A portrait of Rev. Dr. Willard Vance Washington, a man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a grey fedora, a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He is smiling and has his hands in his pockets. The background is a deep purple with ornate, swirling silver and white patterns on the left and right sides.

Rev. Dr.
WILLARD
VANCE WASHINGTON

July 23, 1937 - November 12, 2025

"Is There Any Word From The Lord?"
Psalms 91:7-8

Monday, December 15, 2025
Visitation: 9:00am-10:00am
Homegoing Service: 10:00am-11:00am

His Story

Willard Vance Washington, affectionately called by his second name Vance, was born July 23, 1937 in Chicago Illinois to the marital union of Lillian Wyatt and James Pringle Threet-Washington. (Jeremiah 1:5)

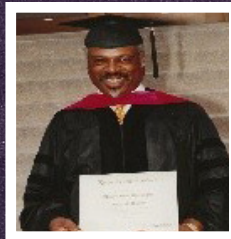
Vance's Christian life began with his beloved and God-fearing grandmother Jessie Webb Threet-Washington who raised him and his twin brother Winston Vincent in the atmosphere of a Christian home in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). Grandma Jessie faithfully brought Vance and Vince to church every week and even during the week. They were members of the historic West Point Missionary Baptist Church, in Chicago, IL.

Vance's parents, his grandmother, his older sister and brother, Lahleet and Raymond, as well as his twin brother, all preceded him in passing on. Vance's precious baby son David Washington as well as his gracious and loving son Darren Vance Washington have both preceded him to HEAVEN...

LIFE: EDUCATION



Vance was educated in the system; he attended Doolittle Elementary and School. Vance understood education; therefore, he advanced educational Logos University, formerly College and Graduate



Chicago Public School and graduated from Wendell Phillips High the value of a solid went on to earn four credentials from Logos Christian Schools. In addition,



he continued working in his elder years (2 Timothy 2:15)



LIFE: MILITARY

Vance and his twin brother Vince dutifully enlisted and nobly served in the United States Air Force, beginning in the year of 1954; Vance was deeply proud of his military service and recognition as an Air Force Veteran, and was truly gratified when he earned an HONORABLE DISCHARGE. 1 (Chronicles 12:33)



U.S. AIR FORCE

LIFE: LOVE

Vance met his future wife, Janet ("Jan") Christmas at the South Center Department store in Chicago, Illinois in the year 1957; they became engaged and were joyfully married on August 10, 1958. Vance LOVED HIS "WOMAN," as he called her, and they both referred to one another as "Sweetie," even when they experienced an occasion or two in matters of different thought. The exquisite match of Vance and Jan was truly one that was "Made in Heaven." (Mark 10:9)



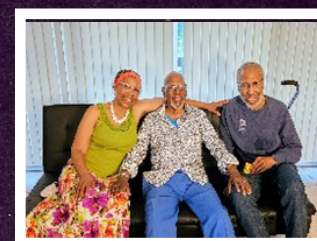
Due to their similar natural and spiritual backgrounds, they were both raised/reared in Godly households by their paternal grandmothers after the passing of their young mothers.

Through the thick, the thin, and within the sacred VOWS referencing those significant words, "in sickness and in health," Vance and Jan both credited and testified of their mutual FAITH IN FATHER GOD'S WORD concerning their enduring marital love (Ephesians 5:31-33). Vance and Jan were lovingly married one month short of their 43rd wedding anniversary, when she passed away on July 10, 2001; this date was indeed the birthday of their caring and devoted daughter.



LIFE: LOVE (Children)

Vance was genuinely overjoyed to be a new Daddy to his oldest child, his daughter, Cheryl Lynne ("Cherie Baby"/"Big Snookum"); he was thrilled at the birth of his son, Darren Vance ("Man"); he was amazed that he was a father for the third time, concerning his baby son David, yet deeply sorrowful that David did not survive infancy...



Vance was a genuine father-figure to so many, especially to Brett ("Pancho") the wonderful husband of his daughter. He loved Brett as his Son-in-Love.
(Psalms 127:3-5)



LIFE: LOVE (Grandchildren)

Vance was enthralled with the birth of his first grandchild, his oldest golden granddaughter, Laurenne Christiana ("Snookum"); next came the birth of his oldest golden grandson, Christopher Vance; then suddenly 3 months later, came his second grandson, Scott Brandon ("The Preacher"); and last, but certainly not least came his ("Punkin"), April Nicole to round off the celebration of being a blessed GRANDFATHER OF FOUR GRANDCHILDREN!!!

