

Celebration Of Life

Sunrise
February 5, 1946

Sunset
June 22, 2025



My Lifetime Goals for God

To live a faithful, fruitful
and full life for Christ.
To share the Gospel of
Jesus Christ with as
many people as possible.
To be a friendly and fun
loving person/pastor.
To do all I can to reach
these goals in Christ
Jesus, and hear him say
to me:

"Pastor Willie J. Freeman"

"Servant, Well Done"

Pastor Emeritus Willie James Freeman

**MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025
10:00 AM**



First Baptist Church
499 Commerce St.
Clarksville, TN 37040
Eulogist Rev. Dr. Silas J. Session Sr.
Pastor, Truth Baptist Church, Radcliff, KY

Celebration of Life

Order of Service

<i>Processional of Family</i>	<i>Pastor Jimmy D. Hubbard</i>
<i>Selection</i> “ <i>Heaven Is My Goal</i> ”	<i>Dea. K. Zimmerman/GMBC Choir</i>
<i>Scripture</i>	<i>(Old Testament) Bro. Isaiah Steele</i> <i>(New Testament) Bro. Isaiah Edwards Jr.</i>
<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Bro. Isaiah Edwards Sr.</i>
<i>Selection</i> “ <i>God Is</i> ”	<i>Sis. Yvonne Sutfin GMBC Choir</i>
<i>Resolutions and Acknowledgements</i>	<i>Sis. Ponzie L. McGuire</i>
<i>Reading of Obituary</i>	<i>(Read Silently).....Soft Music</i>
<i>Liturgical Dance</i>	<i>Bro. Boris Davis Jr.</i>
<i>Words of Comfort</i>	<i>Rev. Dr. L. Chris Johnson</i> <i>Pastor, New Hope MBC, Radcliff, KY</i>
<i>Tributes/Expressions</i>(<i>2 Minutes Please</i>).....	<i>The Honorable Mayor Joe Pitts</i> <i>Dr. Rick Stevens-DCM Cumberland Bapt. Assoc.</i> <i>Pastor Adric Lane, Pres. State Missionary Conv.</i> <i>Pastor Lucius Smith, Moderator CRSKMTBDA</i> <i>Pastor Lawrence Reed, Mt. Nebo, MBC</i> <i>Pastor Derrick Moore, Hopewell MBC, Nashville</i>
<i>Solo</i>	<i>Sis. Wanda Jordan-Barnett</i>
<i>Eulogy</i>	<i>Rev. Dr. Silas J. Session, Sr.</i> <i>Pastor, Truth Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Pastor Jimmy D. Hubbard</i>
<i>Funeral Directors</i>	<i>Foston Funeral Home</i>
<i>Recession of Family</i>	<i>”Going Up Yonder”.....GMBC Praise Team</i>

Willie (Bobo) Life's Journey

On Sunday, June 22, 2025, our beloved Pastor Emeritus Willie J. Freeman left this life and went to be with the Lord peacefully at his home with his loving family by his side.

Life Begins

Pastor Freeman was born on February 5, 1946, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida to the late John and Lillie Mae Freeman. He was united in holy matrimony to Jo Ellen Ammons. They have three daughters Donna, Sonya and Karen.

Life Continues

Pastor Freeman attended Dillard Elementary & High School and received his High School diploma from Big Ben Community College of Chicago. He was drafted into The US Army in 1965 and served honorably for 21 ½ years retiring at the rank of First Sergeant. Pastor Freeman served two tours in Vietnam from 1966-1967 and 1969-1970 and received the Bronze Star. While serving on his second tour in Vietnam, he committed his life to Christ and was baptized.

Called to Serve

In 1972, he was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and was united with Marlboro Height Missionary Baptist Church in Killeen, Texas where he served on the Usher Ministry, Brotherhood ministry, Sunday School ministry, as well as, leading Bible Study and Prayer Meetings.

Called to The Gospel

Pastor Freeman was called to preach the gospel and licensed on August 27, 1972, under the leadership of the late Pastor R. A. Abercrombie at Marlboro Height Missionary Baptist Church, Killeen, Texas.

