

Home-Going Celebration



CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF
THE LATE WILBERT "Wil" OWENS, JR.

Miss Me, But Let Me Go!

God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not to be,
So He put his arms around me, and "whispered come with me"
I could not stay another day, to love and laugh and play.
Task left undone, and must stay that way.
I found that peace at the close of the day.

My life has been full and I savored much,
Good friends, good times, my love one's touched.
For this is a journey that we all must take and each must go alone.
It is all part of the master's plan, a step on the road home.

So now that I have come to the end of this road and the sun has set for me,
I want no rights in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me-a little but not too long, and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love we shared, miss me, but let me go.

When your work is completed the Lord will gently call you home,
Oh the rapture of that meeting, oh the joy to see you come home!
Miss me, but let me go!



Obituary *(revised)*

Wilbert "WIL" Owens Jr.

March 9, 1933 - February 6, 2008

Wilbert Owens Jr. was born on March 9, 1933 in Denison Texas, the second child of three children (Mary Rose and Fred Owens) born to the late Wilbert Sr. and Lilly Maude Owens. Wil was called "Baby Brother," a name he affectionately earned when his older sister, Mary ran around town announcing his birth. He attended Langston Elementary School (a school with only two classrooms) and graduated from Terrell High School in 1951. Wil earned a football scholarship to Tillotson College in Austin, Texas but later transferred to Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida where he was captain of his football team and president of his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha.

In 1953, while still attending Bethune-Cookman College, Wil met and married Evelyn, his college sweetheart, and from this union four children were born (Wilbert III, Regina, Alex, and Karl.)

On October 13, 1955, Wil was drafted into the United States Army where he completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant September 1956. He subsequently graduated Airborne School and Jumpmaster School located at Fort Benning, Georgia. In December 1956, Wil was stationed in Germany for 3 years - he joined the 10th Infantry Division and the 11th Airborne Division. Thereafter, Wil was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. He served as Platoon Leader, Executive Officer of the Rifle company and Detachment Commander of a military police unit which included being a liaison to the Munich Germany Police Department. He also became a member of the Rifle Team that competed in both Division and Nato matches. Late 1962, and prior to being stationed in Vietnam for one year, Wil was ordered to attend Army Language School to study the Vietnamese language (only one of several languages Wil was versed in.) His mission was to build a training center where he collaboratively trained and equipped over 2,000 men in the Self Defense Corps. Wil's progressive military career afforded him the opportunity to accompany regular Army and National Guard forces on various combat missions not surprisingly earning a medal of Commendation. Wil was honorably discharged at the rank of Captain.

In 1963, Wil was hired by the Los Angeles County Marshall's Office and his law enforcement experiences inspired him to become an attorney. He attended law school evenings and through perseverance and diligence, he realized his dream of becoming a Deputy District Attorney. After many years, Wil was deservedly promoted to Deputy District Attorney-in-Charge before retiring from a successful career in 1995.

Wil was a tall (six foot four inches), benevolent man known for his genuine compassion, integrity, and fairness for all people regardless of their social status. One of his many gifts was writing poetry. His writing skills were unsurpassed demonstrated in his poems that brought joy and smiles to so many. Oh yes...let us not forget his very, very green thumb. Another of Wil's favorite hobbies was sharing memorable stories about his family which he adored very, very much.

Although from a humble beginning, Wil led a very blessed life and has an extraordinary legacy. He leaves to cherish his memories, his loving and beloved wife, Evelyn of 54 beautiful years; three sons: Wilbert Owens III, Alex Owens(Kateri), and Karl Owens; one daughter Regina Dillard (Bernard); six grandchildren: Kristina Owens, Wilbert Owens IV, Bernard Dillard II, Kayla Dillard, Pilar Spight-Carroll, Myles Jrue Owens; one sister, Mary Rose Owens; one brother, Fred Owens Sr. (Minnie); nephew, Fred Owens Jr; and niece, Terri Owens; six brother-in-laws; six sister-in-laws, and a host of other nephews, nieces, cousins, colleagues, and friends.

THE ORDER OF CELEBRATION

Reverend Thomas M. Shadowen, Jr.

Zion Hill Baptist Church

~Presiding~

Music of Meditation

Processional (Clergy, Family, Pallbearers)

Prayer of Invocation Pastor Evans L. Smith
Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
Daytona Beach, Florida

Scripture Pastor Dwayne Pearson
Christ the Corner Stone Community Church
Chino, California

Old Testament	Psalms 23
New Testament	John 14:1-6

Song of Praise George C. Bryan
Orangeburg, South Carolina

Statement of Tributes (3 minutes)

As a Colleague	Stanley Williams, DDA District Attorney's Office
As a Friend	Michael Magesin, Esquire
As A Friend	Y. O'Hara Johnson Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Obituary (read silently)

"Dance With My Father" Wilbert Owens, III
Guy Napier, Soloist

Resolution and Acknowledgment LaVerne Boykin

Song of Praise

Eulogy Pastor Evans L. Smith

Benediction Pastor Evans L. Smith

Recessional

Conclusion of Service: Murmuring Trees-Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Robert Bryan, Jr.
Thomas Bryan, III
Bernard Dillard, Sr.

Jimmie Lee Donner
Frederick Nelson
John Paillet, II

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Wilbert Owens, III
Alex Owens
Karl Owens

Anthony Ellis
Alfred Jenkins
Norm Shapiro

INTERMENT

Reverend Thomas M. Shadowen, Jr.
"The Last Rites"
Murmuring Trees at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills
6300 Forest Lawn Drive
Los Angeles, California

APPRECIATIONS

The Owens family wishes to thank you for your support and prayers during his illness. Some have asked for ways they can help during this difficult time. Wilbert was most recently President of A to Z Family Services, Inc. - a non-profit foster family agency. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to be made in memory to either A to Z Family Services, Inc. c/o Evelyn B. Owens - 6011 Sherbourne Drive, Los Angeles, California 90056 or the American Cancer Society Tower Center Research-9229 Wilshire Boulevard - Beverly Hills, California 90210.

The Owens Family

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Family appreciates your visits, card, flowers, food, telephone calls and words of encouragement shown during our time of bereavement; your kindness have been of comfort and strength to us.

*Final Arrangements entrusted to:
Forest Lawn - Hollywood Hills
6300 Forest Lawn Drive
Los Angeles, California 90068
1-800-204-3131*