

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF



WILLIE OSCAR MACKLIN

Sunrise
May 7, 1934

Sunset
May 8, 2021

Saturday, May 15, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.

Blessed Sacrament St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church

610 Clinton Avenue • Newark, New Jersey

Celebrant Rev. Fr. Peter Iwuala

OBITUARY

Willie Oscar Macklin was born to John Sr. and Ceola Macklin on May 7, 1934 in Damascus, Georgia. Willie Oscar affectionately known as “Bill” was peacefully called to his heavenly home on Saturday, May 8, 2021. He was the fourth eldest of ten children. Bill graduated from Kessler High School and shortly thereafter moved to New Jersey and became a resident of Newark. One of his first jobs was at American Smelting Copper Refinery. He eventually became a highly skilled and gifted tradesman and was self-employed as an in-demand furniture upholsterer and furniture refinisher for over 40 years.

One special evening in 1957 he had the pleasure of meeting a young Blanche Adams at The Terrace Ballroom. Love blossomed and on July 12, 1960, Bill married the love of his life, their union was blessed with two wonderful children Michael Hobart and Cherie Lynn. He was a magnificent father and until his transition spoke with fatherly pride about their accomplishments. He was a grandfather of 5 and great grandfather of 6.

A man of great faith Bill was a long-term faithful member of Blessed Sacrament St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church. He was a participant at the Holy Name Society and could often be found volunteering at the Food Pantry. He also enjoyed attending Sunday services at Metropolitan Baptist Church. Bill always loved the City of Newark and could be found daily at 4:30am walking in Weequahic Park. He often referred to those walks in the park as his time for deep meditation and connection with God.

Bill was blessed with a larger-than-life personality that filled any space he entered. Others were naturally drawn to his magnetism and loved listening to his stories. At family gatherings Bill held everyone captive with stories about life in Georgia, his travels and day to day life.

Bill and his life partner Blanche were world travelers who crossed the globe. A few of their stops included South Africa, Australia, Japan, China, Egypt, Jamaica, Aruba, Trinidad, Italy and Spain.

Bill was an avid jazz lover and owned an extensive collection of jazz albums. He enjoyed attending The Newport Jazz Festival and the annual festival in Michigan.

He also enjoyed and supported local jazz artists and loved the City of Newark Jazz in the Garden summer concerts. Another favorite event was Jazz Vespers held on Saturday evenings at Bethany Baptist Church. The walls in his basement are filled with pictures of jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie and Lionel Hampton. Lionel Hampton also holds a special place with Bill because that is the artist who was performing at the Terrace Ballroom that magical night in 1957 when he met his beloved wife, Blanche. Lionel Hamptons Flying Home was one of his favorite tunes.

Bill also enjoyed visits to the racetrack with his son Michael and loved placing bets on the horses. He was well known at the track and would often trade comical stories with other racetrack lovers.

Bill was a people person and could strike up a conversation with anyone. He loved volunteering as an usher at NJPAC because it provided an opportunity to meet so many different individuals. He was also a history buff and loved visiting Newark Museum whenever new exhibits were in town.

Bill absolutely loved his family and was adored by his siblings and numerous nieces and nephews. The party did not begin until Bill arrived. He lived life fully and touched the lives of so many, not only in his family but with friends in his neighborhood and community. As President of the Baldwin Avenue Block Association, he was known for getting things done. The yearly Block Party was enjoyed by all in attendance. He also loved hosting his annual Super Bowl party; the basement would be filled with good food, family, friends and abundant laughter. His favorite team was the Giants and his spirited debates about HIS team were legendary.

Bill is preceded in death by his faithful parents, John Sr. and Ceola Macklin, loving daughter Cherie Lynn Wilson, brother Harvey Macklin, and sisters Helen Maddox, Jura Williams, Verna Roudez. Brother-In-Law to Mildred Francis and the late Grover Williams, Leroy Maddox, Ronald Roudez, Lula Macklin and Pearl Macklin. Bill leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife Blanche Macklin, loving son Michael Macklin (Bridget), Grandchildren Mikaela, Michael H. Macklin II, Milaina Macklin- McCann (Julian), Sean Malcolm Wilson and the late Aniyah Wilson, Great Grandchildren Mikah, Mikal and Miles Macklin, Justice, Juri and the late Journey McCann, brothers Saul Macklin and John Macklin, sisters Ossie Jackson, Calista Childs, Louise Bright (Hardy Bright Sr.), and a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends. We will all remember his booming voice, faith and passion for life.







God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace be thine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.





AS I SIT IN HEAVEN

As I sit in Heaven And watch you
everyday, I try to let you know with signs
I never went away. I hear you when
you're laughing, And watch you as you
sleep. I even place my arms around you
To calm you as you weep. I see you wish
the days away, Begging to have me
home. So I try to send you signs So you
know you are not alone. Don't feel guilty
that you have Life that was denied to
me. Heaven is truly beautiful, Just you
wait and see. So live your life, laugh
again, Enjoy yourself, be free. Then I
know with Every breath you take You'll
be taking one for me.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece if so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that
day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You,
Whatever the part.*

Blanche A. Macklin and Family

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

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973-926-6400

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