The Journey Continues

His next duty station move was to Aschaffenburg, Germany. He attended worship service on the military base and downtown at the Southern Baptist Group Church under the leadership of Pastor Truitt. There was not an African American preacher on the base to help the population of African American Soldiers, but he was discovered by Chaplain Devaul, a Southern Baptist preacher also serving in the Army. He was asked if he could organize a Gospel Hour Worship Service. He accepted the calling and the groundwork began. Many souls were saved and added to the Kingdom under his leadership as pastor of the Aschaffenburg Gospel Hour. Pastor Freeman's last PCS move was to the Fort Campbell Army Base in 1971.

(Continued on next page)

The Mission Continues

In 1980, Pastor Freeman and his family united with Mt. Olive Baptist Church under the Leadership of the late Pastor Jimmy Terry, Sr. and he was ordained. He served as interim Pastor of the Little Rock Baptist Church, Erin, Tennessee and Mt. Zion Baptist Church in the Round Pound Community. He also served as Pastor of Haynes Chapel Baptist Church, as a Missionary for the Casey Housing Area Nashville, Tennessee and the Public Housing Area of Clarksville, Tennessee. He also ministered to area Nursing Homes. Pastor Freeman was a faithful supporter of The Gideons and gave his testimony at several of their gatherings in the State of Tennessee. He faithfully taught and preached weekly at the Clarksville Jail, leading several inmates to Christ. He was a lifetime member of the NAACP and served on the Clarksville Montgomery County System School Board.

Continuing On God's Battlefield

After retiring from the Army, Pastor Freeman enrolled at the American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee and was called upon by The Southern Baptist Association to start a New Mission in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. He pastored The Greater Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church for 3 ½ years while continuing his education, which culminated in graduating Summa Cum Laude.

God Get's The Glory

Pastor Freeman founded The Greater Missionary Baptist Church on May 5, 1993, Clarksville, Tn. Under his leadership of love, caring and sharing the gospel, many souls were saved, and the membership grew from 3 members to over 2000.

Cherished Family

He leaves to cherish his memories: his Wife of 57 years, Jo Ellen Freeman, three daughters Donna (Joe) Hardy, Sonya (Silas) Session, Karen (Lon) Callendar; three sisters Mary Alice Freeman, Carolyn Hankerson, and Deloris Kenty; one brother Melvin Freeman; three grandsons Nathan Hardy, Isaiah Edwards, and Silas Session, Jr; granddaughter Kristen (Trey) Lewis, Sr, 3 great-grandchildren Isaiah Edwards, Jr, Kimani Hardy, and Trey Lewis, Jr and a host of Nephews, Nieces, Relatives, and The Greater Missionary Baptist Church Family and friends.

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Forever in my heart



Forever in my heart you will always be
I cherish the memories that you left with me
Forever in my heart will be your smile
And all the ways that you cared and went the extra mile.
Forever in my heart will be your unconditional love
A true gift given to me from the Lord up above.
Forever in my heart you will always be
So I'll say goodbye for now until we meet again in eternity.



We Love You Father



A Letter to Our Father, Broken Chain

*We never knew that morning
That God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone;
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.*

*You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.*

*Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same;
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.
Your loving daughters
Donna & Sonya*





