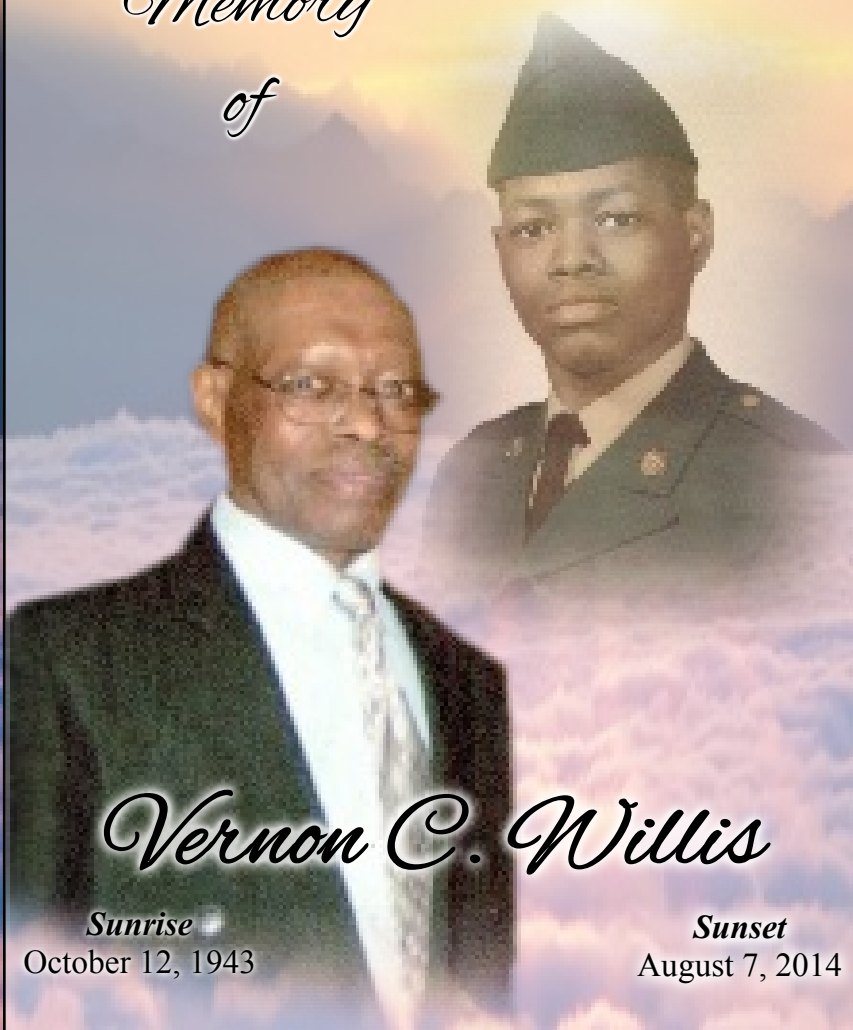


*In Loving  
Memory  
of*



*Vernon C. Willis*

*Sunrise*

October 12, 1943

*Sunset*

August 7, 2014

Service

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

**GREATER ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

2365 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

*Minister Ida Smith, Officiating*

## *Obituary*

**Vernon Charles Willis** was born to Edmund C. Willis and Lucille Presley on October 12, 1943, in Cleveland Ohio. He was son of Nathan Jones Sr. and Lucille Jones who united in marriage in New York City, in 1945. The oldest of five children, Vernon was educated in the public school system, graduating from De Witt Clinton High School in New York City, the same alma mater as his dad and one brother. After high school, he worked various local jobs in the neighborhood. In 1970, Vernon married Alberta Graham in which they bore no children. He entered the United States Army in 1971, specializing in hawk missiles. He was honorably discharged in February 1974. He later worked in the wholesale shipping business in New Jersey, and many years for Securitas Security Services as a security guard. He enjoyed his many duties and responsibilities on site at the World Trade Center, until his early retirement due to health related demands.

“Willis” and “Charlie” as he was affectionately known by many friends, enjoyed spending time with his family, and had a great passion for movies, especially classics, westerns, and martial arts films. Known for his gentle, quiet, and reserved nature, but once ignited he was very talkative, interesting, and told great stories when engaged in conversation. He could be a strong debater on issues and his sister-in-law would say, “he’s the oldest, let him be right!” She would quickly leave the obvious stalemate. His kind and generous spirit was a gift, but most of all he will be remembered for his humor. He would take any undesirable situation and find a silver lining. He made us laugh with his incredibly sharp timing, original rants, and one liners.

He was a trooper and warrior fighting kidney disease for many years without complaint, because this is who he was. His spirit of looking at life and all its trials and consequences was a gift. He brought joy and warmth to whomever he encountered.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers, Kenneth and Peter Jones. Vernon is survived by: his wife, Alberta Willis of NYC; one son, Eric Vandross, NYC; one brother, Nathan Jones, Jr. of Wilmington, NC; one sister, Sheila A. Jones of NYC; two sisters-in-law, Shirl Jones of Wilmington, NC, and Joanne McBride Jones, NYC; aunt, Kathleen Flanders, NYC; nieces, Monique, Timirra, Phyllicia, Shakira; and nephews, Eric, Aaron, and Warren. His extended family/friends with whom he shared a loving and supportive home for four years: Cheryl, Butch, Zakiya, Khaleel, Kwame, and Khloe. He leaves behind a host of great nieces and nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

He left us suddenly, and will be greatly missed.

# *Order of Service*

**Processional**

**Selection**

*Renee Minus White*

**Scripture Readings**

**Prayer**

**Selection**

**Acknowledgements**

*Cheryl Powers*

**Remarks**

**Obituary**

*Shirl Jones*

**Selection**

**Eulogy**

**Committal**

**Viewing**

**Recessional**

*Interment*

Calverton National Cemetery  
Calverton, New York

# *Suddenly*

## *“Sorry I had to Leave You So Suddenly”*

*Sorry I had to leave in a sudden kind of way; didn't have time to call and say good-bye today. I knew you would understand, because that's the way you are; don't worry about the distance because I'm not really that far. Don't wait up and please don't cry you didn't hear me say good-bye.*

### *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.  
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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**1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833**

*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*  
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*“Your Loved Ones Deserve The Best - Unity”*

