

Celebration of *Life* Honoring

*Deacon*  
**WILLIE JAMES**  
June 22, 1951 April 12, 2020  
*Parbrough*

*Friday,*

APRIL 24, 2020 | 12 *noon*

The Grounds of Old Friendship Missionary Baptist Church  
407 Cotton Avenue and Wheeler Street | Americus, GA 31709

Eulogist | Bishop Melvin McCluster  
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

*Grieve not for me.  
My mind is at ease.  
My soul is at rest.  
Remember the best times.  
Continue my heritage.  
Continue traditions.  
Go on with your life.  
Remembering,  
how I truly was blessed.*



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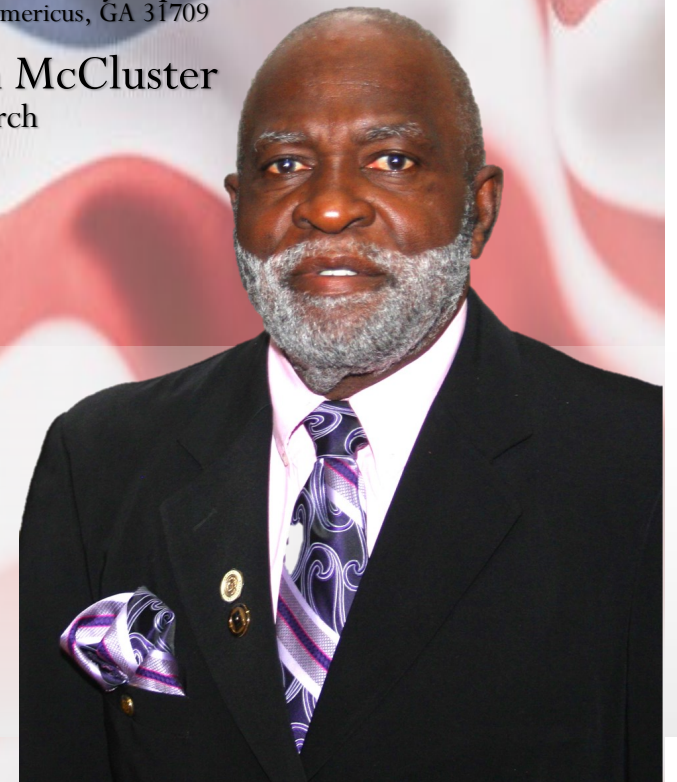
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OBITUARY

~ Deacon Willie James Yarbrough ~

DEACON WILLIE JAMES YARBROUGH was born in Shellman, Randolph County, Georgia on June 22, 1951, to the parentage of the late Ms. Pearlie Mae Yarbrough and the late Mr. Aurelius Mays, Sr. He was a 1969 graduate of Carver High School in Dawson, Georgia. He received a full scholarship to Valdosta State College, where he attended for two years and later transferred to South Georgia Technical College, where he graduated in 1972 with a diploma in Cabinetry. In 1975, he became the first African American Cabinetry Instructor. Through South Georgia Technical College, he was the Carpentry Instructor for the Youth Detention Center in Americus, Georgia.

At an early age, he joined the Rose Hill Baptist Church. After moving to Americus, Georgia, he joined Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where he served for 42 years. He was an ordained Deacon, choir member and was head of the Church Finance Committee. He served in the United States Army Reserve and was platoon leader in the Charlie Company of the Army National Guard and retired in 1975. He was an active member of the C. B. Dowdell American Legion Post #558 and was past Commander. He was presently serving as the 3rd District Finance Officer for the American Legion Post #558.

On June 10, 1972, he was joined in Holy Matrimony to the former Rethel Conic.

