



## Dr. Willie George Shaw

March 29, 1942 - December 23, 2022

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE of Dr. Willie George “Hawk” Shaw

Willie George Shaw was born on March 29, 1942, in Jackson, Tennessee to Morgan Shaw and Vernell Saunders Shaw and transitioned to his heavenly home on December 23, 2022. Will was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Morgan Shaw, Jr., Albert Shaw, and Kenneth Shaw; his sisters, Margaret Shaw, Dorothy Shaw Littlejohn, Mildred Shaw Harris, Geneva Shaw Arnold; and his second wife, Linda Dupont Shaw.

He was a member of Berean Baptist Church. He received his high school education at Merry High School, Jackson, Tennessee (1960); his bachelor’s degree at Lane College (1964), where he graduated Cum Laude; his master’s degree at University of Tennessee, Knoxville Tennessee (1968); his doctorate degree at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee (1975), and did further study at Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee (1973 & 1985).

After completing his master’s degree, he married Dr. Brenda Joyce Robinson Shaw, in Jackson, Tennessee, and from this union, two children were born, Dr. Stacey Alexis Shaw and Daricus Robinson Shaw.

Will began his basketball career at Merry High School, following his older

brother, Morgan Shaw, Jr. His Physical Education teacher contacted the high school coach, Mr. Jack Gilmore, who watched Will perform, which was enough to convince Coach Gilmore that here was a “natural star.” Coach Gilmore became Will’s first coach. Will eventually became the school’s second All-State player, following his brother’s footsteps, who had been the first All-State player at Merry High. Will’s highest single scoring effort through high school was 37 points.

In 1962, Will was the leading scorer of the National Athletic Inter-Collegiate Association, which covered small college competition. His record as a sophomore was an average of 32.8. He played in a tournament with a cast on his arm and still scored his usual number of points. As a senior at Lane College, he averaged 40.4 points per game and had a burning ambition to become a professional basketball player. He played professional basketball for the New York Harlem Astronauts in 1965. He was a member of the 1964 NAIA Olympic Trials Basketball Team, and although Will had comparable skills to many at that time, he was not chosen because he and the school he attended were not well known. He was named to the Little All American Team in 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964. He was inducted into the original Lane College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1982, commissioned and established by Dr. Herman Stone, President. He was inducted into the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame on April 25, 1991, and inducted into the Lane College Athletic Hall of Fame on October 7, 2016.

Will started his professional career at Lane College, where he was a full Professor of Health and Physical Education, Director of Institutional Advancement; Head Coach of Basketball, Cross Country, Track, Tennis, Baseball, and Golf; Assistant Football Coach; Activity Director and Administrator of NCAA and National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), and Athletic Director. He coached Lane College to its first SIAC championship in 1967-68. He supervised the Gilliam League Baseball team for the City of

Jackson; served as Coordinator and instructor of the Gymnastic Team for the City of Jackson, was a Red Cross Water Safety and CPR instructor; and Commissioner of Baseball for the City of Jackson's Department of Recreation. He was also a member of the Rockwell team which won the first championship in the Jackson, Tennessee Independent League.

Willie George Shaw was he a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Incorporated, National Association of Basketball Coaches, Southern Coaches and Officials Association, and the NCAA South Region Tennis Advisory Board. He chaired the NCAA Division III Basketball and the All American Selection Committee, N. A. B. C. Division; served on the NCAA Planning Committee for Long Term Projects, NCAA Nomination Committee, and NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports. Will also served as chair of the Anti-Crime Committee for the City of Jackson Housing Authority, served on the Board of Directors of the Jackson-Madison County Airport Authority, and was a member of the Morehouse NYSP Advisory Board.

He later moved to North Carolina, where he served at North Carolina Central University (Durham, North Carolina) as Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education, Director of Recreation, Director of the Walker Sports Complex, and served as an NYSP evaluator. He later moved to Elizabeth City State University, where he served as Associate Professor, Chair of the Department of Health and Physical Education, and Athletic Director. He continued to serve as an NYSP evaluator. He then moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he served as Department Chair and Professor of the Department of Health and Physical Education at Morehouse College, Tennis Coach, with eight (8) conference championships and eight (8) SIAC Coach of the year awards, and two (2) Atlanta Touchdown Club Coach of the Year awards. He served as National Youth Sports Program Administrator, Faculty Athletic Representative, and Advisor to the Student Athletic Council at Morehouse, all

the while serving as an SIAC Basketball Official. After retiring from Morehouse College, Will moved to Kansas City, where he coached middle school basketball and football and taught middle school health, physical education and reading, and supervised aquatics at the Foreign Language Academy.

