



## Rev. Wilbert Sterling McKinley Jr.

August 14, 1959 - April 2, 2020

THE REVEREND WILBERT STERLING McKINLEY, JR, son of the late Archbishop Wilbert S. McKinley and Sarah M. McKinley, was born on August 14th, 1959 in Providence, Rhode Island. He departed this life on Thursday, April 2, 2020 after a lengthy illness.

He received his education at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Baltimore, Maryland and attended Washington Bible College in Lanham, Maryland. He was called into the ministry at a young age and ordained in the Church of God In Christ. He began his long career in engineering as a draftsman at M. Rosenblatt & Son, a naval architecture and marine engineering firm. During his long career he would go on to serve as an engineer or project manager at such companies as the Newport News Shipyard, Proctor and Gamble, Mars Inc., General Motors, and Millennium Chemical.

In 2003, he began formulating an after-school nonprofit called The Gospel Lightship which would birth Teach Fleet, a STEM program using elaborate Lego ship replicas to engage youth. Teach Fleet was his ministry and passion. He poured his lifelong fascination with ships and engineering into building a fleet of over 200 replicas with which he toured schools, museums, and libraries throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

He married the former Venus McDowell in 1980 and with her parented three

children, Candace, Sterling, and Wilbert III.

Wilbert impacted countless lives through his ministry as a preacher and commodore of the Teach Fleet. He was a devoted husband, father, and friend.

He leaves to mourn: his wife, Venus McKinley; daughter, Candace D. McKinley; sons, Sterling C. McKinley and Wilbert S. McKinley, III; daughter-in-law, Amber McKinley; grandson, Sterling Wilbert McKinley; mother, Sarah M. McKinley; sister, Hope Porter; brother, Marcellus McKinley; four brothers-in-law, three sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## King Memorial Park Cemetery - Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21244  
(410) 944-8300  
info@kingmemorialpark.com  
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

# Previous Events

## Wake

APR 9. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

APR 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Rev. Wilbert Sterling McKinley Jr, Please Click the Link below.*



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**March Funeral Homes** - April 06, 2020 at 09:32 PM



“ *Rev. Wilbert Sterling McKinley Jr.*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Sterling McKinley sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Wilbert Sterling McKinley Jr.*



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**Sterling McKinley** - February 10, 2021 at 03:59 PM

MM

“ To the esteemed Family of Rev. Wilbert McKinley, Jr. Please accept my heartfelt condolences on his passing. I had the honor of meeting him on a couple of occasions. Thankfully, I had my grandchildren with me and they were simply thrilled viewing 'all of those lego ships'. They simply couldn't get enough of 'all of those legos'. I also work in a middle school and shared his Teach Fleet program and contact information with countless colleagues and friends. I hope you consider writing a book about his life or produce a video. Not having something tangible to share with future generations about his work would be a great loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Mrs. Muhammad, Parent Coordinator  
Bronx Green Middle School*

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**Mrs. Muhammad** - September 27, 2020 at 08:45 AM

CL

“ I went to Dunbar High School with Wilbert. We were in the same class. Wilbert was always very kind and very smart. He was always a gentleman. I just found out today about his passing. My condolences to his entire family.

*Carol L. Hurst*



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**Carol L. Hurst** - April 10, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ 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** - April 04, 2020 at 03:37 PM