

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Herman Williams*

**Sunrise**  
October 22, 1923

**Sunset**  
May 12, 2020

*Service*

*Thursday, May 21, 2020 • 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.*

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

# Obituary

Herman Williams was born in Richmond, VA on October 22, 1923 son of James and Susie Jefferson Williams. He left home at the approximate age of 15 and migrated up north to New York City.

He acquired many talents and worked many positions in his life such as NYC bus driver, Sanitation, Building Superintendent, seamstress, and taxi driver to name a few before he settled into a career as a Licensed Professional Plumber. As such, there were many customers and clients that he served as his own boss, and professionally working on several city projects such as the World Trade Center and Battery Park City in New York as they were originally built, for many years before retiring.

He also used his talented hands to work on many cars, build kitchens, bathrooms, basements and patios.

In 1950 two proud families of Williams' and Gaylord came together as Herman married Mary Lee Gaylord of Plymouth, NC in the Bronx, New York. She caught his eye in front of Montefiore Hospital as he proceeded to ask her if he could take her picture. He later made dinner and sewed her a dress, and the rest became history. A marriage of 70 years to his bride to whom he loved dearly and strongly and inseparably, for 70 incredible years.

Herman was a member of Shiloh Church of Christ in Harlem NYC and House of Mercy Inc. in Elizabeth, NJ, where he served faithfully as Deacon for decades under Elder John H. Gray and Pastor Barry Shumate respectively. He loved the Lord strongly and showed his spirit often during services.

Herman loved to do projects around the house and enjoy his backyard. He loved family gatherings like the holidays, getting on the grill, watching his grandchildren have fun or any reason he could have his family around where he could have a laugh or two. He worked a long hard life and produced much as he provided well for his family living in two homes. One in Jamaica Queens, NY and lastly in Linden, NJ where he passed away on May 12, 2020 at the full ripe age of 97.

Deacon Williams leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Dr. Mary Williams, his son Steven Williams of Linden, NJ, his daughter Gwendolyn Shumate and son in-law Barry Shumate of Elizabeth, NJ; his sister Daisy Smith of Old Bridge, NJ. He was loved by 8 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son Martin Williams, grandson Barry Shumate Jr.; and four brothers Roosevelt Williams, Grover Williams, Woodrow Williams and Charles Williams; four sisters, Jenny Mae Bell, Vernell McCray, Bessie Efford and Shirley Fields.

A man of depth, strength, spirit, ability and love for God and family. A longshoreman; a man's man. What an example of life he has left.

We will miss you forever.

# Order of Service

Prayer of Comfort

Hymn of Comfort ..... “We’ll Understand It Better By and By”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament - Psalms 23

New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15:20-21

Selection

Acknowledgments, Resolutions, Condolences  
& Reading of the Obituary

Selection

Reflections .....(2 minutes please)

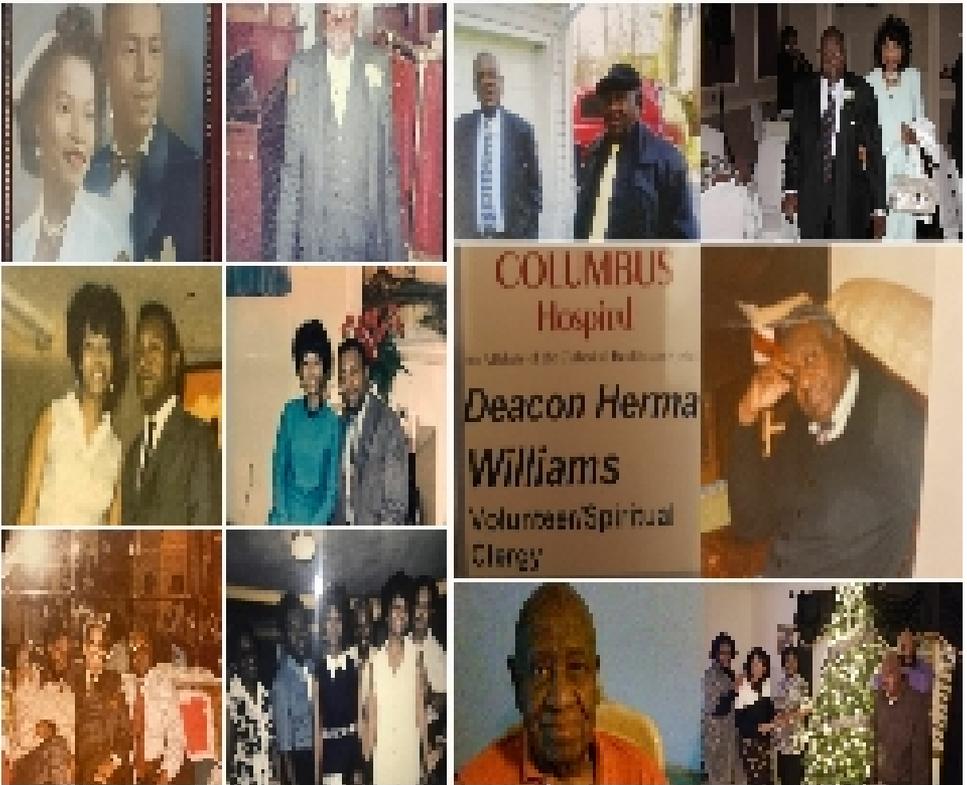
Eulogy .....Elder Barry Shumate

Benediction

Recessional ..... “Going up Yonder”

## **INTERMENT**

Hollywood Park Memorial Cemetery • Union, New Jersey





## Acknowledgement

The family of **Herman Williams** wishes to express our sincere thanks for the prayers and other expressions of love during our time of bereavement.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

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