



Willard M. Elsey

January 28, 1959 - January 5, 2025

In Loving Memory of Willard Mark Elsey
January 28, 1959 – January 5, 2024

Willard Mark Elsey, known as "Mark" and "Markie Willard," was born on January 28, 1959, in Baltimore, Maryland, to the late Carolyn Edwards. On January 5, 2024, God called him home after complications from a lengthy illness.

Mark was a proud 1978 graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and went on to dedicate over 30 years of his life as a substance abuse counselor, working with organizations such as People Encouraging People, Gaudenzia Treatment Facility, and many others. He also spent years at the Baltimore Arena, welcoming patrons as an usher.

A devoted member of New Psalmist Baptist Church, Mark served faithfully as an usher, embracing his role with joy and kindness.

Mark's greatest pride and joy were his family. He was the loving father of one son, Markie Elsey, and a doting grandfather to his cherished grandson, Ma'Kai Elsey. His love for his family and friends was unwavering and deeply felt by all who knew him.

Markie Willard was a beacon of light and inspiration everywhere he went and everyone he touched. He had a way of owning the room simply with his sheer presence. Yes, he was a character!!! His words often fell into two categories, digestible or indigestible. He would give it to you straight no matter the circumstance. You would exit an encounter with uncontrollable laughter and/or deep in thought (the indigestible that made you think).

A passionate lover of music, he attended jazz festivals across Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, sharing his enthusiasm with those he loved. He was also a devoted reader of the daily newspaper and an avid listener of Morgan State University's radio station. Even during his illness, Mark remained a source of conversation, sharing news about upcoming concerts and Baltimore's latest restaurants. If you didn't know about it, Mark did.

Mark leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories. He is survived by his son, Markie "Qorie" Elsey; his grandson, Ma'Kai Elsey; two brothers, Clarence Winston and Thomas (Tommy) Winston; one sister, Jo Ann Sye; five nieces and four nephews; and countless friends who became family.

Mark shared a special relationship & bond with his niece, Tonya Winston-Watson, his surrogate daughter. She catered to him unconditionally throughout his prolonged illness, visiting him ALL THE TIME. Whatever he wanted, she got it for him. In her eyes, Uncle Mark could do no wrong... continuing the legacy of spoiling him.

Mark was an inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him. His warm smile, quick wit, humor and deep compassion will be forever missed but always remembered.

Cemetery Details

King Memorial Park

8710 Dogwood Road
Baltimore, MD 21244

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 31. 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home - East
1101 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

Wake

FEB 1. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home - East
1101 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

Service

FEB 1. 11:30 AM (ET)

March Funeral Home - East
1101 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Willard Mark Elsy in memory of Willard M. Elsey*



March Funeral Homes - January 23, 2025 at 01:32 PM

DE

“ *Dee lit a candle in memory of Willard M. Elsey*



dee - February 01, 2025 at 01:33 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Willard M. Elsey.*



January 23, 2025 at 02:25 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Willard M. Elsey.*

January 23, 2025 at 02:25 PM

AR

“ Praying for GOD'S comfort and peace during this difficult time.

ANDREI A RUFFIN - January 21, 2025 at 08:25 AM

PP

“ My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mark Willard Eley. I will always remember his phone calls and warm welcome whenever we talked or seen each other. Mark went through alot. So now his spirit will live on in the hearts of those who knew him," "He is now free from his pain."

Pattie Powell and family

Pattie Powell - January 13, 2025 at 01:53 PM

IS

“ My sincere condolences to the Family and friends of Mr. Willard M. Eley. I remember you always greeted warmly when we saw each other over the years. 🕊 Rest easy dear Dunbar High School classmate. Ivory Sanders class '78.

Ivory Sanders - January 12, 2025 at 05:03 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 - January 09, 2025 at 10:53 AM