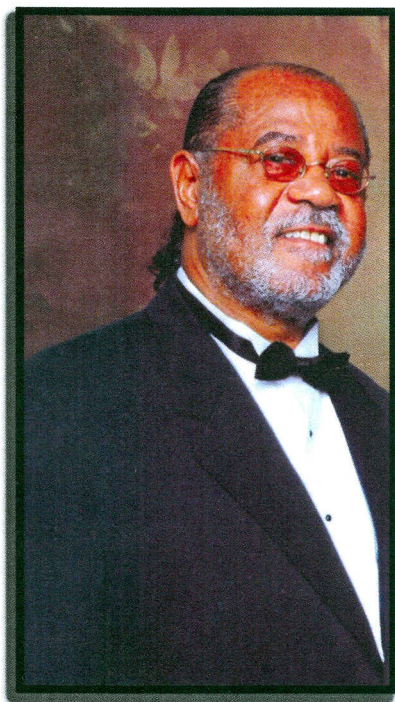


A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
OF
Mr. William (Bill) Burroughs

• Sunrise •
November 5, 1944

• Sunset •
July 12, 2009



Saturday, July 18, 2009
1:00 p.m.

White Rock Baptist Church
3400 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina

The Reverend Dr. Reginald Van Stephens
Pastor

The Reverend Dr. Irene Perry, Associate Pastor
Officiating Minister

The Obituary

Mr. William Edward (Bill) Burroughs, son of the late Lottie Edwards Burroughs and Leslie M. Burroughs, departed this life at his home, 617 Red Cedar Circle, Durham, North Carolina on Sunday, July 12, 2009.

Bill received his education in the former Durham City School System, now Durham Public Schools, graduating from Hillside High School in 1963. After graduating from high school, Bill matriculated to Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh, North Carolina, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology in 1968. He received his Master of Arts Degree in Counselor Education from the University of Brockport, Buffalo, New York.

Bill began his employment as a counselor at Kilmer Job Corps Center in the state of New Jersey. Upon leaving the state of New Jersey, he relocated to New York City, where he worked as a Substance Abuse Counselor. After serving in this capacity, he transferred to Buffalo, New York in the New York State Division of Children and Family Services. There, he began a career as president of several detention centers for youth. He was president of the first maximum security juvenile detention center in Buffalo, New York and was proud of the youth who were able to return to their homes as contributing members of society. This was the result of mentoring, educational and vocational programs that Bill implemented with the support of his staff. He enjoyed working with the youth, but retired from this Division after 29 years of service, returning to his hometown, Durham, NC. Upon his return, Bill was employed for three years with Durham Public Schools as a Dropout Prevention Specialist at Riverside High School, but resigned from that position to assist his sisters and brothers in caring for family members who were in declining health. Both parents, a beloved sister, Edith Adams and two brothers, James and Charlie Burroughs, preceded him in death.

Bill had a love for politics and understood the importance of equal voice in local, state and national government. Consequently, in Buffalo, New York, he organized the Metropolitan Democratic Club, patterned after the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People in Durham, NC, serving as its first president. He even purchased a building so that there would be a facility for regular meetings. Bill was a very successful campaign manager for many persons who became elected officials locally in Buffalo and the Erie County area and in the state of New York.

After returning to Durham, Bill became active with the Durham Committee and was campaign manager for Mayor Pro Tem, Mrs. Cora Cole-McFadden and Durham Public Schools Board Chair, Mrs. Minnie Forte-Brown. He was a people person and had excellent organizational skills. Any campaign management, task or project that he undertook was with enthusiasm. With pride for him, the challenge was to make the candidate a winner and the tasks and projects successful.

Bill also was very active with Saint Augustine's College and its affiliate organizations. He served as president of the Saint Augustine's College National Alumni Association, Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees, president of the Saint Augustine's College Falcon Foundation, Incorporated and president of the Durham Alumni Chapter of Saint Augustine's College. Also, Bill was a member of the James E. Shepard Sertoma Club and participated in the various civic projects of that organization. He also was a member of the "Do Nothing Club", an organization of retired men who fellowship together once a month.

At an early age, Bill joined Mount Zion Baptist Church where he participated in practically every aspect of the church--Sunday school, BTU, regular worship service, and the Scouting program. He often joked about having served as church custodian. All of his siblings often joked that in Mrs. Lottie and "Red's" house--as they very affectionately referred to their Mother and Father (behind their backs of course--you were going to church on Sunday, no excuses. These nicknames of their parents easily resonated down to the grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and great-grandchildren. While in Buffalo, he joined Agape A.M.E. Church, but upon returning to Durham, he joined White Rock Baptist Church.

Survivors include his loving wife, Deborah Long Burroughs; three children, Jinaki Burroughs, of Godwin, NC; Cheo Burroughs, of Buffalo, NY; Christopher Burroughs, of Memphis, TN; five sisters: Ida Isom, Mable Webb, Arnetta Markham, of Durham; Annie Mae Hayman and Rebecca Dean, of Wilmington, DE; two brothers: Attorney Robert Burroughs (Laverne), of Lithonia, GA and Rev. Raymond Burroughs (Joanne), of Timberlake, NC; eight grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, great-great-nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.