



Mr. Willie B. Kohlheim Sr.

September 21, 1937 - May 22, 2013

Willie B. Kohlheim, Sr. was born September 21, 1937 to Lillie Mae McCoy and Hugh Kohlheim in Saltillo, Mississippi. In his youth, he was a jokester who enjoyed playing baseball, riding his beloved horse Mary and driving the town's school bus. He shared a special relationship with his older sister, often teasing her and forbidding her to wear his pants. He received the nickname Boudge from his great uncle. Through the years Boudge evolved into Butch, by which he was affectionately known.

Willie received his formal education in the Lee County School District, attending Kolhom Chapel Grade School and Poplar Junior High School in Saltillo.

In his youth, Willie attended Kolhom Chapel Church with his mother. While he never formally joined a church, as an adult he visited several. Throughout his illness

and even on his deathbed, Willie professed "God Is Good!" He recognized that while in his pain, hurt and despair God was yet faithful and controlled his destiny.

Willie B. Kohlheim was united in holy matrimony with Bessie B. King on June 15, 1964 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A beautifully dedicated and committed couple, Willie and Bessie were the epitome of love and happiness. Theirs was a testament to the staying power of a strong, healthy

relationship

built on love, friendship, respect and trust. In their younger days, they devoted their time and energy to raising their five children. Willie took pride in being able to provide and take care of his family. As they grew older together, Willie and Bessie basked in the glory of enjoying each other's company. You would frequently see them together sitting on the porch en-

joying summer days or watching one of their favorite television programs - from the

Price is Right to Wheel of Fortune to the latest basketball game ... The goal was

simply being together.

As so many African Americans did in that era, Willie migrated from the south in the late 1950s in search of a better life. He first went to Dayton, Ohio and soon

thereafter came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to live with his sister and serve as an

in-house babysitter. He found work as a dish washer at several area restaurants

and after meeting and marrying the love of his life, he began a longstanding career at Jaeger Bakery. Willie was the consummate professional; friendly, courteous and loved by everyone. He worked as a machine operator and retired from

Jaeger in 2002.

A quiet storm, in his leisure time, he enjoyed spending time with his family and watching sports. He had a great appreciation for and especially enjoyed learning

about and working on cars, a love that he developed in his youth and passed

on to
his children. Willie was a self-taught mechanic and welcomed the challenge of
figuring
out any car problem.

Willie B. Kohlheim, Sr. departed this life on May 22, 2013. He was preceded in
death
by his parents, Lillie Mae McCoy-Herring and Hugh Kohlheim; his son Lionel
Kohlheim, Sr.
and his brother-in-law Mitchell Carter.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife of nearly 49 years Bessie
Kohlheim; children Lynn Cook, Sandy (Kenny) Lewis, Willie Kohlheim,
Jr. and Keith Sr. (Ronda) Kohlheim. His three sisters, Udotsy Spears of
Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Margaret Carter of Chicago, Illinois and Vir-

ginia (Will) Moore of Kokomo, Indiana. He will be especially missed by his
14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews,
extended
family members and friends.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Greater Philadelphia C.O.G.I.C.
2947 N. MLK Drive
Milwaukee, WI

Service

MAY 31. 12:00 PM (CT)

Greater Philadelphia C.O.G.I.C.
2947 N. MLK Drive
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

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“ You will truly be missed but always remembered in my heart! May you rest in heavenly peace

Tamika Spears - May 30, 2013 at 11:24 PM

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“ Tamika Spears lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie B. Kohlheim Sr.



Tamika Spears - May 30, 2013 at 11:20 PM