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WASHINGTON COLUMBUS "W.C." WILLIAMS

Mr. Washington Columbus "W.C." Williams was born to Emanuel and Lula B. Williams on December 28, 1917, in Lovelady. Mr. Williams spent the majority of his life residing and working within Lovelady.

Mr. Williams graduated high school in Crockett, completed a BA degree at Huston Tillotson in Austin and a ME degree from Prairie View A&M. Mr. Williams was an early achiever and knew at an early age that he wanted to be a teacher.

At the age of 18, he began teaching and coaching basketball and track at Center Grove High School and was the school's principal until 1969.

In 1969, Mr. Williams joined the staff of Lovelady High School where he served as Assistant Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent until his retirement in 1985. Mr. Williams was an educator in Lovelady for 45 years and for four years in Midway.

Seeking a source of strength, he was added to the Smith Grove Church of Christ roll at the age of 15 years. Mr. Williams missed attending church rarely and served as the church's treasurer until his death.

Throughout Mr. Williams' life, he was involved in many civic and political activities including the Committee for Lands in Farmers Home Administration, Worshipful Master of Masonic Lodge #538 and served as High Priest for the Royal Arch Chapter. Mr. Williams was also a member of organizations such as the Hospital Board, Park Committee at Lovelady, Pine Tree Manor, Deep East Texas Area Agency on Aging and the Sheriffs Association of Texas.

Mr. Williams has received many honors. Mr. Williams was listed in the 1969 edition of Outstanding Personalities of the South; received plaques for outstanding citizen in the community for outstanding teacher; given a certificate of appreciation from President of the United States, Richard Nixon, for 10 years of service to the Nation as an uncompensated member of the Selective Service System and many teaching related honors, an honor that Mr. Williams was particularly proud of was the gymnasium that was built in his honor; The W.C. Williams Gymnasium.

Mr. Williams was a well loved teacher and was voted favorite male teacher for three consecutive years. Mr. Williams' speeches at the Lovelady High School pep rallies are fondly remembered by all students. Mr. Williams loved teaching and always said if he was financially able he would teach for free.

Mr. Washington Columbus "W.C." Williams departed this life on November 7, 2006 at his home.

Survivors include his devoted wife Mrs. Mittie M. Williams; three loving and dedicated children Susan Patterson and husband Vernon, Zandra Williams and Washington C. Williams, Jr. and wife Wendy; four grandchildren Whitney Williams, Arika Williams, Emanuel Williams and Megan Williams; one sister Ida B. Mitchell; and a great number of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by his wife of 38 years, Wilma Juanita Jackson Williams; eldest daughter Dr. Linda Faye Williams.

Cal Wooder