Will leaves to cherish his memory two daughters, Dr. Stacey Alexis Shaw of Crofton, Maryland and Lashanda Rodgers; three sons, Daricus Robinson Shaw (Tina) of Franklin, Kentucky, Stephen Manuel of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Kelvin Dixon, and a step-son, Richard Dupont (Lucy); his first wife, Dr. Brenda Robinson Shaw of Durham, North Carolina; his sister, Ms. Alberta Shaw Kendrick of Palmdale, California and his 2nd mother, Mrs. Helen Porter (Mama Helen) and special sister, Daria Graves of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; two nieces Valerie Kendrick of Lancaster, California and Pamela Williams (Keith) of Los Angeles, California; three nephews, Aerick Kendrick (Dena) of Palmdale, California; Mark Thomas (Victoria) of Los Angeles, California, and Patrick Kenneth Littlejohn (Lisa) of Akron, Ohio; and a host of other nieces, nephews, family members, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family is preferring donations be made to the Lane College Athletic Department, which can be found on the Lane College website.

<https://www.lanecollege.edu/alumni/in-memory-of-will-shaw>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **13.** 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (CT)

Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc.  
807 N. Hays Avenue  
Jackson, TN 38301  
(731) 427-7411  
info@stephenson-shaw.com  
<https://www.stephenson-shaw.com>

## Service

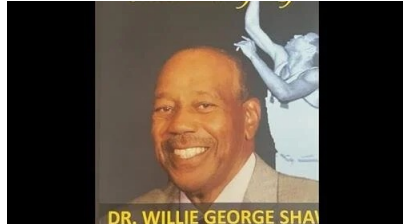
JAN **14.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Berean Baptist Church  
214 North Royal Street  
Jackson, TN 38301

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Willie George Shaw*



Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc - January 15, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ *Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Willie George Shaw*



Stephenson-Shaw Funeral Home, Inc - January 11, 2023 at 12:59 PM

DM

“ *I am just learning of Dr. Shaw's transition. I offer my sincere condolences to the family. I worked with him during Special Olympics. The children and parents loved him. He was a wonderful advocate for all children but with a special talent for those with disabilities. Rest in peace, Will.*

Dr. Sylvia Mason - October 10, 2023 at 08:51 PM



“ *Dr. Willie George Shaw*

January 28, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ *Love, Ric and Lucy Dupont purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Willie George Shaw.*



**Love, Ric and Lucy Dupont** - January 14, 2023 at 01:16 PM



“ *Will was more than my father in law, he was my advisor ,my friend, someone I could talk to, someone I care about deeply. I am going to miss him very much. Love Lucy G. Dupont*



**Lucy Dupont** - January 14, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Dr. Willie Shaw was a wonderful Man, Colleague and Friend. He knew no enemies and made everyone feel welcome! I extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and I pray that God is comforting each of you in this time of family sadness. Respectfully yours, Dr. Tarin T. Hampton*

**Tarin Hampton** - January 14, 2023 at 08:58 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Willie George Shaw.*



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January 12, 2023 at 10:55 PM



“ *While a student at Lane College (1976-1980), I had the great pleasure of being the babysitter for the Shaw family. As such, I thought I had a shoe-in on anything related 'Shaw'; however, that proved not to be the case. I tried out to be a lifeguard and Coach Shaw was in charge of the program. He cut me. Yes...me...his babysitter because he was a consummate professional and knew what it took to be an effective member of the Lane College Lifeguard Corps. And he said, without flinching, "Phyllis, nothing personal but you're not a strong enough swimmer who will be capable to save lives; in particular, not for Lane." Although I was disappointed, Coach Shaw knew what it would take, and at that time, I didn't have what it took. That was Coach Shaw...he could put his feelings in check to make sure that Lane College had what it needed to be the best. Rest in paradise Coach Shaw. Phyllis Bell-Davis, Lane College c/o 1980.*



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**Phyllis Bell-Davis** - January 12, 2023 at 03:18 PM



“ *Yes you were my coach you coached us to the Chicago championship team at the amphitheater we won the championship and I was the MVP I was never considered for the Hall of Fame at Lane after being the leading scorer for 4 years and the captain of the team*

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**Daniel Cunegin** - January 11, 2023 at 09:02 AM

TT

“ Thanks coach for the learning process in helping me better my skills on the court. You will be truly missed. Praying for your families healing.

Tommy L Thompson - January 08, 2023 at 12:33 AM



You will be sorely missed rest in peace

Daniel Cunegin - January 11, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Willie George Shaw.



January 07, 2023 at 10:20 AM

DJ

“ Debra Johnson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Willie George Shaw.