The Wrecking Crew
We Love You
PaPa

Tribute from the family



To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

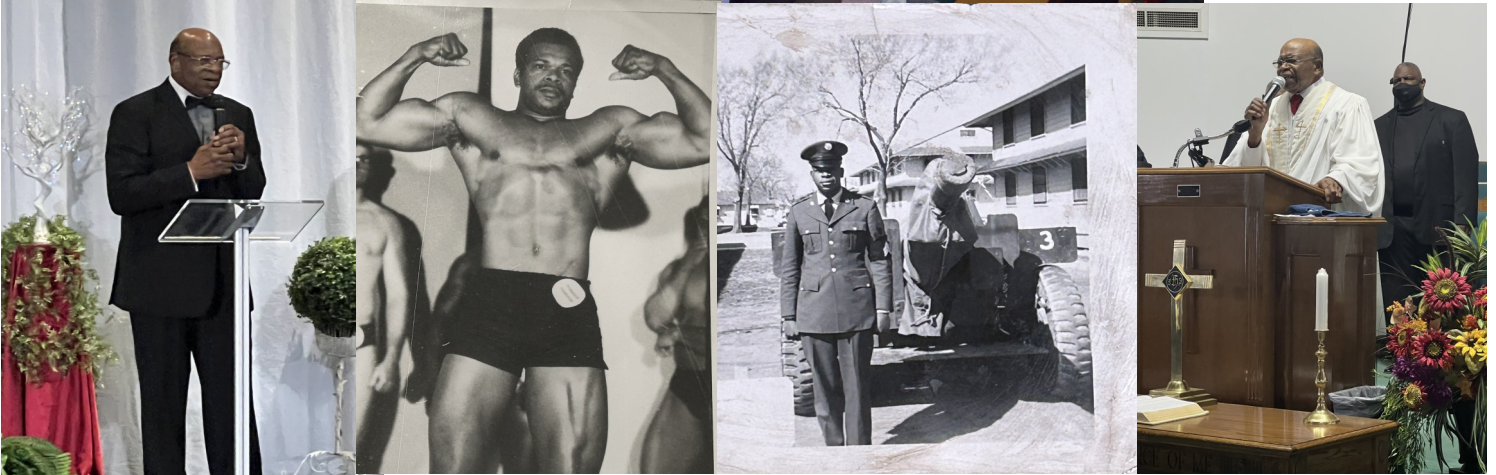
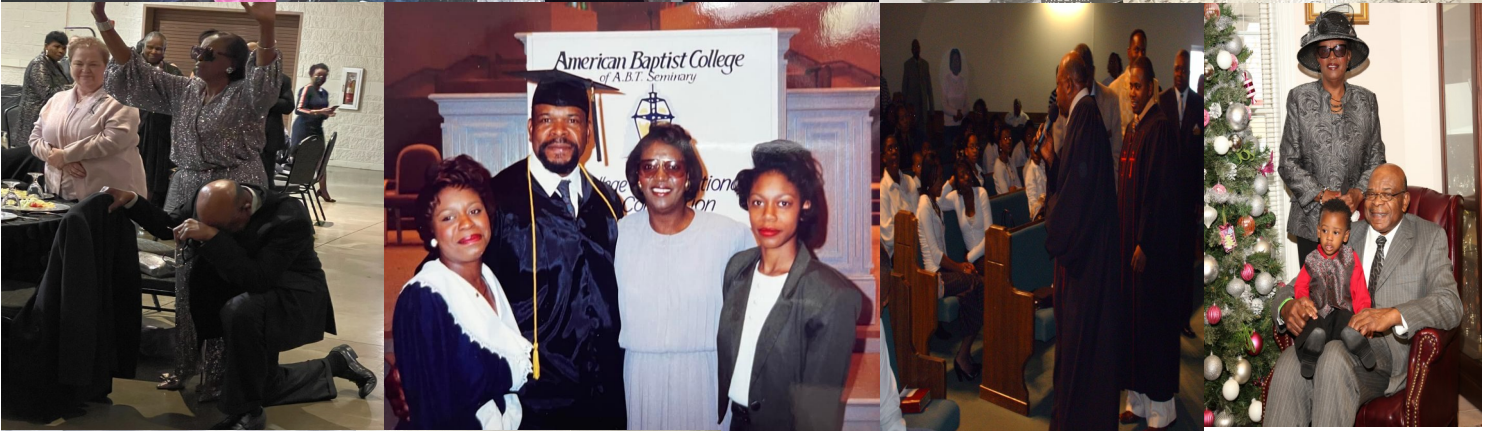
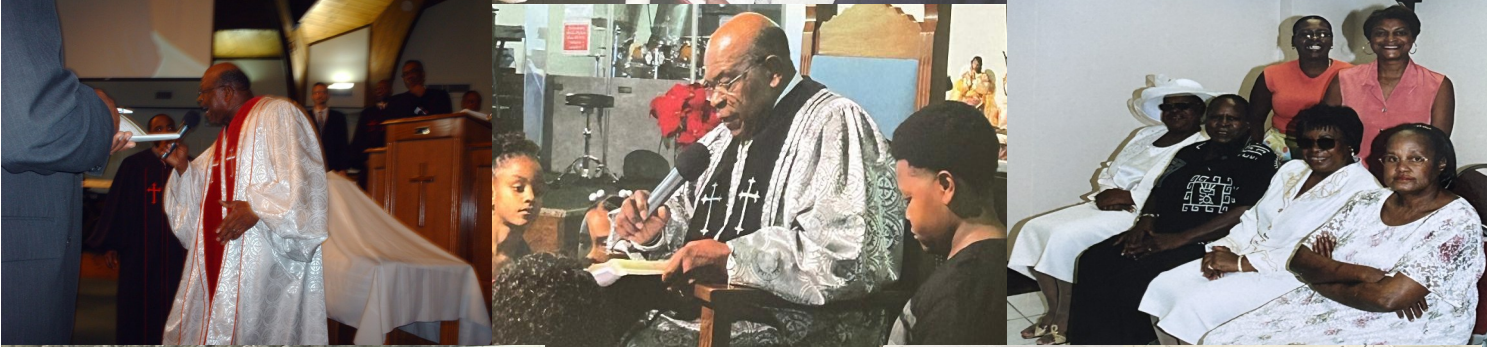
We honor you as many others have for over 50 years of ministry from the parapet in Vietnam with the late Chaplain Ford, to the church in the curb in Clarksville, Tennessee. The US Army trained you to shoot big guns as an artillery Soldier but we are fascinated by your guns and success in weightlifting and body building.

