



William Edward Chenault

August 17, 1942 - October 22, 2025

William Edward Chenault returned safely home to the arms of his creator on October 22, 2025, after a brief illness. “Little William”, as he was affectionately known, was the beloved and cherished son of the late Nannie Carol Samuels and James William Chenault. As an adult, he professed his faith in and hope for Jesus Christ and was baptized at Jimtown Baptist Church under the pastorate of Rev. Michael Wilson. Little William was educated in the Fayette County school system. He was employed at Wenneker Shoes in downtown Lexington, earning the distinction of being one of the city’s first African American shoe salesmen. He was also formerly employed at Good Samaritan Hospital and as a transport aide for the Shriners’ Hospital. After working at Shriner’s, he was hired by LFUCG as a custodian at the Black & Williams Center. Upon his retirement, he found great joy in participating in the Foster Grandparent program. He participated in the program until COVID-19 put it on hiatus.

Never one to meet a stranger, Little William was a staple in the Brucetown community and a self-declared ambassador and mayor of Smithtown. He could be found many afternoons and evenings playing horseshoes at the corner of 5th and; Jefferson streets. Additionally, he worked many nights at the Swahili Elks Lodge located on North Broadway. He, along with his buddies Nelson Reed, Levi Canada, Luke Moore, and Charles Wright, along with others, became founding members of the Sons of Lexington social club. Family was the most important facet of his life. His death leaves a hole in the hearts of his children and grandchildren that will never be replaced. His memory lives on in the lives of his four daughters Carrol Wilson (Decatur, GA), Angela Chenault-Richardson (Bruce), Monica Chenault, and Hattie Williams. His love lives on in the lives of his grandchildren Carlton Chenault, Mark Gay-Chenault (Maria), Brittani Wilson (Decatur, GA), Brandon Chenault, Joshua Chenault, Ashley Lewis, Ashley Ezeson (Chinomso), John Jones, William A. Chenault, Marie Williams, Leiha White, Elijah Chenault (Atlanta, GA), and Averianna Brown. A host of great-grandchildren will continue to carry on his legacy. His ex-wife, Janice Arthur Chenault, also survives him. He was preceded in death by several aunts, uncles, cousins, and a special sister-cousin, Mary Elizabeth Carter, and a special friend, Ms. Pauline Wright.

Cemetery Details

Cove Haven Cemetery

Lexington, KY

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT **29**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Shiloh Baptist Church
235 E Fifth Street
Lexington, KY 40508

Visitation 11 am Wednesday October 28, 2025, until of time of service at Shiloh Baptist Church.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of William Edward Chenault.



October 28, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of William Edward Chenault.



October 28, 2025 at 11:31 AM