



## Donald Lee (POPS) Billingsley Sr.

March 1, 1938 - July 27, 2021

<https://www.flipsnack.com/alcbf/donald-billingsley.html>

The Life Reflections of Donald Lee Billingsley “PoPs”

Donald Lee Billingsley, Sr. , Don better known as “Pops” was born to Allen Lee Billingsley and

Ethel Henderson on March 1, 1938 in Austin, Texas. Donald attended school in Lubbock, Texas

where he participated in football and boxing; and excelled in both. In later years, Don

returned to Austin where he sang with H.L. Hubbard and the Jets as lead singer, “Little Donnie

Baby.” Don also wrote and recorded a hit song, “My Angel”, as well as mastered playing the harmonica.

Don was hired to work for the Austin Independent School District where he worked for over

thirty years. During this time Don dedicated his life to teaching, and training any and every

child he could how to box and protect themselves. He also received an award from the City of

Austin for all of the hours of dedicated service he rendered. “Pops” was later hired at the

Montopolis Gym and would pick up children all over Austin and surrounding

areas in his  
cadillacs or van and transport them to the gym. While at the Montopolis Gym  
“Pops” trained  
some of the finest boxers in Austin—teaching his unique style of offense and  
defense  
techniques. “Pops” became well known and respected in the boxing world; as  
his star Female  
Ann Wolfe captured 8 belts; as well as James Kirkland, Curtis Meeks, Casey  
Ramos, Isaiah  
Nash, and the late great Travel Mazion and a host of other up and coming  
boxers whose  
careers he also helped to launch.  
“Pops” was an active member and soloist at The Church of the New  
Testament, where he was  
called to Christ under the leadership of Brother Bill Jones, who often stated  
Don gave up a  
million dollar contract to sing for the Lord. “Pops’ life was devoted to helping  
any and  
everyone he could. He gave his all and served with a grateful heart throughout  
his life winning  
over a host of people with his love and kindness.  
Donald was preceded in death by his father: Allen Lee Billingsley, mother:  
Ethel Henderson as  
well as Madea Fannie Mae, uncle: Jesse Titus, brothers: Edgar Lee James,  
Vinnie George Davis  
Sr., sisters: Elizabeth Williams, Mary Francis Washington, children: Arthur  
Cardell Smith, Debra  
Kay Billingsley, Darrell Billingsley, Palmer Minnie Field, Patrick Billingsley,  
Dyann Shelvin,  
Donald Lee Billingsley Jr.  
He leaves to cherish his memories: wife: Christine Billingsley, sons: Larry

Billingsley, Labron

Billingsley David, daughters: Anita Gail Griffin (Doug), Ann Wolfe, Rachel and Chrystal, along

with a host of grandchildren, great grand children, nieces, nephews, a lot of family, friends,

and his best friend Zion Wolfe and all the other Wolfe Pack, "Pops" was King of the Wolfe

Pack.

# Cemetery Details

## Cook-Walden Capital Parks

14501 IH 35  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

# Previous Events

## PUBLIC VIEWING FOLLOWING CDC GUIDELINES

AUG **13**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Church of the New Testament  
1602 Harvey Street  
Austin, TX 78702

## Celebration Service

AUG **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grant A.M.E. Worship Center  
1701 Kramer Lane  
Austin, TX 78758  
<http://gwcaustin.org>

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ I really wish I could find The originals to this photo 🥺



Stef - June 15, 2024 at 10:55 AM

ST

“ I was blessed to meet pops through his ex-wife Christine. (My mother-in-law). I only need him for 8 years but he was so welcoming from day 1. My kids love him so much and I am so glad that we spent so much time with him in those 8 years. That man always made me laugh no matter what kind of mood I was in and he was always real with me about everything. I love a d respect him so much.



Stef - June 15, 2024 at 10:52 AM

ST

\*knew him

Stef - June 15, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ Donald Lee (POPS) Billingsley Sr.

October 06, 2023 at 07:08 AM

EM

“ Uncle Donald was the last surviving member of my father's siblings (Vennie Davis). He was very supportive of our family and very protective of my mother throughout her lifetime. His joy of life, playing the piano and singing, and training boxers impacted the lives of many Austinites as well as others that crossed his path. We are truly saddened by his demise, yet happy in knowing that God loves him more.

*Ethel E. Moore & Family  
Houston, Texas*

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**Ethel Moore** - August 13, 2021 at 03:27 PM

TF

“ You were an amazing person and father figure in my brothers life. But, I'm sure he knows you're an angel in heaven now. You are truly loved and missed! 💙🙏 Say hi to Thelma & Trollie for us! Catch up with you later.

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**Tarsha Fowler** - August 13, 2021 at 11:12 AM

DG

*Mr.Billingsley ( pops) you trained many physically, but most of all mentally and SPIRITUALLY. Great man of God, and friend to all,always greeted us with a smile and hand shake. Our loss,Jesus gain.David Gallardo...pan-am boxing*

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**David Gallardo** - November 14, 2021 at 04:13 PM

Evelyn  
McDade

“ *Sending prayers and love to the entire family of Uncle Don Billingsley*



*Smiling as I remember watching, listening to the melodic soulful Gospel renditions of Uncle Don with the body and facial movements: Great is the Lord, The Broken Vessel, What is this, Peace be Still the list goes on because he was a skillful song leader.*

*The tough memories he was the Calvary helping Daddy on Spur Street during the many break-in attempts we endured I felt safe with his Arsenal in tow.*

*I later learned Uncle Don aka Pops was a Legendary Boxing Trainer to so many and they showed love towards him.*

*I must acknowledge the love devotion in doing their very best to stand by his side along making sure he did leave this world alone or forgotten, May God bless you both Anita Gail Griffin and Ann Wolfe.*

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**Evelyn McDade** - August 11, 2021 at 12:29 AM

SP

“ *The entire City of Austin will forever be in your debt, for all of the children you poured into, and for the history icons you developed along the way. We love you and Thank You. You will be missed. RIH. Simone Pollard*

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**Simone Pollard** - August 06, 2021 at 11:36 AM

JH

*RIP “POP’s Precious Memories 🙏 rest in Heavenly Peace 🌸*

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**Jackie D Harris-Crayton** - August 22, 2021 at 10:23 PM

RB

“ Dear POPS,

*I wish we had more time to get to know each other.*

*Daddy loved you so MUCH!*

*Love your great grand daughter, who loves you dearly! ( R . I .H )*

*Rhegan Billingsley*



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**Rhegan B** - August 02, 2021 at 12:10 PM

HD

“ To entire Billingsley family, my prayers and condolences will be with you all. (Pops) Billingsley gave so much to the children of Montoplos Recreation center as many came through that boxing ring. He was a teacher, trainer and father to many. I will always remember he was a blessing to us all. Our last encounter was at post office on cross park off hwy 290. I expressed my appreciation for his love of boxing and children. God Rest his soul. Thank you dear God for the time we had. Hope

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**Hope Davis** - July 28, 2021 at 07:41 PM

CC

“ RIP Pops

*Cheryl Collins-Crayton*

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**Cheryl Collins-Crayton** - July 28, 2021 at 01:08 PM