

Obituary

William Theodore Rankin Jr. was born June 18, 1928 to the late William Theodore Rankin Sr. and Cora Elizabeth Presley in Greensboro, NC. He received his heavenly wings at the home of his youngest daughter on December 15, 2012 with love by his side.

William was educated in the Greensboro School system. Upon his 18th birthday he enlisted in the USMC where he served during the WWII and Korean war times. He was one of the first Negro Marines that served at Montford Point, NC (now known as Camp Lejeune). After serving his duty, he went to Boston, Massachusetts to visit a sister, during which time he met the love of his life, Mable Arlena Gilstrap. The two later married and had 5 daughters, and 1 son that died in infancy. They would soon become members of the Dorchester Church of Christ, which congregation William helped to establish.

In 1975, William moved his family to Greensboro and placed his membership with the Cottage Grove Church of Christ that later became South English St Church of Christ (now Sharpe Rd.) He was a devoted member, serving in several different capacities throughout his membership such as treasurer, song leader, occasional preacher, and Bible school teacher. He loved talking about the Bible and held several Bible studies with fellow members, friends and strangers alike. He let his light shine wherever he went. He also imparted strong biblical teachings to each of his daughters that they'll hold dear the rest of their lives.

He was a very hard worker and supported his family working at GTI (now GTCC) for many years, and also at Elastic Fabrics of America, from which he retired. He also took pride in janitorial and painting jobs here and there. He touched many lives while employed, making good friends with quite a few coworkers over the years.

He was a very dedicated and devoted husband to his beloved Mable, who preceded him in death. He also loved each of his children unconditionally. He gave his wisdom, wonderful sense of humor, and tender love to each one. He never raised his voice, and always maintained remarkable self control.

He was the epitome of class, integrity, and dignity. He carried himself in a special way that many wanted to emulate. He touched many, many lives and he will greatly and enormously be missed.

In addition to his parents, wife, and infant son, he was predeceased by his daughter Cora, and his brother Alfred.

Those left to cherish wonderful memories are: four daughters; Chrystal Carr of Greensboro, with whom he resided, Claudelle (Terrence) Duncan of Greensboro, Cynthia (Cleveland) Epps of Fuquay-Varina, Cia (Waheed) Khan of Woodstock, GA, three sisters; Thelma Gilcrest, Gloria Chapman, both of Dorchester, MA, Clara (Vasco) Pires of East Falmouth, MA, one granddaughter; Maya McCullough; five grandsons, Evan (LaToya) Rankin of Winston Salem, Terrence Duncan Jr, Everett Rankin, Nickolas Duncan, all of Greensboro, Marques Kaylor of Fuquay-Varina, and a host of other relatives and friends.



*God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not to be,
So he put his arms around you and whispered, "Come to Me"
With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you passing away.
Although we loved you dearly we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating.
He had taken you to rest; it breaks our heart to see you go.
But we know God knows what's best.*

The Family