



Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard

March 26, 1953 - February 8, 2021

<https://livestream.com/accounts/7325565/willieleonard>

OBITUARY OF WILLIE CLYDE (BROTHER) LEONARD

Legacy of An Extraordinary Man Who Remained True to Himself

On March 26, 1953, God beautifully blew life into Willie Clyde Leonard and blessed his parents, Albert and Thelma Leonard, with what would be a glorified life fulfilling God's best that was yet to come. Willie was born in Tyler, Texas and attended Peete Elementary School and Robert E. Lee High School. He continued his education at Tyler Junior College. He worked at Tyler Pipe Refinery while in high school, defining his excellent work ethic that led to numerous career paths throughout his entire life.

Willie's career continued with working for Loomis Fargo Company and the Renaissance Hotel. In his spare time, he also enjoyed being a part of the University of Texas Football Stadium staff where he was a supervisor for numerous years. He also was a member of the Alpha Tau Alpha Fraternity, member of Masons and served as a Potentate of the Shriners. Culminating his career, he proudly dedicated nearly two decades of exceptional service as a manager at HEB.

Throughout a major portion of his adulthood years, Willie was an active, faithful and devoted member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. He took on the role of a Deacon, Chairman of the Trustees, member of Sunday School, Men Chorus, and Mass Choir. His wife said he had the absolute best

tenor voice! She loved to hear him sing. He was a master planner, great organizer, and meticulous in implementing projects with excellence as evidenced in his heartfelt contributions to the construction and completion of the "Mt. Zion Family Life Center" which was one of his proudest moments. Among many things, Willie loved his family dearly and took great pride in protecting them at all cost. There was no doubt in his son, daughter or wife's testimony that he would have laid down his life for them in a twinkling of an eye. He was our great protector. He loved good food, eating, and made the absolute best hamburgers! Willie was very sharp and excellent with math, paid attention to detail, and was very security minded, took great pride in keeping his vehicles clean, loved watching sports, Family Feud with Steve Harvey, CNN, Jeopardy and his favorite movies, Air Force One and Rush Hour. Willie was very punctual, never late, and always prided himself in arriving 30 minutes to an hour early for all his appointments. He'd be sitting there waiting on you! He enjoyed racing cars, riding his three-wheeler, and dancing. He was a master charmer and good at stirring up mischief within our family gathering with love of course! He'd say, "there was an art to being noisy."

In 1978, Willie met the love of his life, Deborah Lee Tolliver, at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas. They formed a union on December 22, 1979, and produced two wonderfully blessed children, Xzavier Bryant and Ashley Danielle Leonard. In 2003, Willie became a proud grandpa to his beautiful granddaughter, Mariah Jasmine Leonard. Two days after Willie went home to be with the Lord, he was blessed with his first grandson, Anthony Xzavier Tubbs. Look carefully at the birthmark on his grandson's right cheek; it's a perfectly shaped heart!!! Nobody but God would place a birthmark so visibly seen by all to let us know that my husband has indeed seen his grandson and kissed his cheek! To God be the Glory forever & ever. Amen! Thank You Lord in the midst of our deep sorrow, You're allowing us to rest in the Blessed Assurance of Your Amazing Grace! We honor You Lord and bless Your Holy and Most Righteous Name!

Above all these accomplishments and blessings, Willie's greatest joy was the assurance knowing his Savior Jesus Christ had redeemed his life as he would have eternal life. He would always say, "Thank God for His Glory!" He proclaimed just as Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." For Willie knew that flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto him, but His Father, which is in Heaven! His final words highlighted in his Sweet Hour of Prayer book, were "I pray Your Kingdom would come and Your will be done in our church. Bless the church, Lord. Prosper and protect the church. Keep bringing renewal to the church. I pray for the elders, Lord. Give them Your wisdom to govern during this critical time. Protect them Lord." Among those remaining to thank God for a life of precious memories are: Willie's beloved wife, Deborah; children, Xzavier and Ashley, and Ashley's fiancé, Ryan Tubbs; grandchildren, Mariah and Anthony Xzavier; siblings, Patricia (Howard) Childs, Susie Hodges, Albert Leonard, Jr., and James Leonard; step grandchildren, Dynisha, Brina, Anthony, Ariana, and Isaiah. He also leaves behind nieces, Rakia Leonard, Nakia Leonard, and Teonna Leonard; nephews, Howard (Mary) Childs, Jr., Kevin (Michiko) Childs, Eric (Donna) Leonard, Tal Belvin and a special great nephew, Mathis Belvin; aunts, Flossie Mae Burns and Willie Bell Walker; uncles, James Leonard and Charles Leonard; special cousins, Wardaleen Belvin, Albert L. (Kathy) Black, and Barbara (Robert) Blackshear; brother-in-law, Thomas Tolliver; other special family and friends, Jamilah Stockwell, Shatamia Jackson, Matthew Ledet (godson), sister-in-law, Carolyn Diane (Cornelius), Mary Sobers (Grandma Bea), Roberta Reed, Charles Reed, and a host of other relatives and friends. Also left to mourn Willie is Sadie, who was the family's best friend and constant companion, and followed them everywhere she could; Willie's heartfelt love for Sadie was enormous and unconditional.