On April 12, 2020, he quietly entered into eternal rest. He is preceded in death by two siblings, Mary Yarbrough and Eli Yarbrough; his god daughter, Patricia Ann Dice Slappey and a cousin, Joseph Yarbrough.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his loving wife of 47 years, Mrs. Rethel Yarbrough, Americus, GA; three loving daughters: Mrs. Yakima Y. Clark, Norfolk, VA; Ms. Jay'ne Yarbrough and fiancé, Edward Burney, Americus, GA and Ms. Marshea Y. Williams, Macon, GA; his grandchildren: Quinterrious Allen, Jamyhia Terry, Justin Yarbrough, Juhstiz Yarbrough, Brandon Yarbrough, Jayden Terry, Kayla Yarbrough and Zion Pearl Wright; four brothers: Mr. Elijah Yarbrough, Dawson, GA; Mr. William Yarbrough, Albany, GA; Mr. Aurelius Mays, Jr., Colorado Springs, CO and Mr. Johnny B. Mays, Cuthbert, GA; three sisters: Ms. Thelma Y. Grant, Dawson, GA; Ms. Joan Gilbert, Newark, NJ and Ms. Carolyn Mays, Wilmington, NC; his brothers and sisters-in-law: Mr. Norris (Veola) Conic, Mr. Robert Conic, Mr. Glover "Baylock" Conic, Ms. Joyce Conic, Ms. Bernice Conic, Ms. Brenda C. Washington, Ms. Stephanie Hall, Ms. Bertha Floyd; Mrs. Cornelia (Henry) Moore, Mr. Harry James, and Mrs. Shirley (Mack) Polk; his god mother, Ms. Mary Minion, Plains, GA; a god daughter, Ms. Cassandra Jordan; "Papa's Children": Delisa Slappey, Derrick Slappey, Jr., Ashley Dukes, Kinsley Hill Slappey, Aubrey Wright and Jessica Jordan; devoted cousins, Ms. Fannie Mae Yarbrough and Mr. Arthur "Preacher" Yarbrough; a devoted friend who was more like a brother, Mr. Willie James Young; many other relatives and friends, including: Elder George (Geraldine) Solomon, Mr. Cullie Tullis, Jr., Ms. Debra Dice, Ms. Betty Harris, Ms. Doris Tyson, Ms. Nadine Pope, Ms. Linda Harris James, Ms. Joyce Johnson, Mr. J.C. Bryant, his C. B. Dowdell American Legion Post #558 & Auxiliaries members and Bishop Melvin McCluster and his Friendship Missionary Baptist Church family also survive.

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ORDER OF SERVICE  
~ Deacon Willie James Harbrough ~

Processional led by Bishop McCluster

*Last Glance | Final Sealing*

Selection Deacon Edward Jackson

Prayer Bishop Melvin McCluster

Scripture Minister Johnnie Pool

Selection Brother Leonard Tyson

Words of Comfort Bishop Melvin McCluster  
Pastor | Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Acknowledgements and  
Presentation of the  
Heirloom Family Bible Barnum Staff

**MILITARY RECOGNITION**



**Taps and Flag Presentation | Veteran Willie James Young**

Committal Prayer Bishop McCluster

Benediction Bishop McCluster

*Recessional*

Please turn all cell phones and electronic devices off or to silent mode during the services. Thank you.

Sunrise ~ June 22, 1951

Deacon Willie James Harbrough

Sunset ~ April 12, 2020

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# HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE

My Father's way may twist and turn.  
My heart may throb and ache,  
but in my soul, I am glad to know,  
HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE.

My cherished plans may go astray.  
My hopes may fade away,  
but still I trust my Lord to lead,  
for He doth know the way.  
Though night be dark and it may seem  
that the day will never break,  
but I'll pin my faith, my all on Him...  
HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE.

There's so much now I cannot see.  
My eyesight is far too dim,  
but come what may, I'll simply trust  
and leave it all to Him,  
for by and by the mist  
lifts and plain it all,  
He'll make through all the way.  
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**INTERMENT**  
**Andersonville National Cemetery**  
496 Cemetery Road, Andersonville, GA 31711

**HONORARY PALLBEARERS**  
Friends of the Family  
**HONORARY FLOWER ATTENDANTS**  
Friends of the Family



## Acknowledgments

*Jesus promised us they who mourned would be comforted.  
This promise has been fulfilled by you, our kind and loving,  
"friends and neighbors". Thank you each for coming  
to help us bear our grief. Your calls, visits, prayers,  
and kindness in acts and deeds during the passing  
of our loved one shall never be forgotten.*

~ THE FAMILY



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:  
**Barnum Funeral Home, Inc.**  
217 Ashby Street | Americus, Georgia 31709  
Telephone: (229) 924-2958 | www.barnumfuneralhome.com  
Email: barnumfuneralhome@gmail.com  
**Escort Courtesy:** Americus Police Department | Sumter County Sheriff's Office



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