



## Morris Willie Price Sr.

May 28, 1939 - March 1, 2017

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MORRIS WILLIE PRICE, husband, father, veteran, community leader, and friend died peacefully in his sleep on March 1, 2017 surrounded by his wife, Joyce Ann Price, his three children, Velva, Morris Jr., Marlene Price, and close friends. His bright smile, warm personality brilliant mind, and commitment to the community will be missed by all.

He was born on May 28, 1939 in Plaquemine [Seymourville] Louisiana to Jewell Tillman Price and Albertha Jackson Price. He was the sixth child of ten children, and is now with all of his family in heaven. He graduated from Iberville High School in 1958, and joined the United States Air Force the same year, due to the limited options that were available to African Americans in the segregated south. Morris knew education was the key to a better life and emphasized this belief for his children, not just with his words, but with his deeds. He enjoyed reading, and was always learning. He obtained both a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Columbia College, and a Master of Arts in Human Relations and Management from Webster College, while he raised a family and worked full time.

When he saw the 'love of his life' Joyce Ann Woods in high school, Morris told his friends that she was going to be his wife. They married on July 11, 1959.

and continued the love affair until his death. Together they traveled all over the world with their children, Velva, Morris Jr. and Marlene. It was a deliberate decision of Morris and Joyce Price that the family stay together and never be separated during his multiple tours of duty that allowed them to live in Colorado, California, North Dakota, Spain, California, Kansas, Germany, South Carolina, then returning to Colorado. Morris Price retired a decorated veteran from the Air Force in 1980 at the rank of Master Sergeant [E-7] at Lowry Air Force Base located in Denver, CO. After retirement, he worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and then the U.S. Department of Labor; he then retired from public service in 1996.

Although Morris enjoyed his work, his heart and pride was with his family and working in the community. He was the embodiment of the quote by Mahatma Gandhi "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." He served as the Illustrious Potentate of Syrian Temple #49, Prince Hall Shrine and Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 21. He was a proud life member of the Retired Enlisted Association, American Legion, National Urban League, and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was appointed as a Commissioner to the Denver Council of Aging by then Mayor John Hickenlooper. Morris volunteered as an academic coach and mentor with the Daniels College Prep and Scholarship Program, AARP Safety Driving Instructor, served on the board of the Far North East Neighborhood Association and the Far Northeast Newspaper. In addition, he was a substitute teacher for both Denver and Aurora Public School Systems. He was ordained as a Deacon at Peaceful Rest Baptist Church by Rev. Charles Survine in December 1995. For all of his activism, he was honored as a Montbello leader in 2016. He was a thoughtful man who overcame many obstacles, and always saw the good in others and in our world.

Morris leaves to cherish his memories: his loving and devoted wife of 57 years: Joyce A. Price, Denver CO; his three children: Velva LaSha Price,

Austin, TX, Morris Willie Price, Jr., Denver, CO and Marlene Yevette Price, Charleston, SC; sister-in-laws: Patricia Mitchell, Inglewood, CA, Edna B. Price, Baton Rouge, LA and Dianne W. Price, Baton Rouge, LA; brother-in-law: Larry Woods, Baton Rouge LA; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death were his parents: Jewell and Albertha Price; four brothers: Clyde Richardson, Jewell Price, Jr., James A. Price, and Lionel Price; four sisters: Thelma Price Thomas, Lillie M. Price Angrum, Edna M. Price LeDuff, and Dianne Price.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 10. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

King Baptist  
3370 Ivy ST  
Denver, CO 80207  
[office@kingbaptist.org](mailto:office@kingbaptist.org)  
<http://kingbaptist.org/>

## Service

MAR 11. 11:00 AM (MT)

King Baptist  
3370 Ivy ST  
Denver, CO 80207  
[office@kingbaptist.org](mailto:office@kingbaptist.org)  
<http://kingbaptist.org/>

# Tribute Wall

TJ

“ *Tom O'Melia Jr. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..*



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**Tom O'Melia Jr.** - March 15, 2017 at 06:32 PM

TJ

“ *My sincere sympathy to Joyce and Morris's family. I just heard the news. Always enjoyed meeting and talking with Morris. Morris and I both retired from the Air Force and served in the same office of the Division of Federal Employees Compensation in the US Labor Department. After retirement, we met periodically for lunch and I always enjoyed, and greatly miss, our discussions about politics. Just last week I found the card I received after attending Morris and Joyce's wedding anniversary in July 2009, and then received a LinkedIn email message to congratulate Morris on 43 years of work, so was very surprised to hear of Morris's passing.*

*Tom O'Melia*

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**Tom O'Melia Jr** - March 15, 2017 at 05:51 PM

PB

“ I was sad to just learn of Morris's passing. Morris was a larger than life person with an infectious smile and a great teacher. It was my pleasure to know and learn from him when he was my supervisor in FECA. He had a great impact on my life. Morris always fought for the underdog and was never afraid to stand up for what he believed in. I know that he loved his family very much as he always beamed when talking about his wife and children. Another brilliant light has gone out in the world!