Debra Johnson - January 06, 2023 at 02:29 PM

BT

“ Brenda Cooper Tatum lit a candle in memory of Dr. Willie George Shaw



Brenda Cooper Tatum - January 05, 2023 at 01:14 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Willie George Shaw.*



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January 04, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Willie George Shaw.*



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January 03, 2023 at 01:43 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences extended to the family.*

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**Mae Bufford Prewitt** - December 31, 2022 at 06:17 PM



“ *Condolences to the family of Will Shaw. Will and I were classmates at Lane College. He was a perfect gentleman and a great friend. He and my husband were friends and Will always attended Homecoming at Lane. He was friendly and always had a smile for everyone.*

*Frank and Allene Ward*

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**Allene Ward** - December 30, 2022 at 08:44 PM

MG

*To the Family of Lane Man/Coach, Dr. Willie George Shaw, may your Eternal Rest be sprinkled with all the precious memories you deposited into the lives of so many students, coaching professionals, your amazing Family, Lane College and every Institution you were blessed to have hands on relationship. Yes, we will miss you Earthly Court but Heaven has received a Heavenly Athlete Extraordinaire.  
M. Faye Godwin, Class of 1981*

Marion Godwin - January 14, 2023 at 12:33 PM

AW

“ Allene Ward lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw



Allene Ward - December 30, 2022 at 08:32 PM

DS

“ I enjoyed working with Will as a student-coach during my senior year at Lane College. He was an inspiration to the young men that he coached. Dr. Stafford Thompson. Sr.

Dr. Stafford L . Thompson, Sr. - December 28, 2022 at 11:12 PM



“ My sincere heartfelt condolences to Coach Shaw, family !! Rest in peace !!



Mary Wynne - December 28, 2022 at 10:41 PM

LT

“ *Linda Taylor-Barnett lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw*



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**Linda Taylor-Barnett** - December 28, 2022 at 02:43 PM

SB

“ *Coach Shaw as I know him from Lane College, was one of my teachers in the field of Physical Education. He was sure a great gentleman in his everyday life and professionally. He is leaving a legacy at Lane College, Merry High School, the Jackson-Madison County area and other lives he touched. Peace and love to the family.*

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**Sophira Walker Bradford** - December 28, 2022 at 12:44 PM

DC

“ *To the family of Dr Will Shaw, you have my condolences and prayers. Earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal. Stay strong.*



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**Deborah Cox Crayton** - December 27, 2022 at 05:31 PM

GC

“ *Georgia Cross lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw*



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**Georgia Cross** - December 27, 2022 at 02:19 PM

IA

“ Irene Aldridge lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw



Irene Aldridge - December 27, 2022 at 01:28 PM

CM

“ Cassandra Madden lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw



Cassandra Madden - December 27, 2022 at 05:03 AM

BF

“ R.I.P. WILLIE SHAW. GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN 🌹🌹 CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THE SHAW FAMILY 🙏



Brenda Floyd - December 26, 2022 at 06:43 PM

JS

“ Jewell Sistrunk lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw



Jewell Bowles Sistrunk - December 26, 2022 at 05:48 PM

IG

“ Condolences 🙏 to the family.  
Will was always nice with a great personality.  
A link in the chain of the Lane family is missing but never forgotten.  
RIH  
Iris Gardner

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**Iris Gardner** - December 26, 2022 at 11:31 AM

OC

“ Oliver F lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw



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**Oliver F Cox** - December 25, 2022 at 07:15 PM

VP

“ Memory: In the 1970s when we were teaching at Lane College; all of us in our 20s. Will was always the life of the party. Rest in peace.  
The Peek family

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**Venice Peek** - December 25, 2022 at 11:05 AM

LC

“ Our sincere condolences to the Shaw's family.  
We will keep you in our prayers. Laymon &  
Christine Calloway



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**Laymon & Christine Calloway** - December 25, 2022 at 09:31 AM

RJ

“ I William West Nelson Jr really Thank, Coach Shaw for helping me graduate from Lane College. He a True Role Model for many young men especially his basketball players. He called my parents and they took my car because I was not going to class and party with my Omega Brothers. He wanted all his players to graduate from Lane College and be successful in Life. He will always be in my memory bank. Also I think he was the first to be drafted in the NBA from Lane College. He Loved Lane College and we as players love him. May GOD continue to Bless the entire Shaw Family. Rev. William "West" Nelson Jr.

Rev. William West Nelson Jr - December 25, 2022 at 09:16 AM

AB

“ Angela Brown lit a candle in memory of Willie Shaw



Angela Hodges Brown - December 24, 2022 at 08:58 AM

JB

“ Playing baseball at Washington Douglass School ground and the old Coleman Field Park.  
I also watched Will score 46 points for Lane College while at home on leave from the military (1963), I think?

john (goat) Bisho - December 24, 2022 at 03:18 AM

JJ

I grew up with Willie Shaw In Jackson, Tenn and always consider him as one of my favorite and best friends. Rest in peace Hawk, you will be missed.

John E Jackson

John E Jackson - January 03, 2023 at 01:12 PM