Previous Events

Celebration Service

FEB **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
2938 E 13th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Tribute Wall



“ Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard

October 06, 2023 at 07:08 AM



“ 🕊️🌹🕊️ *The Senior Classes of Robert E. Lee and John Tyler High Schools of Tyler, Texas extend our deepest condolences to the Leonard family! May God's peace and love be with you!* 🕊️🌹🕊️

Ann Carney Bradford - March 13, 2021 at 04:09 PM



“ *I worked with Willie at Loomis Armored. He was a great person to work alongside always professional but if you shared a funny comment with him he sure could light up the room with a smile. May he Rest In Peace +*

Rachel Seca - February 24, 2021 at 07:07 PM



“ *I worked with Willie at HEB. He was the funniest, most amazing guy! We first met watching Family Feud together in the break room. When he heard that my AC in my car stopped working, he took the time to help me find a mechanic that could look at it for me. I always knew that I could count on him if I ever needed help with anything! He will truly be missed!*



Krista - February 24, 2021 at 07:04 PM

BB

“ Willie(Brother), you will truly be missed 🥹 We shared some great conversations and when I think of you a smile comes to my face. Your Queen lives on but the love She has for you will remain until you guys meet again. Family I love y'all and praying for y'all.

Barbara Blackshear - February 24, 2021 at 11:31 AM

PC

“ Pamela Moore Campbell lit a candle in memory of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard



Pamela Moore Campbell - February 24, 2021 at 08:38 AM

LC

“ I will never forget the conference that we all attended in Atlanta, I believe. Enjoyed church and great food. You will be missed Deacon.



Lorinda Taylor Carter - February 23, 2021 at 08:03 PM

PC

“ PASTOR HORACE E. CALAHAN lit a candle in memory of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard



PASTOR HORACE E. CALAHAN - February 23, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



February 22, 2021 at 11:50 PM



“ *Ira and Francis Shelley. Peace and Blessings purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



Ira and Francis Shelley. Peace and Blessings - February 20, 2021 at 01:18 AM



“ *Lillie Reese lit a candle in memory of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard*



Lillie Reese - February 19, 2021 at 11:23 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



February 19, 2021 at 08:00 PM

LS

“ *Linda Stephens lit a candle in memory of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard*



Linda Stephens - February 19, 2021 at 05:57 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



February 19, 2021 at 06:53 AM

RH

“ *Reverend Elton (Hippo) Mamie Hall purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



Reverend Elton (Hippo) Mamie Hall - February 18, 2021 at 04:06 PM

CB

“ *Connie Bumpers purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



Connie Bumpers - February 17, 2021 at 10:16 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



February 17, 2021 at 06:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willie Clyde (Brother) Leonard.*



February 14, 2021 at 06:58 PM



“ *Brother Leonard and I met in the 80s. When he honored me to be in Deborah and his wedding. He would always tease me about showing up a day early. Over the years we would look forward to and enjoyed playing golf in our pastors annual golf tournament. We didn't play very well but the time of fellowship was priceless. I will always cherish his straightforward attitude, And his faithful friendship.*

May God continue to bless and comfort the Leonard family knowing they always have a friend. Forever, The Spears Family

Emmitt Spears - February 14, 2021 at 11:13 AM

JD

“ Brother Leonard and I got to know one another through the Men's Choir at Mt. Zion. We shared many laughs together and much joy as we traveled with the church singing the gospel. I too am coming to grips with his passing as Brother Leonard treated me as his friend.



May God continue to bless and keep the Leonard family during this time!

JOHNNY DEMYERS - February 11, 2021 at 07:32 PM

PJ

“ Dea. Leonard was one of the people who welcomed me to Mt. Zion back in the 90s. I met him , with others, in our Church singing Team Generations. He had such a down to earth attitude that was refreshing! And when he Prayed..OMG! He was always supportive to the Criminal Justice Ministry at the Church. Oh how I still find it hard to believe he's gone! I will "truly miss him and I know My. Zion will. It just won't be the same.



My sincerest prayers to Debra and the Leonard Family. God's Holy Spirit and His Grace is sufficient and will sustain you. I'm a witness!

PATT JACKSON - February 11, 2021 at 05:35 PM