



## William Channer

April 19, 1932 - May 11, 2020

William Oswald Channer was born on April 19th 1932 to Casseta and James Channer in Coleyville, Manchester, Jamaica W.I. He was the second of nine children in a happy, close knit and well- respected family in their community. They were a religious and God loving family and attended Bryce Presbyterian Church.

Growing up he was very close to his mother and she taught him how to cook, sew and wash. He was known for his delicious rice and peas and beef soup. He was also a horticultural person and maintained a vegetable and flower garden. He was extremely knowledgeable about types of yams and mangoes.

From a young boy, William was a person of few words. He was all about 'doing' and not being a passive person. He was very studious at an early age and took his education seriously. This dedication to his studies continued throughout his lifelong educational journey, along with his desire to excel. During his high school years, he successfully completed his GCE exams by passing all subjects. He furthered his education at Mico Teachers College in Jamaica, W. I. and received his Teachers Degree. He had a love for mathematics, which led him to work for the Internal Revenue Service as an Assistant Collector of Taxes in Jamaica, W. I. for sixteen years.

William was a man who loved his parents and his siblings. He was committed to taking care of his parents by providing for them and making them comfortable. According to his sisters, he would give the shirt off his back and always thought of others first.

While working in Falmouth in Jamaica W.I., he met and married Rupertia on February 23, 1963. Accompanying the union was Joy, at the age of five. William and Rupertia had a wonderful union of 57 years. They were a close couple who loved the Lord, were faithful church members and supportive of their respective endeavors and career paths. They also loved to entertain and travel. Their involvement in their respective church activities, the community needs at large and a variety of programs were limitless, matched only by their love for family and friends.

The family relocated to the United States in August 1971 and settled in the Bronx. His penchant for learning continued and he worked full time and attended Bronx Community College, earning his Associates Degree in Applied Sciences in August 1975. He was also initiated in the Phi Theta Kappa, the National Honor Fraternity of the Junior College. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Fordham University in 1977.

Upon relocating to Tampa, Florida in 1980 along with his wife Rupertia, they started a new chapter in their lives. They eventually acclimated, joined a new church home, obtained new employment, made friends and settled in as if they were longtime residents. He worked for Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court as a Finance Certified Public Accountant for 22 ½ years and he retired in 2003.

During his years of retirement, he continued serving the community through active participation in a myriad of programs and received numerous awards. He received the following: The Service Award from the Caribbean Cultural Association, The Pinellas County Service Award, In 2003 he received A Certificate of Achievement Award for Teaching An Adult To Read, The I CAN Literacy Service Award, The Volunteer Of The Year by the United Way of Tampa and The Governor's Points of Light Award for the City of Tampa in 2007.

William is predeceased by his wife Rupertia, his mother Casseta, his father James, his brothers Vinnel and Morris and his sister Avril.

William Channer leaves to mourn his daughter, Joy, son in-law Michael, grandchildren, Andrew, Vanessa and Erika, his brothers Lester and Roderick; his sisters, Everette, Audrey and Freda; nephews Steve and Kent and a host of additional nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

My father was an honorable man, he was a faithful servant to the Lord. He had a wry sense of humor and was extremely logical where thoughts and ideas had to connect for him. He was a thinker and a doer and always encouraged everyone he met to strive to do better.

One of his favorite passages in the Bible:

Trust in The Lord with All Your Heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path

Proverbs 3:5

**WE LOVE YOU AND WE WILL MISS YOU!**

# Cemetery

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## **Sunset Funeral Home & Memory Gardens**

11005 N US Highway 301

Thonotosassa, FL, 33592

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Sunset Funeral Home & Memory Gardens** - May 15 at 02:04 PM

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“ I worked with Bill in Finance for over 20 years. He was a kind, gentle and cheerful man who always had a smile and a story.

