



Bishop Willie Gray Suggs

November 9, 1931 - April 23, 2017

Celebration of Life

Bishop Willie Gray Suggs was born the seventh of nine children to the late Clinton J. Suggs and Cora Ada Jones-Suggs on Monday, November 9, 1931, in Snow Hill (Greene County), North Carolina. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ellen Easter Suggs; two sons-in-law, Perry Demery and Ronald Woolfolk; two brothers, Humphrey Suggs and Barry Suggs, Sr.; five sisters, Inez Carmon, Nina Mae Kittrell, Bessie Wooten, Mildred Neville and Cora Logan. He peacefully entered into eternal rest on Sunday, April 23, 2017.

At a very early age, he was characterized as having leadership ability. Bishop was often found teaching, preaching, and counseling his peers. He received his education in Greene County Public Schools. He dutifully served in the United States Army, wherein many times his life was endangered. He received many awards and recognitions for his service in the military, including, but not limited to, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Service Medal, two Bronze Service Stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and The Purple Heart.

Bishop Suggs' journey led him to the Apostolic Faith Holiness Church under

the leadership of the late Evangelist Sue I. Edwards. On Thursday evening, August 28, 1958, he was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. God blessed him spiritually by filling him with the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. While serving in the ministry, there was nothing Mother Sue asked that “Brother Willie” did not honor. He was steadfast in the Gospel and his purpose was clear. He served in many positions (Janitor, Usher, Deacon, Minister, Elder, Bishop) within the Body of Christ before becoming Overseer of the Sabbath Apostolic Pentecostal Assemblies of America, Inc. (“SAPA”). Under his leadership, Bishop established various missions located throughout the East Coast. He was the Presiding Bishop of Harper’s Temple Apostolic Church, Clarksville, Virginia; New Hope Apostolic Church, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina and Rose of Sharon Apostolic Church, Severna Park, Maryland. He was passionate about playing his harmonica, writing and singing spiritual songs and watching baseball, football and basketball. He had a rich sense of humor.

He was also blessed by marrying the love of his life, Ellen Easter Dunn, on Sunday, September 13, 1959. Their marriage of 52 years demonstrated the true meaning of commitment, devotion, respect, and everlasting love. Seven beautiful daughters were born from this union.

With fond memories to cherish, Bishop leaves daughters: Sue A. Demery, Mary E. Suggs, Sandra C. Woolfolk, E. Diane Suggs-Tucker (Robert), M. Denise Williams (Willie Earl), Willette S. Perkins (Franklin, Sr.) and Wilnette Suggs; 12 grandchildren: Seaver Woolfolk (Ebony), Shannon Ross (Darrick), Shakara Harris, Robin Woolfolk, Candice Granderson, Corey Demery, Russell Granderson, Jr.; Alex Demery, Alexandria Demery, Franklin Perkins, Jr., Shelbi Woolfolk and Jonathan Perkins; three great-grandchildren: Xavier Woolfolk, Jaxson Woolfolk and Kilah Granderson; one sister, Selma Nails; one brother, Vernell Harper; two sisters-in-law, Susie Jackson and Ann Suggs; two brothers-in-law, Earl and Larry Wilson; two dedicated assistants, Julia Kittrell

and Cynthia Perkins; a loyal niece and friend Vanessa L. Jones (Sukoshi);
and a host of relatives, friends & church family.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memory Gardens

13389 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Previous Events

Public Viewing

APR 30. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Wake

APR 30. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Service

MAY 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Covenant Apostolic Church
2129 Ford Ave.
Richmond, VA 23223

Tribute Wall



“ *Bishop Willie Gray Suggs*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Bishop Suggs was more than just a Pastor. He was a kind and fussy friend, teacher and harmonica player, who really loved people and tried to help whoever he could. He'd visit us and Mother Blake out in the country in Dinwiddie, Va and he loved it there. He will never be forgotten and those of us who he taught Holiness thank him. Rest, Bishop...Rest.*



Minister Juanita E. FloydCox, BSN, RN - April 20, 2019 at 08:46 AM



“ *Thank God for the many years of your service to God, and all the memories. My love and prayers go out to the family, my God comforts and strengthen and give peace in this season.*



Tonya - April 30, 2017 at 07:02 AM



“ *"For all our days are passed away in thy wrath, we spend our years as a tale that is told. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days". -Minister Eric A. Hendricks-(Baltimore Maryland) love you Bishop Suggs*

Eric A. Hendricks Sr - April 30, 2017 at 05:25 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Bishop Willie Gray Suggs.*



April 29, 2017 at 08:38 AM



“ *July 7 1973 was the date I got baptized in JESUS name.I later received the HOLY GHOST.Thanks to Bishop Suggs I continue in the faith, keeping GOD's commandments,and teaching my sons as well. People change their way of thinking to what they think will make them happy. GOD's word never changes. Bishop Suggs taught me that. To the family, be proud.The little seeds he planted are strong trees now. May GOD comfort your hearts, and you find peace and joy as you search your memories of him. Missionary Jeneatta Jackson (jean)*

Jeneatta (Jean) Jackson - April 28, 2017 at 02:08 PM



“ *I will always remember your unconditional love you showed The Demby family especially Brother Charlie. WE WILL DEFINITELY MISS YOU!*

Faith Demby - April 28, 2017 at 02:05 PM

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“ NCAC Board of Deacons and Trustees purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Bishop Willie Gray Suggs.



NCAC Board of Deacons and Trustees - April 28, 2017 at 12:06 PM

BA

“ With my deepest condolences to the family of Willie Suggs. May the Almighty, the God of tender mercies and of all comfort, who comforts us in all our trials (2Corinthians1:3,4), comfort you and your family in this time of need.

Barnes - April 26, 2017 at 12:46 PM

JO

I was sad to hear about Bishop Suggs' passing. I knew him a long time ago, when I lived in Richmond. I was an electrician for many years, and I did electrical work for him, and we had many good conversations. He kidded me about being a Presbyterian and wanted to dunk me in the Baptistisn pool. But it was all in fun. He was a very good man, and a pleasure to spend time with. I left Virginia for Georgia several years before he passed. I'll never forget him. He was a good man who believed in the Lord. Rest in peace, Bishop. You deserve to rest after a lifetime of service to the Lord.

John - February 11, 2024 at 05:19 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.

March Funeral Homes - April 25, 2017 at 03:30 PM