

Longtime Funeral Operator Dies

A funeral for Cleodis Don Vann, a member of a longtime Portland family of funeral operators, will be held on Thursday, April 15 at 10 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Public viewing will be held at the church from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. prior to the service.

Vann was born in Saint Louis, Mo. on March 12, 1942 to Don and

Nellie Vann. He lived in Pontiac, Mich. with his Aunt Nola for a few years after the death of his mother. He and his father moved to Lansing, Mich. when Cleodis was 5 years old. His dad's family helped to care for him while his father was recuperating from a long illness.

Cleodis met his future step-mother, Roberta, when he was 8



Cleodis Vann

years old. He introduced her to his father and they later married. The family moved to Portland in 1954; where they opened up Vann's Mortuary. Cleodis was 12 years old when the family moved out west. He would spend his summers in Arkansas on his grandfather's farm helping with the animals and spending time with all of his cousins.

Cleodis attended Highland Elementary School in Portland. He

graduated from Jefferson High School in 1960 and attended Pacific University and later Mt. Hood Community College where he received his degree in funeral service and taught anatomy and physiology to nursing students.

He played professional football with the Portland Thunderbirds in 1966 in Canada.

Cleodis served the community with his parents as co-owner and mortician of Vann and Vann Mortuary for nearly 40 years. He also worked with his uncle in Michigan in the early 1980s at Caruthers Funeral Home before returning to Portland to help his parents manage their funeral home.

After closing the funeral home, Cleodis worked for the Portland Public School District as a bus driver for a number of years until he retired in 2009.

Life was precious to Cleodis and he enjoyed fishing, cards, dominoes, Shakespearean plays and watching cowboy movies; especially movies with the actor Clint Eastwood. Some

of his greatest moments were out on the boat with his buddies fishing and enjoying nature. He absolutely loved being out on the water. Other memorable times were at the Coast where he was able to just relax and catch up on his rest.

Cleodis and Diana Martin married on June 20, 1990 and blended two families. They worked side by side in the family business for many years serving the community.

Cleodis is survived by his wife, Diana; his son Don, his daughter Tanisha, and his son Chris; four step children, Angela, Ray, Rachael and Mario; 14 grandchildren and a host of first cousins and relatives. His sister Doris Jean, mother Nellie, and father Don all preceded him in death.

Please visit Cleodis' online guestbook at terryfamilyfuneralhome.com to send condolences or share a story of remembrance with the family. Arrangements entrusted to Terry Family Funeral Home.

EMMANUEL
Church of God in
Christ United
4800 NE 30th Ave. Port-
land OR 97211
503-335-8772

You are cordially invited to worship with us in these services:

Sunday Service

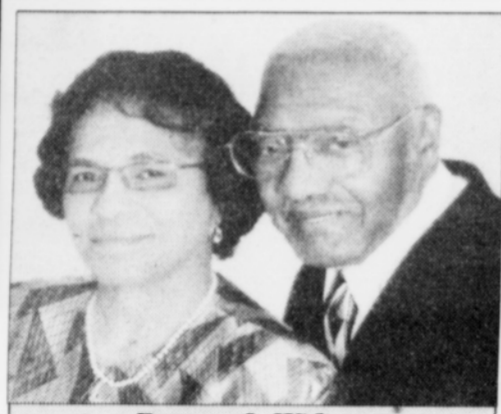
Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Y.P.C.E. 6:30 P.M.

Weekday Service

Tuesday Night: Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Friday Night: Regular Service 7:30 P.M.

