



## Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney

July 25, 1930 - March 25, 2018

Mr. Willie "Be Bop" James Burney, 87, of Peoria, IL passed away at 7:35 pm on Sunday, March 25, 2018 at UnityPoint Health Methodist, Peoria, IL.

"Be Bop" was born on July 25, 1930 in Boston, Georgia to James and Inez (Childs) Burney. He married Bernice Johnson on January 25, 2007 in Peoria, IL.

Willie was a construction worker for CA Powley Construction Company in East Peoria, IL and was a member of the Labor Local Union 165. He loved to listen to the Blues and loved spending time with his family and fixing cars. "Be Bop" was a U.S. Army Veteran and member of the Army Reserves.

Willie leaves to cherish his most precious memory his wife, Bernice Burney of Peoria; one son, Willie Booker of Peoria, IL; five daughters, Diane Bond of University Place, WA; Jaton Watkins and Bernetta Kelly both of Peoria; Nikki Booker of Greenville, SC and Shawntell Kelly of Peoria; one sister, Lillie Scott of Philadelphia, PA; 23 grandchildren, 44 great grandchildren; two special friends, Rev. R.W. Randle and Bobby Cagle, whom he called his brother, one brother-in-law, Herman Lee Johnson, whom he called his son; three special caregivers, Brooklyn Kelly, Shawntell Kelly and Shanea Booker; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends who loved him. He is preceded in death by his parents, 1 sister, 2 brothers, 3 daughters, Angie, Karen and Willette, 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at Sovereign Grace M.B. Church with a visitation beginning at 10 am. Pastor

Alvin Riley, Sr. will officiate. Willie be laid to rest at Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, IL where U.S. Army Military Honors will be rendered on Monday, April 2, 2018.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](http://SimonsMortuary.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Road, RR1  
Springfield, IL 62707

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sovereign Grace M.B. Church  
1505 W. Martin Street  
Peoria, IL 61605

## Funeral Service

MAR 31. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Sovereign Grace M.B. Church  
1505 W. Martin Street  
Peoria, IL 61605

## Graveside Burial

APR 2. 1:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Camp Butler National Cemetery  
5063 Camp Butler Road, RR1  
Springfield, IL 62707



# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*



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**Simons Mortuary** - March 29, 2018 at 05:53 PM

ET

*You're gone and will always be missed.*

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**Erica Denise Thomas** - April 22, 2018 at 10:53 AM



“ *Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Niecy & Family - was very sorry to hear of your loss. I pray God will grant you strength & peace during your time of bereavement.*



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**Vickie King** - April 03, 2018 at 10:32 AM

LJ

“ SO VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS...PRAYING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Lynda Jones - March 30, 2018 at 06:59 PM

MR

“ *Mattie Risby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*



Mattie Risby - March 30, 2018 at 08:21 AM

EB

“ *Emel Buckner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*



Emel Buckner - March 30, 2018 at 04:07 AM

JH

“ *Janice Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*



Janice harris - March 29, 2018 at 03:03 PM

LH

“ *My prayers going out to the Bernice Peanuts and the entire family of BeBop Willie. Msy he rest in peace. He is now smiling on you from Glory. Love you all.*



**Linda Hardy** - March 29, 2018 at 01:58 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney.*



March 29, 2018 at 09:59 AM

BS

“ *Belinda Spencer-Little sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*



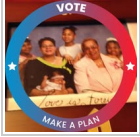
**Belinda Spencer-Little** - March 28, 2018 at 11:13 PM

GR

“ *Georgia Johnson Richardson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney*



**Georgia Johnson Richardson** - March 28, 2018 at 07:24 PM



“ *Sincere condolences to the family. BeBop always had a sense of humor & friendly disposition* ”



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**Evelyn Tate-Clayton** - March 28, 2018 at 03:20 PM



“ *Barbara Vinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Willie "BeBop" James Burney* ”



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**Barbara Vinson** - March 27, 2018 at 11:35 PM