



## Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson

January 27, 1935 - June 6, 2022

Condolences are being expressed to the family of Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson, age 87, who passed away on Monday, June 6, 2022, at Duke Regional Hospital.

Willie Isiah Patterson was born to the late William and Ida Johnson Patterson on January 27, 1935, in Durham, North Carolina. He departed this life on Monday, June 6, 2022.

Willie grew up in the Crest Street community, best known as “Hickstown”, and was educated in the Durham Public School System, where he excelled academically. At an early age, he joined New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and became a deacon, a position that he served for many years. He graduated from Hillside High School. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Air Force and received many accolades in his military tenure where he served for 21 years. While serving our country, he taught Defense Intelligence at the Pentagon. After retiring from the military, Willie began his college career at North Carolina Central University and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Political Science in 1979.

Willie then began working at Duke University as a business agent for local 77. He later became a supervisor in ground and facilities management. He then matriculated to an operations manager position in Environmental Services

which he held until his retirement. One of his greatest accomplishments was being instrumental in helping fight winning against the department of transportation and saving Hickstown, now known as the new Crest Street community. He also served as President of the Crest Street Community Council for 40 years, and through his hard work he earned the privilege of being honored for winning the Susan B. Reynolds Award for community service. He also won the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award through the city of Durham and the Crest Street Recreation Center was named the Willie I. Patterson Recreational Center in honor of his dedication and hard work along with others in the community. Willie was also President of the Bull City Golf Club and chair of the Brotherhood at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

He leaves to cherish his memory five children, Ronald Patterson of Durham, N.C., Linda Terrell (Ronald) Mitchellville, MD, Kathy Patterson of Durham, N.C., Audrey Odom (Ronald) of Durham, N.C. and Donzell Patterson of Durham, N.C.; 12 grandkids, Desmond Patterson, Anthony Patterson, Courtnee Patterson, Kimberlee Patterson, LaRonda Terrell, Joshua Hill, Warner Smith, Brandon Graham, NaQurah Savie Thompson, Ryan Odom, Ronald Wayne Odom, Jr. and Miles Patterson; 12 great grandkids; one sister, Martha Lee Bason of Durham, N.C.

Willie was also preceded in death by his wife Annie Louise Pratt Patterson, brothers, Willard Johnson, Arthur Patterson, William Patterson and Robert Patterson. Also, one grandson Josh Hill.

Viewing for Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson will take place on Monday, June 13, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc., 309 N Queen Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

Public Viewing for Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022, from 12:00 noon until 1:15 p.m., at New Bethel Missionary

Baptist Church, 2508 Crest Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707.

A Graveside Service of Celebration has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, Durham, North Carolina 27707, at 2:00 p.m.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JUN 13. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center, Inc.  
309 N Queen St  
Durham, NC 27701  
(919) 682-1171  
scarboroughandhargettinc@yahoo.com  
<https://scarboroughandhargettfh.com/>

## Viewing

JUN 14. 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM (ET)

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church  
2508 Crest St.  
Durham, NC 27707  
<http://www.nbethelbaptist.com/>

## Graveside

JUN 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

New Bethel Church Cemetery  
Durham, NC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Mr/ Patterson was a unique and fearless leader. I remember him standing up for the Crest Street community, when the East-West Connector project - urban renewal, sought to destroy it. No only did Mr. Patterson fight for his neighborhood, he created a lasting legacy for the area. He saw what was needed, and wouldn't take "No" for a final answer. He observed, he listened, he persisted, and he overcame every obstacle. The legacy that he left stands an a symbol of his vision and his belief that all communities deserve respect and dignity. Thanks, Mr. Patterson! Ethel Simonetti Greater Westend community*

**Ethel Simonetti** - July 09, 2022 at 03:22 PM



“ *RIP cuzzo. The Asor-Sallaah's family.*

**Shawn Asorsallaah** - June 29, 2022 at 11:27 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson.*



June 13, 2022 at 10:02 AM

SH

“ To Audrey and Donzell, I'm sorry for your loss. Praying for your family during this difficult time.

Shawn

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Shawn - June 12, 2022 at 05:39 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson.



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June 12, 2022 at 05:12 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie Isiah Patterson.



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June 10, 2022 at 10:27 AM

SS

“ I am so sad to hear of the passing of Willie "Tap" Patterson. I am so sorry that I will be out of town with family on the day of his funeral and will have to miss it. Tap and I became friends back in the late 1970's when he was leading the Crest St. community in the fight against the East-West Expressway. He was an incredible leader and fighter, and he always did it with wisdom and kindness. Through the years, Tap and I maintained our close friendship. When I became mayor of Durham, Tap and I had some great talks, and he continued to share his wisdom with me about our city--and especially our young people who he cared about so deeply. I will miss Tap so much. He was a real hero.

Sincerely,  
Steve Schewel

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**Steve Schewel** - June 10, 2022 at 06:51 AM



*I'm sorry for your entire family's loss. Mr. Tap was a man who loves and helped people in the Crest Street Community. He will be missed.*

*Michelle Outen*

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**Michelle Outen** - June 10, 2022 at 11:07 AM



*Mr. Tap Patterson loved and helped people in the Crest Street Community. He will be missed.  
Correction to previous comment.*

*Michelle Outen*

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**Michelle Outen** - June 10, 2022 at 11:11 AM

TO

*I'm sorry for your loss. Mr. Tapp was a man who cared about people and his community, He will be missed. I will keep the family in prayer!*

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**Tina Outen** - June 10, 2022 at 07:33 PM

MH

*Our deepest condolences. The Holloway Family*

**Mary Holloway** - June 11, 2022 at 04:55 PM

JP

*Our deepest condolences The Palmer and Johnson Family*

**Jannette Palmer** - June 12, 2022 at 03:46 PM



*God's Greatest Commandment was Thou shalt love thy Neighbor as thou love thy self. Mr Patterson was obedient to God in not only loving his neighbors but his Neighborhood. May his works eternally Speak for him. My Prayers and Condolences to the entire Family.*

**Karl Brodie** - June 12, 2022 at 08:09 PM

DD

*Condolences to the family of Mr. Tapp Patterson. Truly a man who loved the Lord as shown by his love of people and community. His legacy lives on. On behalf of the late Rev. Dr.L.W.and Julia Reid Family,*

**debra daniels** - June 14, 2022 at 08:39 AM

EM

*My utmost heartfelt condolences go out to the entire family. I will be praying for you all. Remember the "Joy of the Lord is Your Strength!", as you think on the good times and the precious memories that you shared with your loved one. I pray that the Lord will bring you all the strength, comfort and that peace that passes all understanding during such a difficult. Your father touched so many lives and will be greatly missed. Hang in there and don't let go. Love you all! Evangelist (Van) Mangum*

**Evangeline Mangum** - June 14, 2022 at 08:50 AM