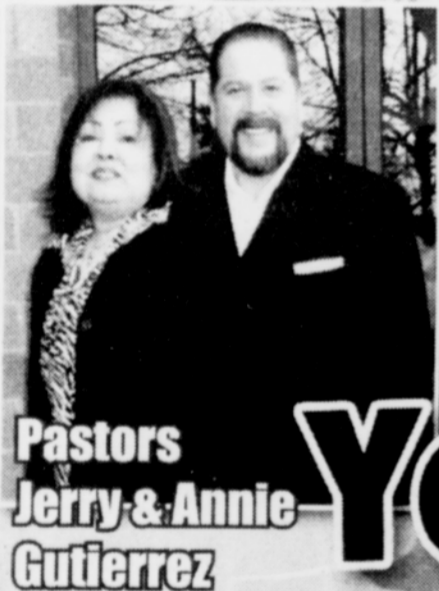
Prayer Meeting & Seminar: Monday - Friday 12:00



Pastor & Wife -
Bishop & Mrs. A.L. Wright

Worship Service 12:00 Noon
Evangelistic Service 7:00 P.M.

MY FATHER'S
HOUSE
MINISTRIES



Pastors
Jerry & Annie
Gutierrez

It's Time
to Awaken
Your Miracle!

Join us for an anointed Miracle Service! Come and receive your Miracle and your breakthrough!

Friday, April 30th at 7pm

New Song Community Center
2511 NE MLK Blvd.

Corner of NE MLK Blvd and Russell Street

Infant and Toddler care will be provided. Doors open at 6pm for every service

For directions or more information, call 503-488-5481
or log on to www.mfhmportland.com

Church Leader Remembered

Willa Ida Williams

Funeral services for Willa Ida Williams, a long time Portland religious leader and civil rights advocate who died April 6, 2010, were held Monday at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church. She was 90.

She was born Feb. 4, 1920, in Winnsboro, La., the fourth child and only girl to the late Deacon W.M. Jackson and Mother Eliza Doyle Jackson. She was educated in the public schools of Winnsboro and continued her education at Grambling University where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in education. She taught elementary school in Louisiana and soon after met her future husband, the Rev. Dr. Oliver Booker (O.B.) Williams, the founder of the historic Vancouver Avenue Church. They were married in 1944.

Dr. and Mrs. Williams joined the prayerband of people who were praising and worshipping God in Burton Homes in Vancouver under the leadership of Pastor James Brown in 1944. A year later, they moved to Portland to become the Pastor and First Lady of Vancouver Avenue.

She was affectionately referred to as "Madam" by Dr. Williams and was an integral part of the church, serving a variety of capacities over the years such as supervising the Beginners Department of the Sunday School, and directing the Senior Choir, Youth Ensemble Choir; Junior Women's Mission Department and Music Department.

She taught religious education at the Highland Baptist Church for more than 30 years, received her Teaching Certification for Elementary and Jr. High School in 1953, and served as a

community counselor at King School.

She was a vice president and fitness leader for Church Women United of Oregon and was a fitness consultant in a variety of other capacities. She also served at her church's State Convention and was president of the State Mission II Department. In the National Convention, she served as Supervisor and Consultant for the National Junior Women's Auxiliary, President of the National Minister's Wives Auxiliary, and attended the International Women's Conference for six consecutive years.

Mrs. Williams was also instrumental in supporting the following church activities: Children's sponsorship in foreign countries; Mother's Day Tea; and established Mission Encounter Day.

She was recognized for her tireless service and determination to serve God, her church, her family, her community, and the world well. She was also known for providing excellent care for her mother, Mrs. Eliza Jackson until her death.

Mrs. Williams was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. O.B. Williams who passed away in 1993. She leaves to mourn her loss several relatives, including Bessie Green of Portland, her niece who was also a tremendous caregiver; Alexis Jackson of Atlanta; Melvin (Hattie) Jackson of Baltimore, Md.; Felton (Leotria) Jackson and Elsie (Johnnie) Sims of Winnsboro; Alicia (Don) Buford, Eddie (Janice) Jackson, Lynn Jackson, Sheila Jackson, and Sylvia Jackson of Los Angeles, Calif; a host of great-nieces and nephews; and a number of very loving close friends too numerous to name.