



Willie Tucker Jr.

April 8, 1941 - March 14, 2023

Sunrise for Mr. Willie Tucker, Jr. occurred on Tuesday April 8, 1941, in Union, South Carolina. He is the fourth of nine children born to the union of Bertha Mae and Willie Tucker, Sr.

As was commonly the case for African Americans seeking a better quality of life, Willie Sr. moved the family from Union to Weirton, West Virginia for employment in the Weirton Steel Mill.

During the time that Willie Jr. attended elementary and junior high school, Weirton Schools were segregated. Consequently, he attended the all-black Dunbar Elementary and Junior High until the end of eighth grade. Just as he was entering senior high school, segregation was reversed so Willie attended Weir High School. There he played basketball and ran track. He graduated in 1959.

His athleticism netted him a basketball scholarship to attend Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. On December 2, 1962, Willie became a Charter Member of Epsilon Delta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Majoring in art and physical education, and minoring in English, Willie was awarded his Bachelor of Education Degree from Marshall in June 1964. Later that summer, on July 4, 1964, he wed his college sweetheart, Miss Barbara Ann Diggs.

Upon graduation, Mr. Tucker gained employment for one year as an art teacher at Oak Glen High School, in New Cumberland, West Virginia.

Seeking greater employment opportunities, the Tuckers decide to relocate. They chose Toledo because several college friends and acquaintances had settled here.

Willie's initial employment was teaching art at Spencer Sharples High School. He also served as coach of the boys' basketball team. In 1968, the Spencer Sharples School System was dissolved by the State of Ohio. As a result, Mr. Tucker sought and obtained employment with the Toledo Public Schools. His first assignment was teaching English

at Glenwood Elementary.

Eventually, Mr. Tucker was reassigned to Jesup W. Scott High School. At Scott, he first taught art. For a time, he left TPS and worked instead for the Chrysler Learning Program Inc. When that program ended, Mr. Tucker returned to Scott as a Special Education Teacher.

After earning his Master's Degree in Education Administration and Supervision from the University of Toledo, he was appointed to the position of Dean of Men at Scott High School.

Commonly known simply as "Tucker", Willie was recognized throughout Metropolitan Toledo as an accomplished artist. However, his expertise was not limited to the classroom or the canvas. He was a stellar, in high demand, prolific, interior and exterior house painter. Teamed primarily with painting partners James Mulligan and Jonathan White, Mr. Tucker often led painting expeditions, especially during summers, to destinations in Georgia, Arkansas, Michigan, and Indiana.

Willie accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. In 2012, he was recognized for 50 years of membership in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

In retirement, Mr. Tucker continued to paint until failing health prevented him from continuing to do so.

He was predeceased by his parents Bertha Mae and Willie, Sr, brother Jesse and his wife Frankie Mae, brother William and his wife Rose Ann and sister Gladys Mae Young.

Willie is survived by his devoted wife of 58 years, Barbara Ann Diggs Tucker, sons Allen Daniel (Bonnie "BJ"), Eric Jamal (Michelle), grandsons Eric Jefferson and Grant Harrison, brothers Sylvester (Elmira), and Robert, sisters Carrie (Leon) Good, Betty Rollins, Rebecca (Donald) Turner, brother-in-law Leroy Daniel (Jane) Diggs and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, colleagues, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Historic Woodlawn Cemetery

1502 West Central Avenue
Toledo, OH

Previous Events

Wake Service

MAR 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Paul Baptist Church
1502 N Detroit Ave
Toledo, OH 43607
(419) 246-2886

Funeral Service

MAR 27. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St Paul Baptist Church
1502 N Detroit Ave
Toledo, OH 43607
(419) 246-2886

Tribute Wall



“ I am so very saddened to learn of Willie’s passing. I knew him as a child during his time at Marshall. He was a talented athlete and a creative artist. He did his student teaching at Marshall Elementary Lab School, in Art, of course, and he was patient and easy to relate to. I wish to add that my father, Professor Eric Thorn, was a dreaded, demanding English teacher who was often avoided by athletes because they feared he might affect their grade average and eligibility, but Willie was up for it and was one of my father’s best liked students. I’m sure his was a life well lived. I miss knowing you are among us. In loving memory, Yolanda



Yolanda Smith - June 09 at 09:03 AM

UR

“ unkle rucus lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker



unkle rucus - May 08, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willie Tucker Jr..



