



Mr. Preston Williams

February 23, 1925 - September 22, 2019

Montezuma, GA – Mr. Preston Clark Williams, Jr., 94, of Montezuma, Georgia, passed away on Sunday, September 22, 2019, at The Oaks Nursing and Personal Care Home in Marshallville, Georgia.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 28, 2019, at the First Baptist Church, Montezuma, Georgia. Burial will follow at Bertha Dozier Memorial Park. Family will receive friends on Friday evening, September 27th, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at Watson-Mathews Funeral Home.

Former Montezuma mayor, former president of Southern Frozen Foods, active church man and civic leader, Preston was a man whose “word was his bond”.

At his retirement from Southern Frozen Foods in 1990, he was presented with a leather bound book filled with letters from friends, pastors, co-workers, vendors and family members. One friend wrote, “You are the consummate human being ... the unexcelled friend, a tremendous businessman and a great lover of family and friends. You leave a wonderful legacy to Southern Frozen Foods and all the people of Macon County.”

Another wrote, “You will leave the world a much, much better place than you found it.” Still another called him “a Southern gentleman,” and one letter writer said he was a “fantastic jitter bugger.”

Preston was born February 23, 1925, the son of Preston Williams, Sr. and Lurline Williams. He married his high school sweetheart, Sara Penn, on December 6, 1946. She died in 2012.

A graduate of Griffin High School, he attended Clemson University on a football scholarship. He had previously enlisted in the Navy Voluntary Service Agreement (V5A) program while a senior in high school, and was ordered to report for duty after only one semester at Clemson. While in the Navy V5A program, he also attended Mercer University, the University of Miami, Princeton University and Columbia University. He often stated he had attended five colleges, but did not have a degree from anywhere, with the

exception of the “University of Hard Knocks.”

Preston has strongly supported the Scouting program in Macon County and Middle Georgia over the years. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1943 and was honored in 1995 with the Silver Beaver, the highest award Scouting offers adults. He was a member of the Executive Board of the Central Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America, from 1975 to 2000. He served on the Mercer University Board of Trustees, Macon, Georgia, from 1985 through 2004. Preston wrote letters of recommendation for numerous young adults who have applied to Mercer University.

Preston started with Southern Frozen Foods as a salesman and became sales manager in 1961. He became president of the company in 1966. During his tenure, the company grew in sales from \$35 million to \$120 million annually. “All the people there worked with me and not for me,” he said of that time in his life. He also served as president of the American Frozen Food Institute from 1989 to 1990.

He was active in his community in many ways. He was mayor of Montezuma from 1992 to 2000 and was a member of the Macon County Board of Education from 1971 to 1991. He led and helped with many worthwhile community projects; for example, he was instrumental in building the Macon County recreation center, which is now named for him. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Macon County Chamber of Commerce, and an active member of the Macon County Kiwanis Club for over 40 years.

A member of First Baptist Church, he was a deacon there from 1967 to 2000, giving up his post to allow younger men to serve. Preston was a man of his word and a “creature of habit” – good, long-lasting habits, friends say. One of his habits was consistently waking up at 5:30 a.m. each morning, exercising and taking his handful of vitamins before starting his day. He took a total of 40 vitamins daily. Another habit was his weekly visits with residents of The Oaks Nursing & Personal Care Home in Marshallville each Tuesday morning for the past 20 years. He habitually arrived on time at each and every event he was attending.

He also was an avid golfer, playing 18 holes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He was a runner and from 1977 to 2000 he logged a total of 29,982 miles. Before his death, his habit was to work out for one hour and five minutes each morning and to walk one mile. He often stated he had “lived a blessed life.” These are some of his thoughts on life: “What happens to you may be an accident -- How you respond to it is not.” “Make sure your caring includes doing.” “Help the helpless and give to the needy, but do it out of compassion, not pity.” “If you think you are too important to help someone in need, you are

only fooling yourself -- you are really a nobody.”

Preston is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Clark and Gail Williams of Palm Harbor, FL , and Bill and D.C. Williams of Montezuma, GA; two grandsons, Bill Williams and his wife, Kelly, of Montezuma, GA, and Dan Williams and his wife, Lynsey, of Montezuma, GA; two great grandsons, Dan and James Preston Williams; and two great granddaughters, Leah and Chandler Williams; one niece, Beth Kasulitus, and two nephews, Jimbo Ragsdale and Richard Ragsdale; and a host of cousins and friends. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by one brother, Kenneth “Bubba” Williams.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his memory to the First Baptist Church Montezuma, P.O. Box 357, Montezuma, GA 31063.

Friends may express condolences and sign the online guestbook at <http://www.watsonmathewsfuneralhome.com>.

Watson-Mathews Funeral Home in Montezuma, Georgia has been entrusted with funeral arrangements.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Watson Mathews Funeral Home

322 North Dooly Street P.O. Box 283, Montezuma, GA, US, 31063

SEP **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

28

First Baptist Church of Montezuma

207 North Dooly Street, Montezuma, GA, US, 31063

SEP **Interment**

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Bertha Dozier Memorial Park

405 East Walnut Street, Montezuma, GA, US, 31063

Comments



“ Beverly N Ricky Robbins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Beverly N Ricky Robbins - September 27, 2019 at 08:41 PM



“ Condolences are blessingly extended to the Bereaved Family



Nalie Johnson - September 27, 2019 at 08:12 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Preston's passing. I just read it in the paper. He was a very dear friend to me and Im sure you all will miss him.
Love to you all. Mrs W M Harris (Jackie Harris)

wynn harris - September 27, 2019 at 03:31 PM



“ What a wonderful man and icon for the Macon County Community. Mr. Preston Williams was a true supporter of education and gave his all to support the educational system of Macon County during my tenure as the high school principal. He was there to support the school with every request made to him. He was a friend and supporter. Mr. Williams will be missed.

