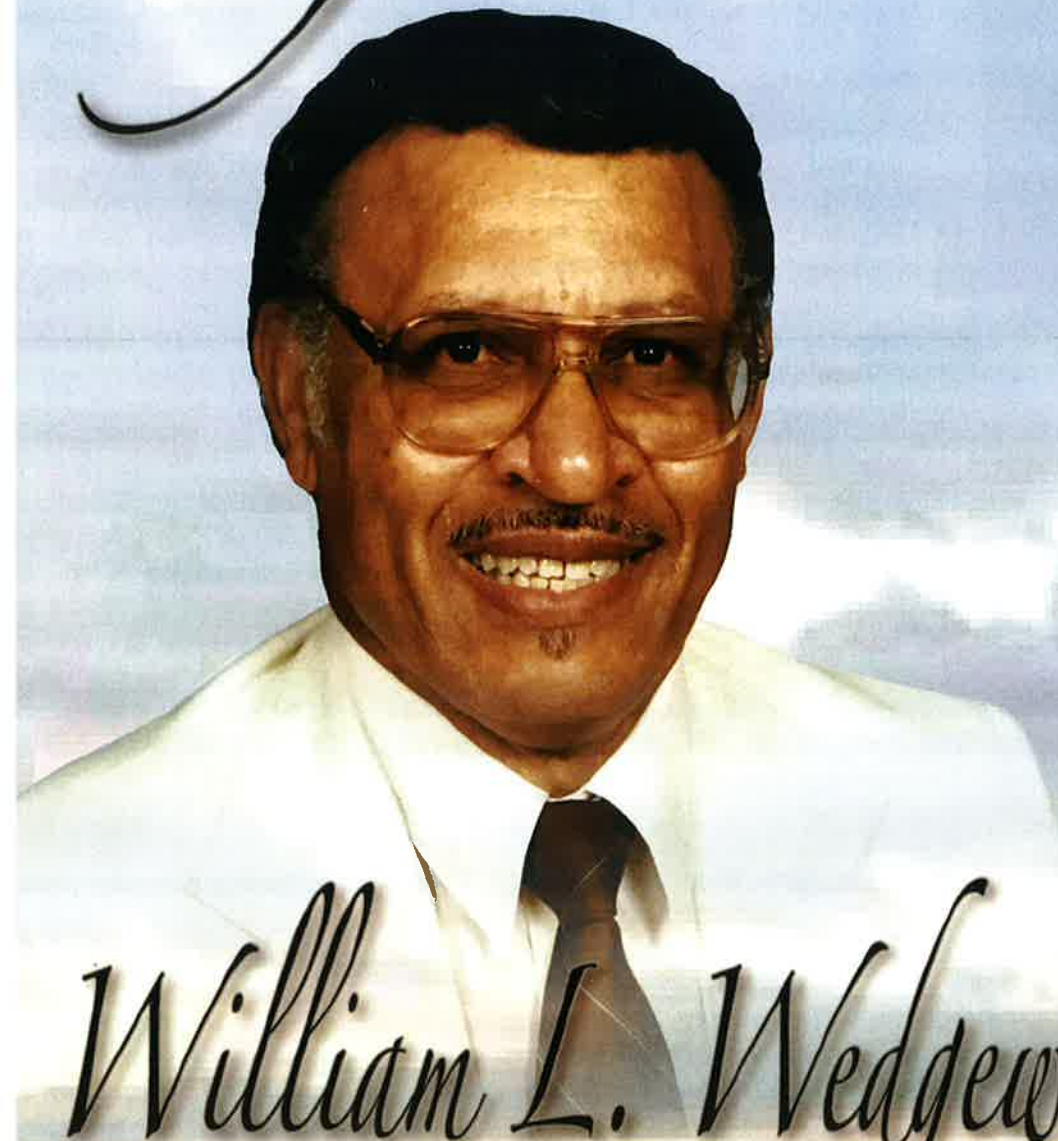


## PRECIOUS MEMORIES



# Honoring the *Life* and Legacy of



*William L. Wedgeworth, Jr.*

December 17, 1930 - August 28, 2020

