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Wille Daniel Kent Sr.

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Rev. Willie D. Kent, Sr.



Born: May 14, 1909

Passed Away: June 11, 1998

Funeral Service

Saturday, June 16, 1998

1:00 P.M.

Historical

First African Baptist Church
Statesboro, Georgia

Interment

Bulloch Memorial Gardens
Statesboro, Georgia

*Servant of God, Well Done...
Rest from thy Loving employed,
The battle is fought and the victory is
Enter Thy Master's Joy*

Wife
Elise Joyce Kent

Daughter
Prethenia Kent Jones

Four Grandchildren
Marya Elise Jones Lee
Sam H. Jones, Jr.
Rev. Michael K. Jones
Willie D. Kent, III

One Great-Grandson
Willie D. Kent, IV

Brother
James Jackson

*Blessed are They that mourn;
For they Shall be comforted.
Matthew 5:4*

Arrangements Entrusted To:

PAYTON MORTUARY

34 Van Buren Street

Statesboro, Georgia 30458

(912) 764-2823

and

STUART MORTUARY, INC.

2201 North Illinois Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46208-5716

(317) 925-3000

A Final Tribute - A Service By Payton's Mortuary, Statesboro, Ga.

Homegoing Celebration



300-375-8
500-

May 14, 1909

June 11, 1996

REVEREND WILLIE DANIEL KENT, SR.



FLORAL ATTENDANTS

Order of Easter Star, Cape Jasmine Chapter #86
Rain or Shine Club

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family wishes to acknowledge with the deepest appreciation the many comforting prayers, telephone calls, messages, flowers and all other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed. It is our prayer that God bestow His blessing on each of you and may he grant safe passage to all those who have traveled from afar.

Pallbearers — Floral Attendants — Acknowledgment

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
Lawton Grove Baptist Church: Pastor & Deacons
St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church: Pastor & Deacons
Scarboro Grove Baptist Church: Pastor & Deacons
Piney Grove Baptist Church: Pastor & Deacons
Historical First African Baptist Church: Pastor & Deacons
Deacon Bobby Simmons
Mr. James Barnes
Rev. Jacob Crawford
Prince Hall Masons

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Prince Hall Masons

IN LOVING MEMORY

of

Reverend Willie Daniel Kent, Sr.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1996 — 1:00 P.M.

HISTORICAL FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Statesboro, Georgia

Rev. Michael K. Jones, Eulogist
Rev. Amos Handsom, Pastor
Interment — Bulloch Memorial Gardens

In Loving Memory

The Bridge Builder

*An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"you are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide-
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.*

Rev. Kent was devoted to serving others. He had compassion and concern for his community, and sought continually to improve the quality of life for others. He served as a board member of the Family and Children's services of Bulloch county and sat on the Planning Board for the City of Statesboro. He was frequently consulted by City leaders concerning issues of the community. He was devoted to providing a better life for the African American community in Statesboro and served as a catalyst to bring peaceful integration during the 1960's. He received numerous awards for his humanitarian service. He was most proud to be the recipient of the Deen Day Smith Service award in April, 1991.

Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was a proud member of the Prince Hall Masons, Lodge #161. He was a loyal member of the Masons and gave unstintingly of himself to serve the organization. Rev. Kent was honored to be a 33rd degree Mason and proudly served as Deputy Grand Master for the State of Georgia. He attended numerous local, statewide and national Masonic conventions.

On July 18, 1932, Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. and Elise Joyce were united in Holy Matrimony. They were married for nearly 64 years. Two children were born of their marriage, a son, the late Willie Daniel Kent, Jr. and one daughter, Prethenia Joyce Kent Jones. He was a devoted husband and father. He and Elise Kent worked tirelessly together in the ministry. Together they acted as role models of Christian love and responsibility. Rev. and Mrs. Kent provided counsel and support to numerous church members and friends. He was determined to provide the best life possible for his children and continuously worked to provide as many opportunities for his children as possible. He was proud of his children's many accomplishments.

Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. departed this life on June 11, 1996 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Elise Joyce Kent of Statesboro, GA; daughter, Prethenia Kent Jones of Indianapolis, IN; son-in-law, Sam H. Jones, Sr. of Indianapolis, IN; four grandchildren, Marya Jones Lee, Rev. Michael K. Jones, both of Indianapolis, IN, Sam H. Jones, Jr. of Doylestown, PA and Daniel Kent III of Sacramento, CA; one granddaughter-in-law, Rhoda McKinney Jones of Doylestown, PA; one great grandson, Willie Daniel Kent, IV of Sacramento, CA; one brother, James Jackson of Savannah, GA and several nieces, nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

Obituary

Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was born in Dover, Georgia on May 14, 1909 to the late Henry and Emma Moore Kent. He was reared in Screven County, Georgia. At an early age he professed a belief in Christ and joined New Bethlehem Baptist Church.

As a child, Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was educated in the Log Cabin program at Sparta, Georgia. Later he attended Savannah State College. In the early 1940's, he accepted a call to the ministry.

Rev. Kent spent his entire professional career in the ministry. He loved the Lord and exemplified a true Christian spirit of service to others. He served as Senior Pastor of First African Baptist Church of Statesboro, St. Mary's Baptist Church of Statesboro, Lawton Grove Baptist Church in Screven County, Piney Grove Baptist Church in Denmark, Georgia and Scarboro Grove Baptist Church in Portal, Georgia for a combined period of nearly fifty years. His entire life of ministry embodied the ideals and principles of the Bible. He always put God first and followed the Spiritual dictate to serve others.

He attended numerous seminars and other educational opportunities to enhance his ministry. He was a devoted servant, serving as spiritual leader, counselor and friend to hundreds of church members. He continually strove to provide the best service he could and to model Christian values.

In addition to a busy ministry, he found time to work as co-owner of Lovett and Kent Garage, formerly located in Statesboro, Ga., for over twenty-five years. He continued his ministry of service by providing repair and maintenance to countless citizens, black and white, of the greater Statesboro area.

Rev. Kent was active in the ministry and the Statesboro community. He served as President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance for many years. He is a past president of the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Sunday School Convention.



Tribute

Order of Service

Processional

Presiding Rev. Julius Abraham

Selection Payton's Chorus

Invocation Rev. Patrick Jones

Scripture Old Testament — Psalm 23 — Rev. Amos Handsom
New Testament — II Timothy 2:6-8 — Rev. Lee Hunter

Selection — "I'll Fly Away" Payton's Chorus

Tributes Rev. Frank Roberts
Moderator, Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Association

Rev. Bennie Brinson
Pastor, Original First African Baptist Church

Rev. Harold Baker
President, New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia

Rev. Lee Hunter
President, Sunday School B.T.U. Congress

Benjamin Barksdale
Grand Master, Prince Hall Affiliate, Masons of the State of Georgia

Solo — "If I Can Help Somebody" Mrs. Eloise Williams

Resolutions Ms. Ardrena Jackson

Acknowledgments Mrs. Constance Jones

Selection Payton's Chorus

Eulogy Rev. Michael K. Jones
Senior Pastor, Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN

Benediction

Recessional

Obituary

Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was born in Dover Georgia on May 14, 1909 to Emma and Henry Kent. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was reared in Scriven County, Georgia. At an early age he professed a belief in Christ and joined New Bethlehem Baptist Church.

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Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was devoted to serving others. He had compassion and concern for his community, and sought continually to improve the quality of life for others. Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. served as a board member of the Family and Children's services of Bulloch county and sat on the Planning Board for the City of Statesboro. He was frequently consulted by City leaders concerning issues of the community. Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was devoted to providing a better life for the African American community in Statesboro and served as a catalyst to bring peaceful integration during the 1960's. Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. received numerous awards for his humanitarian service. We was most proud to be the recipient of the Dean Day award on _____, 19__.

Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was a proud member of the Prince Hall Masons, Lodge #137. He was a loyal member of the Masons and gave unstintingly of himself to serve the organization. Reverend Kent was honored to be a 33rd degree Mason and proudly served as

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4-36/2

PERSONAL DATA INFORMATION

Name: Rev. Willie D. Kent, Sr.

Sex: Male

Date of Death: June 11, 1996

Social Security #: _____

Date of Birth: May 14, 1909

Place of Death: 580 West 64th Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

Marital Status: Married

Surviving Spouse: Elise Joyce

Occupation: Minister

Residence: 222 Bulloch street Statesboro, Georgia 30458

Education: High School plus two (2) years of college

Father: Henry Kent

Mother: Emma Whitfield

Survivors: wife, Elise (Joyce) Kent; one (1) daughter, Prethenia (Kent) Jones; four (4) grandchildren one (1) great grandchild; one (1) brother, James Jackson of Savannah, Ga.

Minister: Historical First African Baptist Church for thirty-six (36) years Statesboro, Georgia (retired)

Pastor Emeritus: St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church and other churches for over fifty (50) years

Co-owner: of Lovett and Kent Garage

Member of: Interdenominational Minister's Alliance in Statesboro, Georgia
 Bulloch County Historical Society Family and Children's Agency Services
 Planning Board of the City of Statesboro, Georgia
 Deputy Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons for the State of Georgia

STUART MORTUARY, INC.
2201 North Illinois Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208-5716
Telephone: (317) 925-3000
Fax: (317) 925-3204

To: Deborah
Payton's Mortuary

Fax: (912) 764-9805

Phone: (912) 764-2823

From: *Mara Stuart Womack,*
Funeral Director
Stuart Mortuary, Inc.

Date: June 11, 1996

Number of Pages
Including Cover: 2

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Funeral Services

For

**Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr.
1909-1996**

Insert Photograph of
Rev. Kent

Saturday, June 15, 1996, 1:00 PM

**Historical First African Baptist Church
Statesboro, Georgia**

Rev. Michael K. Jones. Eulogist

Rev. Amos Handson. Pastor

Interment - Bulloch Memorial Gardens

Payton's Mortuary

Deputy Grand Master for the State of Georgia. He attended numerous local, statewide and national Masonic conventions

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in Indianapolis, Ind.
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Appreciation

The family wishes to acknowledge with the deepest appreciation the many comforting prayers, telephone Calls, messages, flowers and all other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed. It is our prayer that God bestow His blessing on each of you and may he grant safe passage to all those who have traveled from afar.

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

Date: 6/13/96
Time: 8:43:40
Pages: 3

To: Debora/Mr. Poole
Company: Payton's funeral home
Fax #: 1-912-764-9805

From: Mike Jones
Title: Pastor
Company: Progressive MBC
Address: 6120 N. Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46208
USA
Fax #: 317-251-1191
Voice #: 317-251-0754

Message:

Debora:

We will make corrections and add the missing dates when we arrive in Statesboro

Marya Jones Lee.

PERSONAL DATA INFORMATION

Name: Rev. Willie D. Kent, Sr.

Sex: Male

Date of Death: June 11, 1996

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Planning Board of the City of Statesboro, Georgia
Deputy Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons for the State of Georgia

There were some changes and additions made since the first form you received

STUART MORTUARY, INC.
2201 North Illinois Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208-5716
Telephone: (317) 925-3000
Fax: (317) 925-3204

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¹⁶¹ Rev. Willie Daniel Kent, Sr. was a proud member of the Prince Hall Masons, Lodge #137. He was a loyal member of the Masons and gave unstintingly of himself to serve the organization. Reverend Kent was honored to be a 33rd degree Mason and proudly served as