



Colonel Billy Van Clemons

November 14, 1930 - June 4, 2019

McDonough Chapel

In Lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to The Alzheimer's Association in Memory of Colonel Billy Van Clemons.

<https://www.alz.org/georgia>

Billy Van Clemons was born on November 14, 1930. He was the second of six children blessed to the union of the late James Albert Clemons, Sr. and Myrtle Kennedy Clemons of Lake Charles, Louisiana. On the early morning of June 4, 2019, he made his transition from "earth to glory."

Billy accepted Jesus as his personal savior at an early age. He joined the Christian Baptist Church of Lake Charles, and was actively involved in Christian education activities, including Sunday school, where his father served as superintendent.

In 1948, Billy was among the cadets of the first ROTC class at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He graduated in 1952 with a degree in Physical Education & Health and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He was initially stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia, where he met the "love of his life", Mary Glenys Christian of Richmond, Virginia.

Billy and Glenys were married on January 15, 1955. The newlyweds moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he was stationed. In 1957, he resigned his Army commission and pursued a degree in Physical Therapy (PT) at the University of Colorado Medical Center/School of Physical Therapy in Denver. He graduated in 1959 and moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he worked as a PT. At that time he also returned to military service in the U.S. Army Reserves. While he pursued both his professional & military careers, Billy and Glenys raised their beautiful family, 1 son and 2 daughters.

Billy and Glenys joined Shiloh Baptist Church of McDonough, in 2007. Billy was actively involved on the Trustee Board (previously served as Vice-Chairman), co-organizer & mentor for the “Boyz to Men”, a member of the mass choir, couples’ Sunday school class, and Men’s Ministry.

Other Accomplishments: Co-founder of American Academy of Physical Therapy (AAPT); Physical therapy instructor at Tuskegee, Institute; member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; member of world-renowned Moses Hogan Chorale & board member of the Urban League. Billy retired after 32+ years of service in 1992 as “Colonel Billy Van Clemons”.

Billy leaves a legacy to be forever cherished by his loving & devoted wife, Glenys; three children: David Clemons, Hollise Clemons, and Camilla Spencer (Bobby); five grandchildren: Gafar Bello, Habibat Bello, Jessica Spencer, Cristen Spencer, and Bronson Spencer; a brother, James A. Clemons, Jr. (Patricia); three sisters: Gretchen St. Julien, Carolyn Johnson, and Gwendolyn Carriere, and a host of family and friends.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN **9**. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - McDonough Chapel
300 Griffin Street
McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-4337
info@wdlemonfuneralhome.com

Service

JUN **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church - McDonough
262 Macon St.
McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-2344
<http://www.shilohmcdonough.org/>

Interment

JUN **17**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Georgia National Cemetery
1080 Scott Hudgens Dr.
Canton, GA 30114
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/georgia.asp>

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ Thank you for everything Mr. Clemons. I learned a lot working for you . I can remember the day he gave me the job. I was 23 at the time and I appreciate the knowledge and time working for you. Typing all those Progress Notes is where it started. It was great working for you and Ms. Clemons.

Your New Orleans Family,
Maronta

Maronta Johnson - November 10, 2023 at 07:19 PM

AA

“ Thinking of my friend and mentor today. An inspiration to many. Though I lost track of him after Katrina, I've never forgotten him. What an impact he had on me the brief time I knew him! AI, PT in Mississippi

Altrece Arnold - June 04, 2022 at 01:12 PM

GS

“ Colonel Clemmons was my first employer after I graduated from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Clemmons, as i always called him, was a very good man and a good boss! i got to see, first hand what racism was like and the way he was treated, while trying to establish an innovative physical therapy practice in Ohio. May the Lord bless him and his great family! Gary Sherman, Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Gary Sherman - September 07, 2020 at 12:41 PM

CM

“ Thinking of you Mrs. Clemons, and lifting up prayers for you and your family.
Cecelia



Cecelia Moore - June 17, 2019 at 11:25 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Program



W.D. Lemon & Sons Funeral Home - June 10, 2019 at 01:17 PM

BC

“ Bonnie Cooper lit a candle in memory of
Colonel Billy Van Clemons



Bonnie Cooper - June 09, 2019 at 05:33 PM

SH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Clemons.
Bro. Clemons will be missed.
Shauna Hemphill

Shauna Hemphill - June 08, 2019 at 09:37 PM