**Michael Ferrara** - June 16 at 09:45 AM

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“ Claretha Harris lit a candle in memory of William Channer



**Claretha Harris** - May 17 at 05:21 PM

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“ Kenneth & Donna lit a candle in memory of William Channer



**Kenneth & Donna** - May 15 at 04:51 PM

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“ We shared great food, music and fun. Well done faithful servant, RIP

Joan, Dayne & Rey = Warner Family

One Love



Joan Johnson Warner - May 15 at 01:33 PM

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“ He was the elder in our Church, our only Deacon, the one who always made sure that the Church never needed anything. He was a peaceful man. More than that he and his wife Rupertia became our Dear Friends, a Blessing I believe that came from God. They loved like Jesus. They were head of the Adult Sunday School Class, the Women's Class, Ladies received a gift every meeting & we brought a covered dish and ate together afterwards. They headed up Christmas sings with us all going to sing at a Convalescent Home, where they taught Bible Class every week, bringing them all Christmas gifts. I loved being part of that. Before that they headed up a Clinic in our Church Parsonage, where anyone was seen for free. She was a retired Mental Health Nurse, she had Friends that would come for Free, Doctors & Nurses, who would see you, checking for Blood Pressure, Blood sugar, etc. She would lead the exercise class that everyone could do. They filled in the Children's Sunday School when needed. They did these things until they weren't able any longer. We met them at Church, we were Blessed with honest loving Friends that became part of our Family. God gave them to us to love and we loved them. We are Blessed to have had them in our life for the time we were given. It is hard to summarize someone's life, even for the short time we knew. I believe we are put here for a reason, and when we are done, that is when we are taken home. Only God knows what that day & time is. You NEVER look at someone that God doesn't love, so be kind to each other. Cherish the moments we are given with each other.



Donna Robertson - May 15 at 01:11 PM

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“ Condolences to Brandon and Stevie and Kent Channer.



Sanya ChinYoung - May 15 at 01:02 PM

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“ Essie lit a candle in memory of William Channer



Essie - May 15 at 10:55 AM

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“ Joy and Family.

My prayers are with you at this difficult time. I know you will miss him but I hope you find comfort in knowing that he lived a rich and full life and that he is at peace in the arms of the Lord.

Seeing Bill's wonderful smile on this page makes me reflect on knowing Bill for more than 30 years during the time he worked for Pinellas County and during his retirement. Bill was a man of great integrity which showed in everything he did. His work ethic was something that many should aspire to and admire. Bill loved a challenge in his work and never considered any job too small or too difficult. When he was given or chose an assignment (Bill knew what needed to be done without anyone telling him), you knew it would be completed timely and thoroughly. Bill accomplished much in his life, but he was still a man with great humility. He had such a kind, gentle and generous spirit, willing to help others whenever he could. Bill understood the golden rule and lived by it. Although he was a CPA with many years of training and experience, he had the patience to and did train some of the newest and least experienced coworkers. He was known in the Finance Division for spreading little nuggets of wisdom among us, so much so that I nicknamed him our Village Sage. We so loved to hear some of his wonderful stories about growing up in Jamaica with his family, living in New York, teaching and so many of his other life experiences. We would on occasion be blessed with a native song or dance from him. Of all those stories, songs and dances though, nothing could bring a smile to his

face more than when he talked about his beloved Rupertia and Joy.

The last time I talked with Bill was when I called him to extend my condolences when Rupertia passed a few weeks ago. I could tell he was very tired and not well and I tried to give him some words of comfort, but Bill being Bill was not thinking of himself. He spent time talking about Rupertia and how blessed he was to have her and you Joy in his life. Then he started talking about me and spent most of the rest of the time telling me how lucky he was to have worked for Pinellas County and with me over the years. I'm so glad that I got in minute or two however to tell him how blessed I was to have worked with him and how much richer my life is for having known him. I got a little chuckle out of him over that. Bill was the type of man who once you get to know him, you will never forget him. I'll cherish my memories of him forever.

May God bless and keep you.

Claretha N. Harris

**Claretha N. Harris** - May 14 at 10:07 PM