The American Baptist College and Cumberland Baptist Association offered you opportunities to build and strengthen families, ministries, and churches across Tennessee with excellence.

We are so glad that God placed you at the helm of our family and in addition to prayer and encouragement through the Word, we are also thankful of the fond memories of your diligent care of your parents, steadfast attitude when things got tough, walking and riding bikes in the neighborhood, shopping, going to the store and picking out a candy bar Donna's favorite a Mr. Good Bar and Sonya's favorite a Snickers , swimming at the pool and the beach, your support at our school events and many other endeavors, trips to Fort Lauderdale and Brewton, rabbit hunting and crappie fishing, the grandboy's aka Wrecking Crew eating the snacks under Papa's seat in the truck and the many wonderful meals we enjoyed together at 2214, 3801 and 125.

You raised, married, counseled, corrected, comforted, dedicated, and baptized us. We love you very much and are very Honored and Blessed to have had you as our Father and Papa.

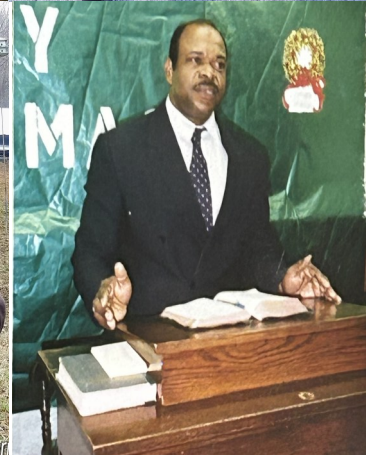
***We take comfort in knowing you are at rest and safe in the arm of Jesus.
The Freeman, Hardy and Session Family***











To Mother, Donna and Sonya:

In Pastor's eyes, We saw God's love.

In Pastor's words, We heard God's wisdom.

In Pastor's life, We felt God's Amazing Grace.

May the Lord bless you with peaceful moments to reflect on the blessing Pastor Freeman's was to all, and remember how special he was to you and all of the people in his life.

We are truly thankful for having such a wonderful family.

We Love You,

Wanda Jordan-Barnett and Deacon Michael Barnett

Remembering Our Beloved

Pastor Willie J Freeman

Sometimes, as we travel through this world, our lives are touched by someone, who makes a profound impact upon us. Someone whose kindness and sense of humanity serves to make our days just that much brighter. Someone who reminds us of Jesus in his goodness and his capacity to reach out to others. A "gentle man"; who takes the time to extend his hand and open his heart to all those in need. Someone, who like the shepherd, tends to his flock young and old, with love and devotion.

Pastor Freeman was more than just a Pastor, he was a beacon of hope, a true man after God's own heart. His life, ministry, and his example of unwavering faith and compassion will continue to live on in our hearts forever.

The bond between the Steele and Freeman families is not just one of Friendship, it is one of kinship, forged through years of love, support and a shared purpose.

Losing Pastor Freeman is an immeasurable loss for us all, but we know that to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. We grieve with you, stand with you, and we honor the remarkable life and legacy of a man who meant so much to so many.

With love and prayers, The Steele Family

Condolences Family:

I met Pastor Freeman in 1999, I immediately felt his inviting spirit and warm personality. It was these traits that drew me closer to him as my mentor and confidant. I TRULY believe our relationship is God's intent. He listened to my mistakes & short-comings without judgements at a time I needed a person beyond my family to do such and for this I'll forever be grateful.

Pastor Freeman was so relatable to my personality, because, as I began to really be spiritually fed, I needed a nudge to go further, Pastor Freeman shoved: "Where will you work at GMBC"

Pastor taught me that everybody has something to offer.

