

*Celebrating the Life of
William Norris McAllister*



January 9, 1940 – August 22, 2017

*Wednesday, August 30, 2017
Eleven O' Clock in the Morning*

*Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
East St. Louis, Illinois*

Reverend Tonnie P. Bradford, Pastor

Obituary

William “Bill” Norris McAllister was born on January 9, 1940 in Aberdeen, Mississippi. He was the son of Booker T. McAllister and Mae Alice Norris. The McAllister family moved to St Louis, Missouri in 1942. Bill attended McKinley High School and graduated from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale with a B.S. in Mathematics and a minor in Political Science.

Bill was active in his faith. He attended Compton Hill Baptist Church in St Louis as a child, and after college joined Calvary Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At Calvary, he served as President of the Usher Board for 25 years, Chair of the Finance Committee and Vice President of the Trustee Board for 12 years. Bill also served on the Board of Directors of Calvary Housing Development, LTD, which provided quality housing, employment opportunities, and social services in the area surrounding the church. Later, he was a dedicated member of both Grace Episcopal Church and Union Baptist Church in White Plains, NY.

Bill was dedicated to his family. He grew up with sisters Alice Ruth, Mae Ola, Gillie Jean and brothers Richard Warren and Kenneth Lyles. He married Lillie Mae Rush, a professional nurse, on April 21, 1964. To this union, they had two beloved children – son Leslie Girard and daughter Dana Jacqueline. They happily raised their family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He spent over four decades in the field of computer programming and systems management. Bill worked with numerous high-profile corporations, including Rexnord Inc., Phillip Morris Inc., and First Savings Bank of Milwaukee. He worked at Badger Meter in Milwaukee before retiring in 2005.

After being ill, Lillie Mae passed away on Feb 12, 2006. Her death made Bill realize he was alone in a new house and new community and he decided to locate some of his former colleagues. His magnetic personality helped him reconnect with several former employees.

He was ecstatic when he contacted Sunaganata “Sandy” Gadsden, a former colleague from Philip Morris, Inc. She worked out of the New York office while he worked out of the Milwaukee office. They lost contact with each other as their careers took them down different paths. After reconnecting, they dated by phone and eventually married in New York on July 21, 2007. The two were deeply in love with each other, and spent the last ten years as if they were newlyweds.

Bill McAllister unexpectedly passed away on August 22, 2017, with his wife Sandy and daughter Jacqueline at his bedside in Westchester County, New York.

He leaves behind his wife Sandy (Ossining, NY), son Leslie (East St. Louis, IL), daughter Jacqueline (Washington, D.C.), sisters Alice McAllister (St. Louis, Mo.), Mae Boelter (Cool Valley, Mo), Gillie Vanderson (St. Louis, Mo), and one brother Richard McAllister (Maryland Heights, Mo.)

Additional family includes mother-in-law Corine Bradley (Elmsford, NY), sisters-in-law Altermiese Bradley (White Plains, NY), Brinda Bradley (Elmsford, NY), Deborah Bradley (Yonkers, NY), special sister in-law Katherine Greer (Centerville, Ill), uncle Elgin Norris (Las Vegas, NV), sister-in-law, Lena Rush (Florissant, Mo), special brothers-in-law Moses Townsend

(Webster Grove, MO) and Raymond (Jackie) Rush (Dayton, OH) and brother-in-law Ernest (Regina) Rush (Swansee, Ill). He will be missed by a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends throughout the United States.

The Order of Service

Reverend Tonnie P. Bradford, Presiding

The Prelude

Processional.....Clergy & Family

Opening Hymn”It is Well With My Soul”

Holy Scriptures:

Old Testament.....Psalm 121.....Reverend J. B. Garris

New Testament.....2 Corinthians 4:1-6; 5-9..Reverend Mary Adou Gbougbo

Prayer.....Associate Minister

Hymn”Precious Lord Take My Hand”

Remarks:

McAllister Family.....Stephen Graham

Rush Family.....Reverend Moses Townsend

Family Friend.....Leon Hunter

Acknowledgements.....Church Clerk

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Tonnie Bradford

Recessional Hymn”Amazing Grace”

Committal, Internment and Benediction

Calvary Cemetery

Pallbearers

Dominic Corvington Brandon McAllister

Stevie Graham Brendon McAllister

Brad McAllister Micah Allen Rush

Repast at

New Northside Conference Center

5939 Goodfellow Boulevard

St. Louis, Mo 63147

My Last Love Letter to Bill

My dearest sweetheart,

It is with a pained heart that I write this last love letter to you. Little did I know when I took you to the emergency room early Saturday morning, July 29, 2017 that you would never return home. I watched as you slept during your last days on this earth, with the hope, that one day you would get better and come home.

But, God decided it was time to bring you into his loving arms. As you quietly and peacefully slip into his arms on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, I reconciled that God knew best and that I could no longer be selfish, by wishing that you stay here with me.

I know that I was your queen; the 10 years we spent together were total bliss to me. You worshipped the ground that I walked on and I worshipped and honored the ground you walked on. You were my knight in shining amour and I felt you could do everything. My last words to you were that I loved you with all my heart and soul and that I would forever miss you, but will always cherish those wonderful memories of the time we spent together.

Now sweetheart, as you rest in your eternal home, I can feel that you are my guardian angel and protector. I will forever remember your beautiful and charming smile and will always cherish that precious love you bestowed upon me.

Missing you,

Your "sweetheart" Sandy

Acknowledgements

The McAllister, Gadsden and Bradley families express their utmost gratitude and appreciation for your many acts of kindness extended during Bill's illness and our time of bereavement.

In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

American Cancer Society - Liver Cancer Research

www.cancer.org/involved/donate/memorial-giving

Calvary Baptist Church

2959 N Teutonia Avenue

Milwaukee, WI, 53206

414-372-1450

www.calvarymke.org

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

1648 Tudor Avenue

East St. Louis, Il 62207

618-274-5138

www.fmbcesl.org

Union Baptist Church

31 Manhattan Avenue

White Plains, NY 10607

914-948-6439

www.unionbaptistwp.org