



## Willie Blanding Sr.

September 18, 1924 - March 15, 2021

Willie Blanding Sr., son of the late William Blanding and the late Bertha Grant Soto, was born September 18, 1924, in Dalzell, Sumter County, South Carolina.

Raised by the late “Momma” Helena Blanding in the farming area of Sumter County, Willie was educated in the public schools of Sumter, and at an early age was baptized at the High Hill Baptist Church. In 1944, Willie relocated to Steelton, Pennsylvania, to escape the rigors of farm life. In 1945, he joined the United States Army and served an honorable tour of duty. Thereafter, Willie returned to Steelton where he accepted employment with Bethlehem Steel Company, Steelton Plant, retiring after thirty-one years of service.

Willie met and married his love, the late Ruth Long. Their union was blessed with four beautiful children. Willie united in Christian fellowship with The First Baptist Church of Steelton, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, under the pastorate of the late Reverend E. L. Green and served faithfully with the Trustee and Choir Ministries.

Upon his retirement from the Bethlehem Steel Company, Willie relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he accepted employment with the Marshall L. Shepherd Village retiring after sixteen years of service. In Philadelphia, he united with the membership of the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church under the

pastorate of Rev. Frank B. Mitchell. He faithfully served on the Trustee Board, Usher Board, Van Committee, Bible Study Class and with the Pinn Memorial Federal Credit Union.

In 2013, Willie returned to the Harrisburg/Steelton area where he remained until his transition. There, he again joined in Christian fellowship with his home church, The First Baptist Church of Steelton under the pastorate of Rev. Walter S. Thomas Jr.

Willie truly loved his family. He was a very sociable guy who loved being well-dressed, and he especially enjoyed the fellowship of those around him. Willie never forgot a family member or a friend. He always stayed in contact with family and friends no matter where they resided. He was well-known for sharing old-time stories and was always ready to share or lend a helping hand when needed. One of his greatest joys was the loving relationships he shared with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed fishing, the Dallas Cowboys, the Los Angeles Dodgers, traveling, shooting pool and playing pinochle.

On Monday, March 15, 2021, at the blessed age of ninety-six, Willie was received into the Everlasting Loving Arms of his Creator and Savior Jesus Christ joining in eternal life his parents; two sons, David Keith Blanding and Joseph Curtis; three brothers, John Blanding, Henry Blanding, William Blanding; and three sisters, Lois "Mickie" Bolden, Edna Mayrant and Edith Melvin.

Willie leaves to honor and cherish his legacy three children, Deborah Renee Blanding Davis of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Willie Blanding Jr. of Carrollton, Texas, and Karen E. Blanding of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; as well as a host of grandchildren; great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other family members and friends.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY YOUR NAME.

CLICK ON THE PHOTOS & VIDEOS ON-LINE STREAMING OF SERVICE TAB OR MEDIA TAB (MOBILE) AND TRIBUTE WEBCAST TO VIEW SERVICE.

# Cemetery Details

## William Howard Day Cemetery

Lincoln and Carlisle Streets  
Steelton, PA 17113

# Previous Events

## Flower Delivery

MAR 23. 8:30 AM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.  
106 Agnes St  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
(717) 939-9950  
wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com  
<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com>

## Viewing

MAR 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.  
106 Agnes St  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
(717) 939-9950  
wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com  
<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com>

## Service

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MAR **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.

106 Agnes St

Harrisburg, PA 17104

(717) 939-9950

[wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com](mailto:wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com)

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# Tribute Wall



“ Wallace Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Willie Blanding Sr.



Wallace Funeral Directors - March 22, 2021 at 01:37 PM

MA

*Uncle Willie. Im going to Miss you so much. You taught me the true meaning of family. After my grandmother your oldest sister Lula Mae. You made sure you kept her memory alive by telling us so many stories. I love you and am going to miss you.  
Love your Great Niece Marie Felton*

Marie - March 23, 2021 at 02:36 PM

MA

“ *Uncle Willie. Im going to Miss you so much. You taught me the true meaning of family. After my grandmother your oldest sister Lula Mae. You made sure you kept her memory alive by telling us so many stories. I love you and am going to miss you.  
Love your Great Niece Marie Felton*

Marie - March 23, 2021 at 02:38 PM



“ *Uncle Willie, you will never be forgotten but you home with my mother your sister Edith, Edna and Mickey plus grandma Bertha. I will miss all of your jokes and going to buffets. Love ya Uncle thanks for the memories... your niece Judy McNeill*

Judy Mcneill - March 22, 2021 at 11:15 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Willie Blanding Sr..*



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March 19, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willie Blanding Sr..*



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March 18, 2021 at 02:34 PM



“ *Pop Pop, you will never ever be forgotten. The memories we've made, and the ones you've shared many times, are a blessing. I miss you and you will forever be in my heart. I love you.  
~Chandra Blanding*



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**Chandra Blanding** - March 18, 2021 at 02:26 PM



*Willie Jr. and Family, So sorry for your loss. Look to the " Hills" where cometh help. Your Father is in a better place. Keep his memory alive by sharing all your Precious Memories of him. Rest in Peace Mr. Blanding!!! Joani Hicks*

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**Joani Hicks** - March 18, 2021 at 11:21 PM

ED

*You all have my condolences. For the loss of you all Father and grandfather. May he rest in peace. From the Dawson and Curtis family.*

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**Ellarine curtis Dawson** - March 20, 2021 at 03:19 AM

SL

*Uncle Willie you will always be missed but never forgotten.*

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**Sheila Lee** - March 23, 2021 at 08:51 AM