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 11:00 AM

Temple & Sons Funeral Home

2801 North Kelley Ave

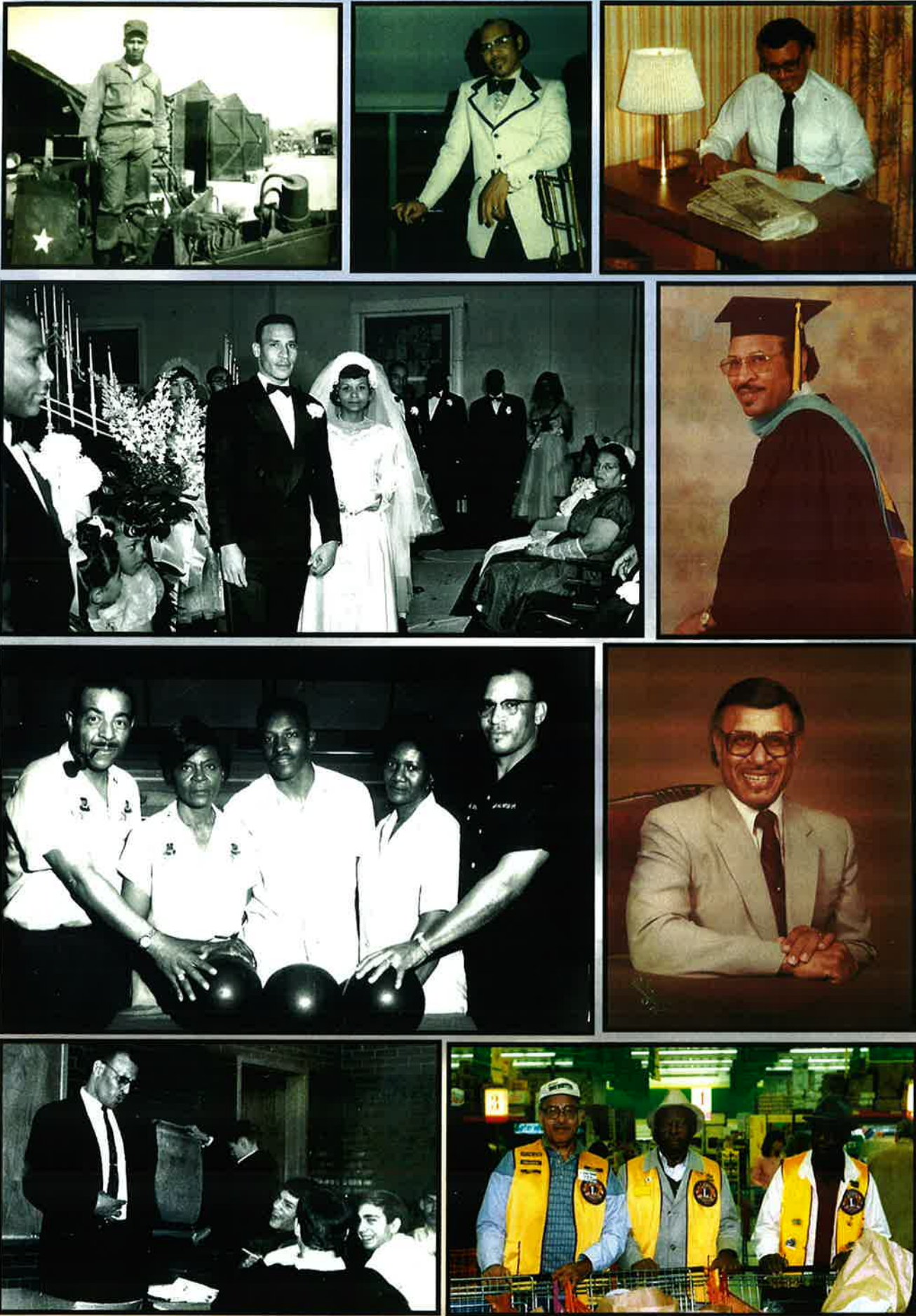
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

