

*Celebrating The Life of*  
*Isie “Ike” Willis*

**Sunrise**

October 19, 1930

**Sunset**

February 3, 2015



Saturday, February 7, 2015 - 2:00 p.m.

**MT. PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

163 Autumn Street  
Passaic New Jersey

***Reverend W. Louis McDowell, Pastor***

## *Reflections of Life*

**Isie “Ike” Willis** passed peacefully at his home in Garfield, NJ on Tuesday morning, February 3, 2015 at the age of 84. As he entered eternal rest he was surrounded by his loving family.

Ike was born on October 19, 1930 in Passaic, NJ to the late Nicholas and Emma Willis. He graduated from Passaic High School in 1947; he then entered the United States Army. After countless entrepreneurial endeavors, including opening the “188 Bar” in Passaic, NJ (with his dearly beloved friend, the late Buster Stillwell), he later in life worked for Garfield Pressing Co. as a Presser. It wasn’t until after he retired that he would take on his most cherished role at Willy’s Candy Store in Passaic, NJ where he was loved by everyone and affectionately called “Pop”, a nickname that stuck with him.

Ike and Gloria met on a blind date where Gloria was immediately skeptical due to his loud banter, three piece white suit and bright red socks. After several dates, she eventually gave in to his charm; they ultimately wed and were happily married for 54 years. He loved his wife dearly and was a devoted family man. He was the monarch; family was everything to him. His wife and children remember him as man who loved the Lord - God fearing, kind, gentle, witty, and quiet, a loving husband and father who encouraged them to always put God first, live in pursuit of their happiness and be independent.

Ike was a rambunctious soul with an infectious smile/laugh. He was humble, full of life, had a joyful spirit and found great pleasure in making people laugh. Often times, you’d spot him driving through any given neighborhood waving profusely out the window while yelling “Heeeeeey!!” with a huge grin on his face. Sometimes he’d get called to pull-over and sometimes not, but he always made time for his friends; whether to answer a question, to listen or to help solve a problem, no matter how big or small. He just loved people and was generous to all. There wasn’t a place he couldn’t go and not be shown love.

Ike was an active and dedicated member of the Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church located in Passaic; he served as a Trustee for “**30” unwavering** years. He loved his church, his Pastor, his fellow Trustees/Officers and his extended church family. The hymn “*He Saw Me*” was his personal testimony. His firm belief in God supported him in his struggles and always gave him peace.

In Ike’s leisure time he enjoyed going to the movies, listening to his “oldies but goodies” music, dancing, watching black n’ white films, visiting the sick, spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren, feeding the birds, going on strolls with his canine grandson “Baby” and serving/doing anything “Mt. Pilgrim!”

He was preceded in death by two sons Ike Willis Jr. and Anthony “TonyRome” Hilliard, one sister Lemard “Montie” Johnson and her husband Edward Johnson and one brother Nicholas Willis.

Ike leaves to cherish a life well lived his loving wife, Gloria (Willis) who affectionately called him “Zeer”, daughters Linda Willis, RaMona (Arnold) Price, Izetta (Anthony) Barksdale and Nicole Willis; Roberta “Lottie” (Cornell) Perry; close friend David “Dixie” Johnson and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, extended family members and friends.

Ike will be dearly missed by his loved ones, who celebrate the fact that he is at peace with his creator.

# Order of Service

OPENING SELECTION.....George Garrison

OPENING HYMN....."OH HOW I LOVE JESUS" Hymn #10

SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Old Testament (Psalm 27:1-6)*.....Trustee Jerry Dillard

*New Testament (John 14:1-7)*.....Trustee Ethel Powell

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Clergy

SELECTION.....Combined Choir

WORDS OF COMFORT.....Clergy

REMARKS.....Trustee Dave Johnson  
Chairman, Trustee Board  
Deacon Michael Veal  
Chairman, Deacon Board

SELECTION.....Combined Choir

FAMILY TRIBUTE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....Rita Sallie

READING OF THE REFLECTIONS OF LIFE/POEM.....Angela Burgos-Oliver  
Alexine Hunter

SOLO.....Adrian Champion

SELECTION.....Combined Choir

EULOGY.....Pastor W. Louis McDowell

RECESSIONAL.....Family

## **Cremation**

Cedar Lawn Crematory  
Paterson, New Jersey

## ***A Tribute to Isie***

### ***"Ike the Man"***

Another angel has gone on in  
free from worry, pain, or sin  
Walked right on through the golden gate  
with his cool sway and shoulders so straight.

Generous, giving, loving soul  
whom had allowed God to wash  
and make him whole.

Respect Ike had  
and that is for sure  
no one could have asked for anything more.

"Ike" you gave your all and best  
may peace be with you in your heavenly rest.

I could see you now  
walking in so cool  
you'd only know that  
if you're from "Old School."

You'll forever be with us in our heart  
your spirit will forever live.

the family, with thanks, will always be grateful,  
never forgetting all the love you did give.

### ***Acknowledgement***

*The family of the late Isie "Ike" Willis wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.*

*May God Bless and Keep You!*

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