



**William "Earl" Burnette**

March 30, 1944 - January 22, 2017

## *The Obituary*

**William "Earl" Burnette, affectionately known as "Big Earl" to all that knew him, was born on March 30, 1944 to the late Willia Mae Starnes Burnette and the late Fletcher Burnette Sr. in Durham, NC. He graduated from Hillside High School with the Class of 1963. Earl was a successful and awesome High School football player and a devoted Duke Sports fan. After graduation, he moved to Newark, NJ to be with his father. He later returned to Durham, NC and retired after 19 years from IBM. Retirement did not slow him down. Earl lived and enjoyed life to the fullest and considered himself "The Boss" and everyone referred to him as "That's my Guy". His main loves in life were his daughter and his two grandchildren. He enjoyed people and everyone who had the privilege of knowing Earl remained in his life forever. Never will you meet a person with a heart as big and genuine as Earl's. Earl was one of the original founders and first President of "Bull City Riders" Motorcycle Club. He enjoyed checking and helping others. He was very popular for hosting parties, cookouts and the crowd would follow him to many nightclubs that he managed.**

**Earl leaves to cherish his memory, one daughter Wanda Burnette Robinson (Gary), two grandchildren, Marcus Hunter and Teandrea Hunter, one sister Karen "Neicey" Burnette of Maryland, three brothers Fletcher Burnette Jr (Audrey) of Raleigh, Charlie Burnette (Peggy) of Durham, and Reginald Burnette of Durham NC, five nieces Davidia Burnette of Maryland, Adrienne Cates of Durham, Michelle Spann of Durham, Shacondra Burnette of Durham, Sheena Fowler Young of Burlington, six nephews Rodney Burnette of Durham, Courtney Johnson of Phoenix, AZ, Xavier Dominique Johnson of Durham and Savion Burnette of Durham, Simone Burnette of Asheville, Diron Henderson of Greensboro, and two cousins Shirley Marshall Craig and Jeanette Waiters. He also leaves his special friend Wendy Braxton. He will be missed by a host of other relatives and friends, as well as the gigantic community that he has been a part of all of his life.**

## *To Those That I Love"*

When I am gone, release me, let me go. I have so many things to see and do. You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears. Be happy that we've had so many years. I gave you my love, you can only guess How much you gave to me in happiness. I thank you for the love you each have shown But now its time I traveled alone. So grieve awhile for me if grieve you must Then let your grief be comforted with trust It's only for a while that we must part So bless the memory within your heart. I wont be far away, for life goes on, So, if you need me, call and I'll come. Though you can't see or touch me, I'll hear All of my love around you soft and clear And then, when you must come this way alone I'll greet you with a smile and say "Welcome Home".





