



Eli W. Barber

December 21, 1925 - October 25, 2013

Eli Willie Barber was born on December 20, 1924, in Winnsboro, SC. to the late Benjamin and Irene Barber. Raised on a farm, at an early age Eli earned the nickname “Rabbit” because he was quick on his feet and highly resourceful - characteristics that served him well throughout his life.

Eli received his early education in the public schools of Winnsboro. At the age of 17, he left home to pursue a career in the United States Army. It was there that through hard work and determination, he developed and blossomed. He earned the rank of Staff Sergeant and the leadership skills honed during his military service were used throughout the rest of his life.

After completing his military service, he returned to South Carolina. Later, he moved to Baltimore, Maryland to pursue job opportunities. He worked at Lackland Bleach and Dye Company and later at Sealtest Dairy Company, where he worked for many years, rising to the position of supervisor.

He married Estelle McAllister. From this union, 6 children were born, Willie James, John Wesley, Eli Jason, Roy, Gloria Ann and Christopher Tyrone. That marriage ended in divorce. He was also father to Eli Daryl, Jonova (deceased) and Ida Mae. With the help of his second wife, Vivian, he was able to keep his large family together and raise them in a loving, nurturing and supportive environment. They were one of the first black families to purchase a home in the then predominantly white Edmondson Village community in Baltimore. Eli was a hard worker. He often worked 2 jobs to provide for his family. Always resourceful in creating additional means to support his family, he also used his

car to taxi people around to the grocery store or even provide transportation for an out-of-town trip. Eli was also gifted with his hands; when necessary, there was nothing in the home that he could not fix or build.

Eli was affectionately known by other names, including Bobby and Willie, However the two names he was proudest to hear were husband and father. He stepped up to the plate and became a nurse when his wife, Vivian's failing health required that he do so. He nursed her until she was called to Glory and never once complained. After he retired, Eli also lent a hand to help out two of his sons. He worked as a landscaper for Daryl and a security guard for Eli at his business, Barber Transportation, until his health forced him to stop.

Eli loved life. He loved the Lord and he rejoiced in singing songs in honoring God. He also loved the Blues. Eli could dance and he often would get his children in the basement and put on a song and dance show.

Eli was preceded in death by his loving wife, Vivian Louise, son, Jonova Barber and grandchild, Penny Barber.

His memory will always be cherished by those who loved him beyond measure:

Sons: Willie James, John Wesley (Donna Mae), Eli Jason (Mary Tonola), Roy (Elaine), Christopher Tyrone (Brenda) and Eli Daryl (Stephanie).

Daughters: Gloria Ann (Ray) and Ida Mae (Jeremiah).

Grandchildren: Leah, Nicky, Tammy (Petey), Eli (Melanie), Pierre (?), Elinthia, Patra, John (?), Yvette, Tawanda, Sterling, Jeremy, Jasmine, Tiffany, Cherish, Eli, Dawn, Christopher, Sean, Damian, Corey, Autumn and Danielle.

A host of great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Eli is also survived by 5 siblings: Bessie, Ernest (Jean) Jason (Vanessa), Lillian (Gus) and Katie (Warren), one sister-in-law, Margaret Mitchell, a brother-in-law, Robert Davis, and a special niece, Yoma Howard.

Cemetery Details

Garrison Forest Veterans

11501 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT **31**. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Wake

NOV **1**. 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 542-2400
info@marchfh.com

Service

NOV 1. 5:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Eli W. Barber*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Rest in peace grandad you will always be remembered and never forgotten...love you here..your grandson corey.*

coreybarber - December 12, 2013 at 09:35 AM



“ *Dawn so sorry to hear about the loss of your grandfather. My prayers are with you and your family.*

Patricia Toliver - November 03, 2013 at 06:16 AM



“ *Dad / PaPa, You were our "HERO"! You truly will be missed...Rest In Peace Dad / PaPa Eli Willie Barber! Love You Always, Roy, Elaine, Yvette, Tawanda, Sole' and Angelus!!!??????*

Elaine Barber - October 29, 2013 at 10:23 AM

AF

“ To the family of Eli W. Barber:
Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. Death is the enemy of all mankind, yet when it touches us personally, few seek the comfort they search for. The doctrines that are taught concerning death find their origins from men and not the Bible. As a result, they fail to leave those who are grieving with comfort or a hope. They do however, leave many with unanswered questions. The response that "God works in mysterious ways" or that "God needed another angel", does not satisfy the spiritual needs of those who are grieving. However, many have found comfort in the pages of God's word the Bible (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). In God's word we find the promise that we can be reunited with our loved ones (John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15). The Bible tells us where this happy reunion will take place (Psalm 37: 11, 29; Matthew 5:5). We are told why we die (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12), and that the God of the Bible will end death forever (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:3,4). Learning the truth about Jehovah, the God of the Bible (Psalm 83:18), God's Kingdom (Daniel 2:44), and the state of those who have died (Ecclesiastes 9:5), is the start to finding true comfort concerning loved ones who are sleeping in death (John 11:11-14; John 8:32). For more information please visit the website jw.org.

A Friend - October 28, 2013 at 11:57 PM

EB

Thanks for your thoughtfulness. Your support during this time is greatly appreciated. Roy, Elaine Barber & Family

Elaine Barber - October 29, 2013 at 09:15 AM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 4yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.”— ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!

Ms Springer - October 28, 2013 at 05:09 PM



Thanks for your thoughtfulness and support during this difficult time. Roy, Elaine & Family

Elaine Barber - October 29, 2013 at 09:21 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Funeral Homes - October 28, 2013 at 11:53 AM



Thanks for your thoughtfulness. Your generosity and support during this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Roy, Elaine Barber & Family

Elaine Barber - October 29, 2013 at 09:18 AM