



Rev. Wilbur Baker Sr.

March 18, 1924 - August 28, 2022

Wilbur Baker Sr. was born March 18, 1924 in Henderson, Kentucky to the union of the late Theodore Roosevelt Baker Louise Chaney and was the oldest of seven children born. He obtained his formative education in Cardone, Kentucky at the school, and continued matriculation into Douglas High School in Henderson, KY. In 1944, the family relocated to professed Christ at an early age at Walnut Hill Baptist Church in Henderson, KY and later to Memorial Baptist Church in where he sang in the choir along with his mother Verna and sister Ethel Mae. In 1944, he wedded Rosella Cage to which one

Jean Baker was born. In 1944, shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Military as a Private in the Army and discharged in 1945.

During his young years, he was an avid football player with Kentucky's semi pro team, softball player, and obtained his pilot's license he flew single engine crop-duster planes. Wilbur had a reputation for being a great dancer and that creativity would follow him to Milwaukee and be seen later in his children.

In 1948, Wilbur relocated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and joined Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Pastor A. W Wise. He then would continue to serve the incoming pastor, Rev. E.M. Kelly Sr. and became very active singing in the Senior Choir. During the 1950s he married Evelyn Mitchell and raised two stepsons with her, Milton Mitchell and Jimmy Mitchell.

Wilbur had a strong work ethic that carried him throughout his life. He was gainfully employed at A.O. Smith and retired in 1979 after over 30 years of employment. He was also employed by the Yellow Cab Company and Bee Bus Lines and worked as a driver.

On October 26th, 1974, Wilbur was united in holy matrimony to Betty Jean Staton at the altar of the family's WI. To this union, they raised five children together: Angie Lorraine Hammond, Wilbur Baker Jr., Beverly Besha , Aletha Lynette Baker, and CoDonna Louise Baker. During this time, he served on the Metropolitan Baptist Church Deacon Board, Senior Choir, Men's Fellowship Choir, Sunday School teacher, and sang in the Community Consolators. In 1982, he accepted his ministry and was licensed to preach the gospel by Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr., and was later ordained as an Associate Pastor in 1989. He would go on to serve as Assistant Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, New Membership Instructor, Young Adult Teacher, Prayer Meeting leader, food pantry volunteer, and was the Visitation Minister who cared for the sick and shut in.

In addition to serving the church, Rev. Baker also volunteered in his community. He served as a block captain for the 23rd and Capital Neighborhood association, served the National Baptist Convention as an instructor during summer congresses, served as Vice-President and President of the National Baptist Minister's Union, and Instructor at Moody Bible Institute extension.

Wilbur was incredibly devoted to his wife, children & family. He did not miss parent teacher conferences. He volunteered for field trips, was always there to support his children in after school activities, sports, and performing art shows. He would regularly bring children from Vacation Bible School while feeding them and providing fun and during those fun times with the

neighborhood. He truly set the tone for the baker home and his love and passion for people were evident throughout the United states in the lives of the thousands that he touched. As he entered his golden years, he still loved traveling to see family and and friends throughout Indiana, Kentucky, Arkansas, Alabama, and Rev. Baker never met a stranger, and his laugh and smile were infectious to every person and environment he came into contact with.

Even while living in the nursing home, he attended church services and loved singing. His love for God, family, and people was always evident. He was truly salt and light in the earth and carried the gospel with him everywhere he went.

Rev. Baker leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife of 48 years Evangelist Betty Jean Baker, his children Dianna Jean Bivens, Angie Mitchell, Wilbur Baker Jr. (Karen), Beverley Toliver (Gregory), Aletha Thompson, and CoDonna Baker. Sisters Verna Hewlett (Henry Sr.) of Indianapolis, IN; Patricia Fleming (John) of Evansville, IN; and Sandra Frazier (John) of Evansville, IN, 25 nieces and nephews, 27 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Theodore Baker Sr. and Verna Louise Chaney; brothers, Theodore Baker Jr. (Mary), and Walter Baker Sr. (Anita); sister, Ethel Mae Thomas; and stepsons, Milton and Jimmy Mitchell.

Previous Events

Visitation Only

SEP **9**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

North Shore Christian Church
6659 W. Mill Rd
Milwaukee, WI

Visitation

SEP **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Metropolitan Baptist Church
1345 W. Burleigh Street
Milwaukee, WI

Funeral Service

SEP **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Metropolitan Baptist Church
1345 W. Burleigh Street
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *Dr. Justin & Renée Cannon lit a candle in memory of Rev. Wilbur Baker Sr.*



Dr. Justin & Renée Cannon - September 08, 2022 at 06:06 PM

DC

“ *Sweet, kind, ever loving, gentle scholar of God's word, loyal servant, Faithful husband, father, grandfather, mentor to so many! We honor you and your unselfish devotion to our Savior and the BODY of Christ! We never came when you didn't greet us with such love and enthusiasm! You married us almost 35 years ago, prayed that our love and union would last the storms and we are ever indebted for your love and mentorship and teaching us a firm foundation in God's word! To our dear Baker Family, Metropolitan Family we send our love and prayers! He will ever be cherished and remembered! Blessings and Peace dear Family!*
Dr's Justin and Renée Cannon and Family ❤️❤️❤️✚✚✚

Dr. Justin & Renée Cannon - September 08, 2022 at 06:05 PM