March 27, 2023 at 09:52 AM

KT

“ Karen Tucker lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker



Karen Tucker - March 27, 2023 at 08:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willie Tucker Jr..*



March 25, 2023 at 11:43 AM

CW

“ *Celeste Wellington lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker*



Celeste Wellington - March 24, 2023 at 08:07 PM

LD

“ *Leroy, Jane, Brian, Daniel Diggs purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Willie Tucker Jr..*



Leroy, Jane, Brian, Daniel Diggs - March 24, 2023 at 03:24 PM



“ *Uncle Bruh!! My Dad spoke highly of you. Big brother and made him smile. I enjoy the memory of seeing you all talking at a reunion in S. Carolina some years ago, so much love!! You will be missed. Until we meet again. Family is forever. Love Nita*



Vanita Tucker - March 23, 2023 at 11:09 PM

RT

“ *1 file added to the album Tucker 9*



Rebecca Turner - March 23, 2023 at 08:35 PM

RT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rebecca Turner - March 23, 2023 at 08:30 PM

NC

“ I meant Mr Tucker when I began going to Spencer Sharples when I was 14 years old. The Best Art Teacher I've ever meant!! He was such a very polite young man. We had a blast in his room laughing and clowning. Just really enjoyed his class. May he rest in peace!! Prayers for the families!! 🙏🙏🙏🥹🥹❤️

Nancy Carmony - March 23, 2023 at 03:43 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willie Tucker Jr..



March 22, 2023 at 10:26 PM



“ Corliss Brown lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker



Corliss Brown - March 22, 2023 at 04:55 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Willie Tucker Jr..



March 21, 2023 at 11:06 PM

LC

“ *In Memory of our Uncle Willie Tucker. Sending prayers to Aunt Barbara, Allen, Eric, and family*



Latisha Cummings - March 19, 2023 at 10:53 PM

BW

“ *Beverly West lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker*



Beverly West - March 19, 2023 at 07:57 PM

BK

“ *Willie (Saymo) was the first African American athlete from Weir High, Weirton, West virginia to earn a scholarship to Marshall University - Basketball and Track! He was one of the Great athletes from Weir Avenue. While practicing basketball Willie would say, "Go Pro" which meant - no fouls could be called! A great friend and great artist! He will be missed! Bob Kelley*

Bob Kelley - March 18, 2023 at 06:50 PM

S(

“ *Sylvia Shuler (niece) lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker*



Sylvia Tucker Shuler (niece) - March 18, 2023 at 05:32 PM

BG

“ *Salut
THE Mister Willie Tucker.
Respect.*

Brian Griffin - March 18, 2023 at 06:42 AM

SD

“ *Best person I meet at Scott. RIP* ”



Spearman Derden - March 17, 2023 at 09:02 PM

MS

“ *Marla Stoutamire lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker* ”



Marla Stoutamire - March 17, 2023 at 02:48 PM

RT

“ *Rebecca Turner lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker* ”



Rebecca Turner - March 17, 2023 at 10:34 AM

BR

“ *Betty Rollen lit a candle in memory of Willie Tucker* ”



Betty L. Rollen - March 16, 2023 at 06:14 PM

GJ

“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord
Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family* ”

Gwendolyn E.March Jones - March 16, 2023 at 06:14 PM

BR

“ *My brother could really make the best ribs. We had them when he and friend
came down and painted my house. That was a good day and time.💕💕* ”

Betty L. Rollen - March 16, 2023 at 06:13 PM

KT

Sending love and prayers to Aunt Barbara, Allen and Eric. Rest easy Uncle!

Karen Tucker - March 27, 2023 at 08:39 AM