Pastor Rodney Payne, Officiating

Bethlehem Star Baptist Church



PRECIOUS MEMORIES



Order of Service

- Processional
- Scripture Reading  
Old Testament ..... Pastor Donny McKnight  
Church of the Living God, PGT
- New Testament ..... Pastor Derrick Scobey  
Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Prayer ..... Pastor Dwayne E. Rodgers  
Wildewood Christian Church
- Military Honors
- Selection ..... The Robertson Family
- Resolutions & Acknowledgments ..... Sis. Joyce Smith
- Remarks ..... Deacon Thomas Byrd  
Members of the Family
- Musical Selection ..... The Robertson Family
- Words of Comfort ..... Minister Brian W. Fugett, Grandson  
Associate Minister, Bethlehem Star Baptist Church
- Video Tribute
- Recessional



*From your wife, Bettye.... "I Only Wanted You"*  
*They say memories are golden, well maybe that is true.*  
*I never wanted memories, I only wanted you.*

*A million times I needed you, a million times I cried.*  
*If love alone could have saved you, you*  
*never would have died.*

*In life I loved you dearly, in death I love you still.*  
*In my heart you hold a place, no one could ever fill.*

*If tears could build a stairway, and heartache make a lane,*  
*I'd walk the path to Heaven and bring you back again.*

*Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same.*  
*But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.*

-Author Unknown



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST



William L. Wedgeworth, Jr. (also affectionately known as Willie or Wedge or Wedgie) was born on December 17, 1930 to William Sr. and Charlotte McAlpin Wedgeworth, in Oklahoma City. He was the youngest of their six children, although eight children were raised in their home.

## Education:

Willie learned many fundamental lessons from his father and brother, living and working on farmland in West Oklahoma City and as an entrepreneur of a self-built grocery store and movie theatre in Spencer, Oklahoma. He attended Orchard Park Elementary (now known as the Jesus House), in West Town, where he played in the Douglass High School band, while in elementary school. Entering high school, he became a member of the high school marching band, under Zelia Breaus.

In September 1947, William began school at Dunjee High School at Choctaw, Oklahoma, where he graduated in 1949. Coach Curley Sloss assisted him in becoming an "All State" Football Player, and in gaining a football scholarship to Langston University, in Langston, Oklahoma in 1949. At Langston, he majored in Industrial Arts, joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and married his high school sweetheart. He became an alumnus in 1953. After his military service, he did further study at the University of Oklahoma and received a master's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

## Military:

Drafted into the military right after college, he started training at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia School of Engineers, for the army. His military service took him to Korea, Japan, and Guam as a member of SCARWAF (Special Category of the Army with the Air Force) during the Korean Conflict. As a Construction Draftsman, he assisted with the layout of air bases used in the conflict and received an Honorable Discharge in June 1955.

## Religious Affiliations:

As a youth, Willie joined the First Baptist Church of Green Pastures, professing his faith and trust in God—a faith that continued through his life after joining 5th Street Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, in 1958. At 5th Street, he served as a Deacon since 1985, and as Financial Secretary—over all Church monies—for twenty-four years.

## Marriage:

December 28, 1953, he married his long-time sweetheart, Bettye Wells (Pollard). God had a special plan for their parenting—giving them three children—"born in the heart and not under it."

## Work Experience:

After returning to civilian life, he gained employment at Tinker Air Force Base as a Statistical Draftsman, where he was honored for his suggestion of a special guide that was adopted for use in the Directorate of Supply and Services, in the Comptroller's Office, the Graphics Department of Maintenance Engineering, as well as his own office. He was later employed by the Oklahoma City School System, where he was a teacher of Mathematic, Industrial Drawing and Photography at Douglass High, Kennedy, and the prestigious Northwest Classen High, where he was the first African American to join the staff.

Leaving the Public-School System, he was summoned to become the Director of Vocational Education at Guthrie Job Corp Center, where he served for eighteen years. Desiring to work closer to home, he returned to the OKC school system, where he retired from John Marshall High School in 1994 as an instructor of his original subject—Math.

## Organizations:

Wedge began a thirty-year bowling stint at the downtown YMCA—the only place blacks could bowl. He served as president of the Northeast Bowling League for a period at Bryant Center.

## Active Pallbearers (Nephews)

Emmanuel Wedgeworth  
Michael Johnson

Ernest Wedgeworth, Jr.  
Mark Patton

James Smallwood  
Glenroy Hines Jr.

