



Afterglow

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles  
when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering  
softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun;  
Of happy memories that I leave  
when life is done.*

~Helen Lowrie Marshall

*Acknowledgements*

We are grateful for the outpouring of love received before  
and since the homegoing of our beloved Willie J. Holmes, Jr.

The Family



727 North Patterson Avenue  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101  
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 *Service of  
Love and Remembrance  
for*



MR. WILLIE JOHNSON HOLMES, JR.

*February 12, 1956 ~ June 23, 2023*

Friday, June 30, 2023

1:00 PM

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home Chapel

727 N. Patterson Avenue

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Reverend Chad R. Armstrong, Officiating

## Obituary

Mr. Willie Johnson Holmes, Jr., affectionately known as “Bubba”, was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on February 12, 1956 to the late Mamie Jeanette Purdie Holmes and Willie Johnson Holmes, Sr. He graduated from North Forsyth High School in 1974 and attended school briefly at N.C. A&T State University and Winston-Salem State University.

He had a special passion for landscaping, but he was also excellent at many things and possessed a variety of skills. He did private contract work in carpentry, as well as commercial and private cleaning. In his youth, he was an avid tennis player.

Mr. Holmes passed away on June 23, 2023 after battling lung cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Jeanette Holmes, Sr.; sister, Martesia Tate; uncles: Robert Earl McCullough, Jr., Allen Holmes, Sr. and Paul Pickens; aunt, Deborah Pickens; grandparents: Cuma and Robert Earl McCullough, Sr. and T.S. and Etta Pickens.

He is survived by his wife, Bennie Martin Holmes; children: Kinard Douthit (Demetrice), Sheena Martin, LaShawndra Martin, Isaiah Holmes and Ashley Holmes; grandchildren: Imani and Ishana Burchette, Mackenzie Cuthbertson, Che’ Geriah and Che’ Malone, Jr., Isabel and Imri Holmes, Amirionna and Shane Graham; his brother, Alan Holmes (Mary); niece, Brittany Holmes; great nephew, Brycen Holmes; aunt, Martha Holmes; lifelong best friend, William Art Brown; and a host of relatives and friends.

*A repast will follow the service at the home of Willie’s brother, Alan Holmes, at 5241 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27106.*

## Order of Service

### Musical Prelude

### Processional

Clergy and Family

### Family Visitation

12:30 PM ~ 1:00 PM

### Opening Greeting

Reverend Chad R. Armstrong, Pastor

Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

### Scripture Readings

Reverend Chad R. Armstrong

*Old Testament* 1Thessalonians 4:13

*New Testament* Matthew 11:28-30; John 11:25-26

### Prayer

Reverend Chad R. Armstrong

### Song

“Total Praise”

Cooper & Company

### Remarks

Family and Friends

### Words From the Muslim Faith

Dr. Kinard Douthit

### Song

“It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye To Yesterday”

Cooper & Company

### Committal

Reverend Chad R. Armstrong

### Benediction

### Recessional

“I’ll Fly Away”

Cooper & Company