



## McKinley H. Waites

April 13, 1934 - July 18, 2018

I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. II Timothy 4: 7-8(NIV)

Very quietly, on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, Almighty God who does all things well, gently closed the eyes of our beloved Husband, Father, Brother, Uncle, Cousin, and Friend and carried him home to eternal rest.

MCKINLEY HARRELL WAITES, the youngest son of the late Muriel “Merle” Kent West Waites Thompson and Harvey Waites was born on April 13, 1934, in Lancaster County, Virginia. His father Harvey died when McKinley was young. McKinley was raised in a Christian home by Merle and Phillip Thompson. The family attended Beulah Baptist Church in Lively, Virginia. He accepted Christ at a young age. He was preceded in death by his parents, twelve sisters and ten brothers. McKinley (sometimes called by his surname) was educated in the public schools Lancaster County, Virginia.

Upon graduation from R. T. Wright High School, McKinley served the call to his country. He entered the military in June 1951, and was honorably discharged after having served two and an half years.

McKinley married Nina Mae Harrison in 1955. They had two children Tilva Merle and James Henderson. His son preceded him in death in 1990.

Upon returning from the service, one of McKinley’s first jobs was as a driver for the old Baltimore City Transit Company. He was one of the few blacks

hired in the early 1950's. While he was an excellent employee, he had his eyes set on a larger goal. He always wanted to be his own boss and own a company. Some years later, he left the transit company and set out on his own with his long—time friend Gem Hayes. Together, they bought the Gem Hayes Oil Company. This company, in the heart of West Baltimore, provided services to residents throughout the metropolitan area. Providing service often times to residents who sometimes were unable to pay the full cost, the company provided a vital service to many of the older homes who used the oil burning furnace. He and his partner often accepted partial payment for services rendered. In addition to providing fuel to heat homes, they maintained and repaired boilers.

As the business prospered, McKinley ventured into other areas of interest. Furthering his entrepreneurial spirit, McKinley sought and purchased additional enterprises to expand his portfolio. His business sense led him to acquire additional financial holdings. As a successful entrepreneur, he created and owned other enterprises including a school bus fleet service in the Baltimore and Howard counties communities, several eateries, an apartment complex located in Baltimore City that he named after his beloved — Annie's Place. He held other real estate holdings in the city that proved to be prosperous.

A family man, McKinley truly loved and cared about his family. He was very generous to his immediate and extended family. He often gave family members including nieces and nephews jobs within his companies. As a father figure, he was especially close to Donte Taylor who even relocated from Philadelphia to Ellicott City to become one of his caretakers in the later stages of his illness. Sean Taylor once said that his uncle “taught him how to be a husband and a man.”

In 1958, McKinley met his wife Annie Taylor. They met through a mutual friend who has remained a friend over the years. This enduring marriage of love and commitment lasted for more than fifty — three years. One of McKinley's fondest memories was to give his wife a surprise 65th birthday party in

Westminster, Maryland. There many family and church members gathered for the festivities. McKinley and Ann enjoyed traveling as a couple as well as with family and friends. They often returned to his hometown for family reunions. As a result of her devotion to her husband, "Annie Mae" an endearing name given to her by McKinley, McKinley was able to remain in his home through his many hospital and rehabilitation admissions. McKinley knew that Ann was always by his side.

McKinley experienced many health challenges during his fifteen years of illness but throughout those years as the songwriter Tremaine Hawkins song, he never lost his faith and his hope. He would join with those who came to visit to sing God's praises. He faced the challenges put upon him with grace. He was grateful for each day and appreciated those who visited and brought comfort in song and God's Word.

A member of Mt. Gregory for more than thirty years, McKinley spearheaded fundraising for the church's annexation. He participated in Sunday school, the choir and served on the board of trustees. The former church Pastor Rev. Christopher Serafusa admired McKinley and Ann for their Christ like leadership which enhanced the church's spiritual growth. He loved to serve the Lord in any way he could. On one occasion, McKinley had the opportunity to be the lay speaker for the Sunday service. His message was given from his heart and was well received by the congregation.

McKinley leaves to celebrate wonderful memories: his wife Annie, sister Queen Wilbourne (VA), daughter Tilva Waites, granddaughter Jamie Waites (Tweet), grandson Erik Carroll (wife Merlisha Henderson-Carroll), and three great-grandchildren James, Jewel, and Jordan Shuler; special nephew and niece Sean and Vonnie who were blessed caretakers. Also holding him in special memory are a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and the Household of Faith.

Wake 10:00 am

Service 11:00 am

Location:

Mount Gregory United Methodist Church

2325 Washington Rd, Cookeville, MD 21723

# Cemetery Details

**Druid Ridge**

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mckinley H. Waites*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I pray for God's peace, strength and comfort to be with the family, friends and loved ones of Mr. Waites, during the time of grieving.*

*Pastor Rony Young*

*St. Luke United Methodist Church, Sykesville, MD*

**Pastor Rony Young** - July 23, 2018 at 03:41 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this most difficult time. God bless you, Gretchen Robinson, St. Luke UMC*

**Gretchen R. Robinson** - July 23, 2018 at 09:57 AM



“ *Carroll Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Mckinley H. Waites.*



**Carroll Family** - July 22, 2018 at 11:29 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.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - July 19, 2018 at 11:29 AM