## Honorary Pallbearers

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity  
and the Deacons of Fifth Street Baptist Church

## Flower Bearers (Nieces)

Shirley McClendon  
Charolotte Wedgeworth

Marsha Wedgeworth  
Belinda Stewart  
Carolyn Smallwood

Janith Johnson  
Jacque Rollins Bowman

## Interment

Hillcrest Memory Gardens  
12813 Northeast 50th St.  
Spencer, Oklahoma 73084

## Services under the direction of:

Temple & Sons Funeral Directors, Inc.  
2801 North Kelley Ave. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111  
(405) 427-8321 - templeandsons.com

## Acknowledgment from the family...

The family of Wm. Wedgeworth, Jr. would like to acknowledge the outpouring of love, both now and throughout his illness, that has been received from friends, church and fraternal members, and extended family. Your prayers, words of sympathy, advice, calls, visits, food, and more have helped us know we are not alone. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you.

A special thank you to Wedge's personal aides, Bobby Walker and Frances Anderson.  
To William Wedgeworth's doctor, Thomas Toalson, SSM Health, and his staff, Rose and Karen,  
you have been wonderful!

God bless you all!!!







### My Dad"...by Mary

From the age of 6 years old, 60 years ago, it was the grace of God that put you all in my life. Bettye started out as my first-grade teacher but soon you two would become Dad and Mom to my brother, Larry; sister, Betty; and I. Nobody knows when Mom had us, but everybody knows that we were Wedge and Bettye's kids.

Dad and I (and Mom) liked music; whether driving on a family vacation or just listening at home. Dad supported me in all of my endeavors, and I could talk to Dad about anything. He understood me. In college, I could not master Algebra, but dad wouldn't let me give up or settle for a passing "C", which is all I wanted Dad told great life stories to everyone who would listen, even though most of us had already heard them a thousand times.

Having someone in your life that accepted you as you are, believed in you no matter what, and loved you unconditionally, I can say that I am blessed to have called you MYDAD!

Thank you for loving me like one of your own. I am blessed and honored to have had you in my life. Larry was proud to call you his dad and to be your son. He loved you very much. I will miss your stories, humor, and wisdom.

I love you Dad, Arita



The introduction of "That's my daughter" to mom and dad's friends was not understood by most and was questioned. The loudest question ever, came from a gentleman named John B. White. As he drank a drink, which he always had, He said very loudly, "Wedge, you don't have no children, who is this?" Dad with no laughter or hesitation said, "Yes I do. That's BET, my daughter!"

I don't know if family or friends ever really understood, It just happened!!!! But after a while, it was no longer a question; we were accepted! We were Family, and it was thru Love!! GMOM and GDAD—have been special parents through Love. This had to be GODS plan!!!

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly..."  
- Psalm 1:1

I share this beautiful relationship with their other "children of heart"  
Pop Wedgeworth made an indelible impression on each of us.

- Larry, Mary, Betty & Lois



An ardent member of the Wedgeworth Family, William helped start the annual Family Reunions and has missed only one reunion since 1982.

Wedge has been a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and a charter member of the NE Oklahoma City Lions Club, where he served as president.

In 1982, the SET CLUB honored him as one of their "Outstanding Citizens."

### Hobbies:

An "egghead" he studied and made his own thirty-inch television that lasted for 18 years and he had an extensive collection of music.

William is preceded by his mother, father, three sisters, Estella Moses, Mae Della Rollins, and Lula Woods; a brother, Earnest Wedgeworth; a son, Larry C. Fugett; and a grand-daughter, Courtney Orange.

His memory will be kept in the hearts of his wife of 66 years, Bettye; his children—Mary Fugett of Oklahoma City, and Dr Betty Orange of Helena, Arkansas; daughter-in-law, Arita Fugett; six grandchildren—Eloise Mabon (Aaron), Tori Williams, Minister Brian W. Fugett (Devin), Laurie Hines (Glenroy, Jr.), Sheldon Orange (Saysha), and Clayton Orange (Ashley). He will also be fondly remembered by his most precious sister, Lymyser Sweet; two adopted brothers-in-law's, Gerald Johnson (Beverly) and Danny Frazier; his adopted Snell/McCarrell family of Dallas, TX, the Wedgeworth Family, longtime dear friend, Pastor W.B. Parker, the 5thStreet Baptist Family, the Alpha Brotherhood, many students, relatives and friends.

(Notes of Life written by William Wedgeworth Jr. in 2011)

