

*In Loving  
Memory  
of*



*Willie "Bill" Dawson, Jr.*

*Sunrise: January 14, 1935*

*Sunset: July 6, 2018*



Saturday, July 14, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.

**First Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church**  
15 Leslie Street, Newark, NJ

*“Together  
Again”*



# Order of Service

Reverend Dellroger Dunmore, Officiating  
Pastor, First Zion Hill Baptist Church, Newark, NJ

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Musician.....Br. William Jenkins

Scripture Reading

Old Testament – Isaiah 26:4

New Testament – Matthew 25:21

Prayer of Comfort

Choir Selection.....I Will Trust in the Lord”

Poem .....Kailon “Mikey” Alexander

Reflections..... 2 Minutes Please

Obituary .....Sheena Alexander-Hicks

Presentation ..... Comfort of Zion

Acknowledgements and Resolutions .....Johnnie M. Fields

Choir Selection.....“Since I Laid My Burden Down”

Eulogy.....Rev. Dellroger Dunmore  
Pastor, First Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Newark, NJ

Recessional

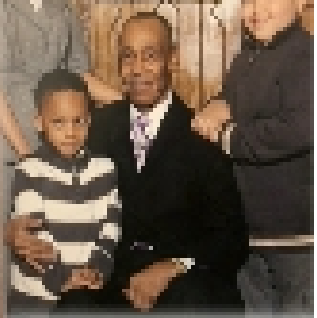
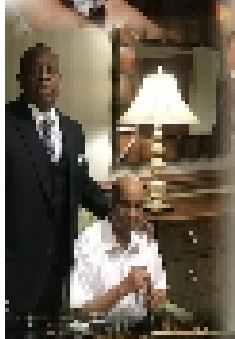
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Interment</u></b> Rosedale Cemetery Orange, New Jersey</p>
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*Repast will be held in the Fellowship Hall  
immediately following internment.*

## **Pall Bearers**

Terrill Dawson-West  
Theodore Clough  
John Murray

Ryan E. Howard  
Kailon “Mikey” Alexander  
King Perry



## *Obituary*

**Willie Dawson Jr.** affectionately known as “Bill” was born in Dalzell, South Carolina on January 14, 1935 to the late Deacon Bruce Sr. and Matilda Weston Dawson. He was called home to be with the Lord on Friday, July 6, 2018 at 2:36 PM.

Bill was educated in the public schools of Sumter County and attended Ebenezer High School. Bill joined the US Army in November 1953, and served almost 10 years as a Paratrooper and Infantry Marksman. Because of his heroism, he was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal and several other Korean War medals. Bill was honorably discharged from the US Army as a Staff Sergeant in February 1962.

After joining the US Army, he married his High School sweetheart, Lela Brailsford, on May 10, 1955. Bill and Lela were married for 51 years before Lela’s death in 2006. From this union they were blessed with three children, Betty, Ora and Eugene.

Bill accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at an early age at Hopewell Baptist Church in Dalzell, SC. After leaving the US Army, he and his family moved to Newark, NJ in 1963, then to Irvington NJ in 1978. As a career, he drove trucks for Kramer Brothers and Allied Van Lines until his retirement in 1995. In faith, he attended and joined First Zion Hill Baptist Church in 1972. He was a dedicated servant in the church and served as President of the Board of Trustee for many years. After resigning as President, he became President Emeritus. Bill was a member of the Joyful Pilgrims Choir and Male Chorus. Later as a member of the First Zion Hill Male Chorus, bill was a lead singer. One of his favorite songs were “I’m Gonna Make It”. Bill was faithful to every auxiliary of the church. Because of his faithfulness, a Breakfast Program was given in Servant. He was Honored by the Hospitality Ministry and The First Zion Hill Church Family.

He was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who was devoted to God and his family. He was known as “Poppa” to his grandchildren, great grandchildren and children of family and friends. He was a mentor to his young nephews and neighborhood boys.

Bill leaves to cherish his memory one daughter, Betty Alexander of Jacksonville, FL; one son Eugene (Tammy) Dawson of Perth Amboy, NJ; five grandchildren, JaNeen Alexander, Newark NJ; Sheena (Douglas) Hicks, Jacksonville, FL; Terrill West, Irvington, NJ; Kailon “Mikey” Alexander, Jacksonville, FL and Labreana Dawson, Baltimore, MD; four great-grandchildren, Ymanei, Zaakir, Amir and Dyanne. Six sisters-in-law, Rosa Lee (Leroy) Sinkler of Sumter, SC; Susan Brailsford, Dalzell, SC; Irabell Brailsford, Dalzell, SC; Amelia Dawson, Charlotte, NC; Earline Dawson, Dalzell, SC; and Minnie Dawson; Dalzell, SC. Five brothers-in-law; Abe Jenkins, Beaufort, SC; Joseph Howard, Irvington, NJ; John Henry (Arneitta) Robinson; Dalzell, SC; Charlie Bradley, Sumter, SC and Robert (Annie Mae) Brailsford, Wedgefield, SC; and a host of nieces, nephews, loving relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Bruce Dawson Sr. and Matilda Weston Dawson; his beloved wife Lela Brailsford Dawson; one daughter, Ora Janell Dawson-West; and one son-in-law; Richard West. Four brothers; Isiah, James, Peter and Bruce Jr. Dawson; four sisters, Bertha Jenkins; Lottie Williams; Mary Alice Robinson, and Susie Mae Dawson. Four brothers-in-law; Dave Jr, Ruben, Joseph and Harry Brailsford. Three sisters-in-law; Mary Alice Howard; Julia Boyd and Maggie Bradley.



## *Poppa*

*G*rowing up a father figure wasn't something I had.

My Mother's love was more than enough, plus I had her Dad.

*F*or those of you may not know, he is a manly man who did many things like fought in wars and drove trucks across the land.

*H*e bought a home in New Jersey where he now lives.

A memorable house I loved to visit when growing up as a kid. From the moment I'd step foot in Jersey, I knew I would have fun. The first things he'd always say was "boy you still don't have no guns"

*A* man full of sarcasms and jokes, but his love he gave unconditionally, which is why I'd choose no other to be the head of this family.

*A* charismatic man whose self-proclaimed, to be a jaw dropper and show stopper. Many know him as Willie or Bill, but I'll forever know him as "POPPA"

By Kailon Alexander

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family 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! Special thanks to the US Army Honor Guard.*

### **Professional Services Provided By**

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE  
130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
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Newark, NJ  
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