



## Mr. Tommy Burress Sr.

May 24, 1943 - July 1, 2017

Tommy Burress Sr., the son of the late Willie B. and Josephine Burress was born on May 24, 1943 in Dyersburg, Tennessee. He was the youngest boy of six siblings. He was called home to be with the Lord on July 1, 2017. His educational background included Bruce High School. He graduated in 1962. In high school, he played the trumpet in the band. He also attended Tennessee State University. Tommy accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at an early age at Fairview Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He was faithful member until relocating to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He joined Garden Homes Lutheran Church in 1976. He was an Elder, member of the Glory Choir and President of the Congregation. Tommy was employed at AO Smith Corporation for 30 plus years with a vast experience in the automotive industry. Twenty-six years of service as a full time union official at Smith Steel Workers D.A.L.U. 19806 Union. He served in the capacity of Grievance Committee, Grievance Committee Chairman, President/ Chair of the Negotiating Committee to name a few. Tommy worked as a Regional Coordinator of the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, Midwest Region. His region included 18 states which coincided with the Midwest Region of the AFL-CIO Field Mobilization. He was responsible for assisting labor organizations access to the public workforce and economic development systems. He accomplished this by providing technical assistance and sharing current information relative to the public systems. Prior to accepting the position with the Institute, he served 4 years as a Labor/Management

Specialist with the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership working with small to medium sized manufacturing firms helping them to improve their efficiency. Tommy was united in holy matrimony to JoeAnn Battles in 1964. JoeAnn preceded him in death in January 1996. He later found love again with Marilyn Sims. They united in holy matrimony October 2000. The blended family of three children was added to this union. He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie B. and Josephine Burress; two brothers, Willie B. Jr; Bobby Joe; and a sister, Martha Ann Lee. He leaves to cherish his memory; his wife, Marilyn; sons, Tommy Jr. and Marlon; daughter, Patrice; all of Milwaukee, WI: one brother, Robert (Dorothy) Burress of Milwaukee, WI; sister, Peggy (Bobby) Parham of Atlanta, GA; brother-in-law, John (Arnita) Battles; eight grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and extended friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Wisconsin Memorial Park

13235 W. Capitol Dr.  
Brookfield, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Garden Home Lutheran Church  
2450 W. Roosevelt Drive  
Milwaukee, WI

## Service

JUL 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Garden Home Lutheran Church  
2450 W. Roosevelt Drive  
Milwaukee, WI

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ TO THE FAMILY OF TOMMY BURRESS:

*I WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. I HAVE BEEN KNOWING MR. B SO LONG. AND THEN HE MARRIED MY BEST FRIEND. I JUST KNOW HE WAS ALWAYS THERE WHEN WE NEEDED HIM. NEVER SAID NO. MY PRAYERS GO OUT TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED..*

*RHONDEL KNOX SWIMS AND FAMILY  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA*

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**RHONDA KNOX SWIMS** - July 08, 2017 at 08:52 AM

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“ *I met Tolmmy when we started working for the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, bringing manufacturing extension to companies with union represented workforces. It didn't take long to appreciate the quality of the gentleman I was fortunate to work with. Tommy knew that the only credential any of us really had was our good name, and his work with leaders around Wisconsin was conducted with honor, honesty and wisdom.*

*I worked with Tommy for a number of years. We frequently tag teamed our assignments. It was often successful because even though we appeared different the message was the same. Being associated with Tommy increased our programs credibility.*

*I have been thinking about Tommy lately and in fact started trying to find him to make some contact. Sadly I started to late. Goodbye Tommy. You improved my life as well as the lives of many others.*

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**Keith Lodahl** - July 06, 2017 at 08:19 AM