I honor and salute the life and legacy of Mr. Preston Williams.

Dr. Rickey & Ary Edmond

Rickey Edmond - September 27, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ Preston Williams, a true Gentleman and friend that I had the pleasure of working with for thirty years, and will now miss.

when someone would enter his office and address him as Mr. Williams, he would immediately correct them by replying, Mr Williams is in Griffin, I am Preston, extending his hand of friendship.

A strong style of management, and a believer in his team. He quite often said he didn't have to manage, just be a cheer leader for my team.

Our prayers are with Clark, Bill and their families.

Mary T. and Bobby Downs

Bobby Downs - September 27, 2019 at 09:37 AM



“ Red & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Preston Williams.



September 26, 2019 at 09:39 PM



“ TARA MIDDLEBROOKS SAWYER lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



TARA MIDDLEBROOKS SAWYER - September 25, 2019 at 11:26 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy on the passing of your love one. May God give you comfort and Peace.

Mr.A.C Leary
Mr.N.C. Leary



Felisha Brown - September 25, 2019 at 11:14 AM



“ Our prayers are with Clark, Bill and all the family during this celebration of life. Mr. Preston was a good friend who helped me make decisions as a youth growing up in Montezuma, GA. Thank You Mr. Preston and R.I.P.

Dan H. Stewart

Dan H Stewart - September 25, 2019 at 09:25 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Williams family. Sport was a wonderful person and a benefit to his community.

Judy Coleman and Family - September 24, 2019 at 06:20 PM



“ My prayers go out to Preston Williams family. Preston was a great inspiration to a lot of people. I always admired him when I worked at Southern Frozen Foods, he would always throw his arm up high when I would see him jogging. He will be missed by the community and all who knew him.

Lee Kelley - September 25, 2019 at 08:13 AM



“ Mauric & Paden Avera lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



mauric & paden avera - September 24, 2019 at 09:36 AM



“ A wonderful person.

mauric & paden avera - September 24, 2019 at 09:42 AM



“ Mayor Bruce Hill sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Mayor Bruce Hill - September 24, 2019 at 08:29 AM



“ Wanda Middlebrooks sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Wanda Middlebrooks - September 23, 2019 at 11:38 PM



“ Prayers to the Williams' family. Preston was truly a wonderful man to all people and will be remembered. May God bless the family.

Joyce Treadwell - September 23, 2019 at 09:05 PM



“ So sorry to learn of the passing of Mr. Preston. What a great, great man! Mr. Preston was a mentor to so many people both young and old. He taught so many young people the value of a firm handshake and eye-to-eye contact when greeting everyone. I do believe that everyone who knew him is a better person today because of him.

Bobby - September 23, 2019 at 08:02 PM



“ Camille Brooks Collier Guerry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Camille Brooks Collier Guerry - September 23, 2019 at 04:10 PM



“ I'm so sorry Clark and Bill. I know you will miss him so much. Your parents were special !

Camille Brooks Collier Guerry - September 23, 2019 at 04:11 PM



“ My heart goes out to all of you in your time of sorrow from the loss of your loving father who will remain in your hearts forever. My prayers are with the surviving members of your family.



Donna S Webb - September 23, 2019 at 03:54 PM



“ Terri Carroll lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Terri Carroll - September 23, 2019 at 01:12 PM



“ Mr. Preston was always a true gentlemen and Christian. I have wonderful memories growing up at First Baptist Church with him as one of the leaders (Deacon). He will be missed. I will keep the Williams family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Terri Carroll - September 23, 2019 at 01:15 PM



“ Mr. Preston was such an important part of so many lives and will forever be remembered with love. His kindness and hugs are part of sweet memories we will always hold. We love all of you family members and know he is at peace in the presence of our Lord and with his sweetheart, Ms. Sarah.

Wendy and Randy - September 23, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ Amy Raburn Parker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Amy Raburn Parker - September 23, 2019 at 11:43 AM



“ A very special man indeed! Prayers for all!



Connie Kerce - September 23, 2019 at 10:59 AM



“ Preston was an inspiration to many people. I held the upmost respect for him. Sorry to hear of his passing but no doubt he's headed to a better place.

Larry Walker - September 23, 2019 at 10:46 AM



“ Rick/AliceHall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Rick/AliceHall - September 23, 2019 at 10:13 AM



“ So sad to hear about Mr. Preston. He was always such a joy to talk with when he came into PNC Bank when I worked there. Praying for strength and comfort for all his family and friends.



Terri Cumbus - September 23, 2019 at 10:13 AM



“ Mr Preston was an example for so many of us. His love of life and family and how he dealt with us all will never be forgotten. This man walked the walk big time!

Tommy McKenzie - September 23, 2019 at 10:01 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Preston's passing. He was such a great man and was very dedicated to his family, work and community. I believe he knew everyone and never met a stranger. He left a great legacy and will be missed by many. God bless you all during this difficult time.

Nellie Jo Harth



Nellie Jo Harth - September 23, 2019 at 08:30 AM



“ Tammi L Law lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Tammi L Law - September 23, 2019 at 05:52 AM



“ Mayor Preston Williams was such a good man and role model! I thank God for him and the many wonderful things he did for Montezuma and Macon County. The world is a better place because Preston Williams walked upon it. Preston Williams is such a hero! I will miss him so much. He was a Godly and wise Boss.



Lewis Cazenave - September 23, 2019 at 05:03 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Preston, he was a great man and made the world a better place with his determination and love for people. Prayers for you all.

Brenda Oglesby - September 23, 2019 at 03:16 AM



“ Gayle Tungate lit a candle in memory of Mr. Preston Williams



Gayle Tungate - September 23, 2019 at 02:26 AM