*I dedicate this poem to you my friend as you are now free!*

*“The Peace of Wild Things”*

*BY WENDELL BERRY,*

*When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

*Paula Breitling*

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**Paula Breitling** - March 15, 2017 at 09:38 AM

YD

“ *Your friends at the University of Denver- Admission purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..*



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**Your friends at the University of Denver-Admission** - March 10, 2017 at 06:24 PM

ED

“ *Elizabeth Deal purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..*



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**Elizabeth Deal** - March 10, 2017 at 06:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..*



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March 10, 2017 at 03:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..*



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March 10, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ *Donnella Mitchell-Carter purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..*



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**Donnella Mitchell-Carter** - March 09, 2017 at 08:41 PM

MW

“ To Joyce, Morris Jr. Marlene, and Shea,

*We have had so many flashbacks about the leadership and strength that Morris possessed and lead or served as the strong male coach in our family and all our thoughts and memories and wonderful about our times with you all. We will not see him here again, but we can gaze at the stars and see him as he joins the FATHER and those who have gone before in heaven. Just maybe the stars are not the stars, but rather, openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy. And we can smile back knowing they are cared for and loved.*

*We will always remember how he just showed up when in the Washington area carrying groceries for Auntie so she could make his favorite meal and he would sit in her favorite chair and sleep until dinner was ready. Then we would all talk all night.*

*We saw Morris as a leader among the men in our family: 1 Timothy 3:2 English Standard Version (ESV)*

*2 Therefore an overseer[a Leader] must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,[b] sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,  
..... and we learned so much.*

*Joyce thank you for sharing Uncle/Cousin Morris.  
Love you all: Pat, Larry, Joannette and Mary Walker*

*May God continue to bless and keep you*

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**Mary Walker** - March 09, 2017 at 08:28 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the Price family. I was not blessed to meet Mr. Price, but I feel like I got to know him somewhat through Marlene. She always spoke so highly and fondly of him. From our conversations about him it was evident that he loved and worked hard to support his family, he had the adventurous travel bug (which definitely rubbed off on Marlene), he loved to rise early in the morning and enjoyed his morning cup of coffee, and more than anything he loved God. Bottom line, Morris Willie Price Sr. was a great man and I'm sure he deeply touched the lives of everyone he encountered.*

*I pray that the love of God and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit would rest, rule and abide in your hearts through Christ Jesus. ...and comfort you during your time of grief.*

*My deepest respect and sympathy,  
Donnella Mitchell-Carter*

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**Donnella Mitchell-Carter** - March 09, 2017 at 07:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary*




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**Ballard Family Mortuary, LLC** - March 08, 2017 at 06:23 PM



“ *My prayers are with you my family. May our Lord Jesus cover you doing this time. Love you.*

*Shelia Smith daughter of Eunice Smith of Plaquemine, La.*

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**sheliasmith300@gmail.com** - March 08, 2017 at 05:09 PM

SC

“ Sorors Daria and Frances O. Cal purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..



Sorors Daria and Frances O. Cal - March 08, 2017 at 12:25 PM

OJ

“ Joyce and family, May God comfort you and your family during this time.

Osia Jones  
Queen of the South #11 & Daughter

Osia Jones - March 07, 2017 at 04:56 PM

LJ

“ Heartfelt sympathy from your cousins, the children of the late Edward (Margaret) Jackson, Sr., Plaquemine, Louisiana. Blessed be the ties that bound our hearts forever!!



Linda Jackson-Bell - March 07, 2017 at 10:43 AM

NA

“ [Morris will always be in our hearts and memories. With Sympathy, Our family will keep the family of Morris in our prayers. We will remember to pray for his wife Joyce. We have many thoughts of Morris and Joyce in the days that we lived in Plaquemine and the old high school (IHS) Family Nathaniel & Patricia Askins. Denver.

Nathaniel Pat Askins - March 06, 2017 at 12:15 PM

AM

“ *Condolences to the Price family, may God comfort you at this time.*  
*Alma Moss*

Alma Moss - March 05, 2017 at 10:18 AM

BB

“ *To: The Family of Morris Price Sr Remember, the Lord is near to all who calls upon Him. May God, who watches over us and hear us as we pray, give all of you strength and comfort today, May he bless and keep all of you, in this time of sadness.*  
*You are in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*L. "Bruce" Broussard and Earline*

Bruce Broussard - March 04, 2017 at 05:20 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Marlene Price - March 04, 2017 at 10:18 AM



*Love the pictures! 😍*

Danielle Price - March 04, 2017 at 10:20 AM

SS

*Mr. Price.. it was an honor to know you. Your legacy remains. Rest In Peace. Love, Sylvia Smith-Brown*

Sylvia Smith-Brown - March 04, 2017 at 10:24 AM

NI

*Wow, we met and delivered college information to a group of Montbello High School students over 17 years ago. From that day, I never forgot the words of encouragement and support you gave me. I have always teased Morris Jr. and told him I too am a Price; that life is better because of you. Rest well my friend, and mentor. Nina.*

**Nina** - March 04, 2017 at 11:30 AM



*Sending love to you and your family.*

**Jeff Perkins** - March 04, 2017 at 11:51 AM

BD

*I ONLY MET GIG PRICE A SHORT WHILE AGO, BUT EACH TIME WE MET HE ALWAYS SHARED A SMILE AND ENCOURAGEMENT. A LIFE WELL SPENT.*

*BRUCE DANIEL 33rd  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
DURHAM CONSISTORY #218 DURHAM NC*

**BRUCE DANIEL** - March 04, 2017 at 12:07 PM

BL

*Sending love and prayers for the Price family as you celebrate your father's life. Rest in Peace, Mr. Price.  
Lewton family , Indiana friends*

**barbara J lewton** - March 06, 2017 at 10:10 AM



*“ He never missed an opportunity to support me and celebrate life's small moments a big achievements. I am a better man all ways measurable because of him. - Morris Price Jr.*



**Morris Price Jr** - March 04, 2017 at 09:19 AM

WL

“ *With love, Cherie and Lacey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Morris Willie Price Sr..*



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**With love, Cherie and Lacey** - March 03, 2017 at 06:23 PM