeFe, and Andrea, and my great nephews and great nieces and great-great nephews and great-great nieces, cousins and other family members and friends. Due to illness for me and mostly my husband, John, is the reason we are not present in PV with you all. Our heart and spirit is with each of you as we endure this trying time.

I remember living with Bell and Esel while I was in 4th grade and attending the PV Training School for a year. Also during the summers, I spent my pre-teen years and teen years with them baby sitting the babies. Bell was a welcome sight in the kitchen especially when he prepared corn fritters for breakfast. I always called when I was returning to Texas to request that he cook the special breakfast, as well as his delicious Bar B Q. When he first became ill, I would call and ask if he knew who I was, and he would say, "I know who you are Jessie Lee." During my visit last summer, I walked into his room at the retirement home, and I said Jessie Lee is here to see you from PA. He looked at me and gave me a big smile of recognition.

Remember that although, we loved Bell unconditionally, God LOVED him more. He is with God, waiting for us to join him when God calls each of us. Bell will be waiting with open arms along side God to welcome us to our home in Heaven.

*Your Sister and Brother-in Law,
Jessica Davis Butler-Grant, Member
NAACP National Board of Directors
and Husband,
John R. Grant, Jr.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

Jessica Butler-Grant - February 24, 2011 at 11:04 AM



“ *Willie Bell, sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Willie Bell, - February 24, 2011 at 10:24 AM



“ *Mr.Bell you have left your family with a great deal of knowledge and love, you raised a wonderful family and married a wonderful lady, you will be truly be missed.*

Kevin Knolley - February 24, 2011 at 12:14 AM



“ *Felecia Compton sent a virtual gift in memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Felecia Compton - February 23, 2011 at 11:10 PM



“ Daddy

You use to call me “Pee Wee” when I was very young.

You use to say “Fe” don’t you go do nothing wrong!

I would say don’t worry Daddy!!

You taught me, right from wrong.

You were the perfect Father any child could ever want,

You taught us, so many valuable lessons’ I will forever treasure in my heart...

You taught me how to Love, to give, to smile and to always do my best

In all I do, and I have done that all because of you, this is why I am the strong

Woman that I am today..... I say!! Thank You for the unconditional love

You gave to us all. Now, I can carry that same love with me to past down thorough my

Family.....

You’ve been my strength when things would go wrong, you always told me positive

things that could and would make me strong.

Forever in my heart you shall always be.

I LOVE DADDY

YOUR 2nd CHILD

FE.....

Felecia Compton - February 23, 2011 at 11:06 PM

TF

“ *There's so much that should be said at this time but, no words seem adequate. Just hope you know you're being thought about and cared about and hope you find special comfort in knowing that your father and all he meant to you will remain in your heart forever.*

The Family - February 23, 2011 at 09:39 PM

MM

“ *Papa Bell,
You will truly be missed, but your legacy will
forever live on. I love you.*



Matthew Miller - February 23, 2011 at 08:55 PM

DH

“ *Mr. Bell, I'm glad I got the chance to meet you & I am even happier that your in a better place! It seems like you were a great person, because everyone has nothing but hearts filled with love when your name is mentioned. I will always remember your friendly smile & firm handshake everytime we saw each other. With love Donnie Jr.*

Donnie Howard, - February 23, 2011 at 08:18 PM



“Dad as your only son, you can't even imagine how much you will be missed. You have prepared me well to take over the controls of the Bell Family. I will not let you down. Don't worry about Mom and your Daughters I will make sure that no harm will come to them. You are my hero and role model. I know that you will be looking down on me to ensure that I stay the straight and narrow. I will not let you down. Thanks for being the best Dad that any Son could ask for. I will always love you and cherish the many happy times that we shared together. You will always be with me in spirit. Your only son, Willie James Bell, III

Willie Bell, - February 23, 2011 at 05:04 PM



“Willie Bell, lit a candle in memory of Willie J Bell Jr



Willie Bell, - February 23, 2011 at 03:46 PM



“Papa Bell, I will miss your warm & kind spirit, your smiles and your laughs! God has another angel on his side and now you are able to finally rest. I pray for the family's strength, especially Grandma Bell, during this time of bereavement. I hope you all find consolation through the memories you have shared with him. May the good Lord send you all peace.



*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
(Matthew 5:4)*

Victoria Orhue - February 23, 2011 at 01:30 PM

GH

“ *Mr. Bell you will be missed. I am so glad God allowed us to meet. Through You & Mrs. Bell I have a wonderful daughter-in-law. May you rest in peace*

Glinda Howard - February 23, 2011 at 12:08 PM

DG

“ *Demetria 1st Grandchild lit a candle in memory of Willie J Bell Jr*



Demetria 1st Grandchild - February 23, 2011 at 11:21 AM

DG

“ *Papa Bell, I will miss you so much! I'm glad that your in a better place and I know that you are with GOD! You were the sweetest Papa that a girl could have. I have never seen you upset or even be mad! Even when you and Grandma went on vacation and I wrecked your truck and your front bricks. You said that as long as I wasn't hurt that everything else could be fixed! Plus my momma had already whipped me to death!!! But I love you and you will be missed!!! And I will keep a close eye on your PUDDIN!!!!*

Demetria 1st Grandchild - February 23, 2011 at 11:19 AM

CJ

“ Dear Dad, I will sincerely miss "YOU"!!!!!! You were the one constant person in my life. I know you are in a better place, and do not worry I will be here to take care of mom!!!! I will keep looking to the hills because I know that is where my strength comes from and while I am looking into the hills I will always remember OUR TIME together!!!! You are, I know without a doubt that you are with Mama Fannie and Papa looking down on us. Your kind spirit and loving heart will always be with me. May God hold you in his arms and keep you safe until I get there. Your Loving Daughter, Chandra Bell Johnson

Chandra Johnson - February 23, 2011 at 11:17 AM

AM

“ Daddy,I will always be your little girl, I will miss the times we spent coming to see you almost everyday at the center, Uriah, Lisa, and sometimes Melissa. You have no more worries cause Mom is in good hands with the four children you left her with. I will forever love and miss you....Andrea

Andrea Miller - February 23, 2011 at 11:06 AM