The last time I visited with him, I told him I'm looking for "you" in a Pastor and in his jokester manner-ism he said "Well you can stop looking, God ain't make but one of me" and he is RIGHT

Mother, The Hardy & The Session Families;

Thank you for sharing Pastor with us all I pray we all soon find peace, my peace is this:

God ain't "took" Pastor Freeman from us, God called him home. Pastor's job here on earth is done and where he's at now, even if he could, he wouldn't comeback for NOBODY!!! Rest in Heaven

Peace & Blessings,

What a privilege to call you father.

You served as a great guide to our heavenly father. There are too many legacy worthy lessons in life to share. I loved the many rides on the boat at your favorite spots, and the hunting days. I am going back to the gym father and I am going to build my physical strength but you demonstrated even more how to build my spiritual strength. I will continue to view your Vietnam pictures along and I like the ones with the artillery as we share the experience as combat artillerymen. I do favor the sound of you proclaiming Who is the king of glory over the blast of the king of battle. If I had to pick one other memory than you officiating the union of me and Sonya Boo, it would be the times fishing on the rocks. Whether I knew it or not, you were adamant in teaching me how to walk down the rocks and how to find a rock to fish from or stand on. I will never forget how to stand on the right rock. You didn't only teach me and every one you influenced how to stand on the Rock. You taught us how to teach the "whosoever will" how to stand on the Rock. I love you,

**Silas J. Session Sr.
one of your sons**

Pastor Freeman (our father/ grandfather and great grandfather) was the father we never knew or had and we are certain many of you feel the same way; that's just the type of a gentle giant he was. A man you would be proud to call "Father". The fact that he was a mountain of a man physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually goes without saying.

Father, may your love continue to shine through us and we remember all the lessons you taught us. You definitely showed us what love truly means. You will be greatly missed and we will do like you said and take care of one another. Take your rest as we continue to stay in the fight!! (John 3:16)

Love you always, your children Lon, Karen, Kristen (Tré) and Tré Tré.

GONE TO GLORY'

**A SERVANT OF GOD THAT'S GONE TO GLORY,
OH,WHAT A LIFE, A LEGEND LEAVES A STORY.
THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD IS SILENT TODAY,
HE WILL BE MISSED IN SO MANY WAYS.
BEFORE OUR EYES HE SLOWLY FADED AWAY,
DESPITE BELOVD PRAYERS DAY AFTER DAY.
GOODBYE TO TEARS, PAIN AND STRIFE,
PASTOR FREEMAN ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE.
IN MANY HE SOWED HEAVENLY SEEDS,
WILLING AND GIVING IN EVERY NEED.
THE CROSS HE CARRIED IS NOW NO MORE,
HE RECEIVED THE KEY TO HEAVEN'S DOOR.**

Written BY: Ronald Marsh Smith

June 23, 2025

My Pastor, my friend, my mentor and spiritual father, I thank you for your love and guidance over the years. Your service to others was a bright and shining light that embodied a spirit of meekness and a cheerful heart. My beloved Pastor, you embraced the forgiven presence of God and strove to exhibit those same qualities of compassion through your exemplary life of faith. I thank you and will always cherish our time together.

Pastor Jimmy D. Hubbard

Honorary Pallbearers

GMBC Deacons & Trustees

Pallbearers

Grandsons & Great-grandsons

Flower Bearers

GMBC Ministers, Deacons & Trustees Wives

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Freeman, Session, and Hardy family, we would like to thank everyone for the words of comfort, phone calls and any other acts of kindness shown to us during this most difficult time. The family would also like to thank all of the doctors and medical staff for the care provided. Special Thanks to Foston Funeral Home, Pastor Jimmie Hubbard and The Greater Missionary Baptist Church Family, Pastor Raines and The First Baptist Church and Staff. We pray that God continues to pour out his blessings upon each one of you.

The Freeman, Hardy & Session Families

Interment

*Kentucky Veterans Cemetery
5817 Fort Campbell Blvd
Hopkinsville, Kentucky*

Repast

*First Baptist Church
499 Commerce Street
Clarksville, Tennessee 37042*

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:

**Foston Funeral Home
816 Franklin Street
Clarksville, Tennessee 37040
931.647.5451**

fostonfuneralhome@yahoo.com