LIFE: LEGACY (PROFESSIONS)

Due to his several and wide-ranging God-given intellectual gifts, along with a multiplicity of skill sets, Vance was employed and served in several industries: Visual Merchandising in display design; fashion and modeling on the runway and in print; loss-prevention and CPD security policing; Public school education.

As a licensed educator in the states of Illinois and Indiana he was gainfully employed in the Chicago Public Schools and Indiana Public Schools respectively.
(Colossians 3:23-24)

LIFE: LEGACY (MINISTRY)

Vance loved the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength; at the age of thirty-eight, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord. Over the many years of his spiritual journey he was a faithful member, ordained Elder and Minister at the Monument of Faith Evangelistic Church in Chicago, Illinois; in his later years, Vance fellowshiped with, joined, and taught classes at Living Hope Church in Crown Point, Indiana. Over the years, Vance increased in Ministry knowledge and wisdom by continuing to educate himself via means of completing advanced/post-graduate courses at various colleges, universities, and institutions of higher education/learning.

(1 Timothy 4:16)

LIFE: LEGACY (MINISTRY)

SEASONS OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY – Ministry Legacy of Willard Vance Washington

Taught Sunday School

Instructed Bible Classes

Trained Pre-service Ministers in Logos Christian College courses,
in addition to Elders/Ministerial Prep Courses.

Obtained Certified Diploma – R.D. Henton Bible Institute

Completed Course Requirements Diploma – Church and Family Bible Institute

Fulfilled Bachelor's Degree Qualifications – International Bible Institute & Seminary

Finished Bachelor's Degree Requisites – Logos Christian College and
Logos Graduate Schools

Completed Pre-Requisites Master's Degree Theological Studies
– Logos Christian College and Logos Graduate Schools

Earned Doctor of Ministry – Logos Christian College and Logos Graduate Schools

Merited Doctorate of Theology – Logos Christian College and Logos Graduate Schools

Acquired Diploma. The Voice of Prophecy – World-Wide Bible Broadcasters

Bestowed Doctor Parchment Inscription. – “Is There Any Word From The Lord?”

LIFE: LEGACY (LOVING MEMORIES)

Vance was deeply loved by his family. The memories of Vance's life will forever be cherished in the hearts of his caring and devoted daughter Cheryl Lynne Lopez and son-in Love, Brett; his four doting grandchildren, Laurenne Christiana Lopez and Scott Brandon Lopez; Christopher Vance Washington and April Nicole Washington; his favorite maternal first cousins, Elaine Warren, Carol Carter, and Julius Gore; his classy maternal second cousins, Deberah Perkins, Steve Warren (Debra), and Ethan Warren (Felicia). This same depth of love extends from the hearts of his cherished Sisters-in-Love Yvonne Marie Christmas-Council (“toot) and Merle Ann Jones Ayala-Jenkins; his forever beautiful nieces, Jacqueline Dyer (Lee), Celeste Cooks (Dennis), and Debra Lurena McGee (Freddie); amazing great-nephews Antuan Tyus, Armando Tyus, and precious great-niece Catina Marie Dees.

Those memories also encompass an innumerable host of lives that he touched during his eighty-eight plus years on this Earth.

DADDY, I AM SHARING WITH THE WORLD, THE LAST WORDS THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO VALIANTLY
SPEAK INTO MY EARS...

“HALLELUJAH!!! HEAVEN!!!!”

DADDY,

Such a different experience for me...I cannot hear your voice anymore...not even able to check up on you...

When I was growing up, I remember you always expressing to me, "Stop trying to do me to me..." That particular saying meant that you were able to observe some actions that you did not, at the time want to see in me, as they were at one time the same adverse actions that your grandmother did not want to see in you ... yet later on, your mark on me during my formative years and beyond began to reveal inscriptions of what GOD had also placed inside of you. Characteristics of fierce determination, emphatic strength, and profound intellect...all those commendable attributes that showed me doing you to you; those same quality attributes that were prevalent in the life of your grandmother and my great-grandmother, I now cherish even the more as I move forward in years...



DAD,

It was an honor to ask you for your daughter's (Cheryl Lynne), hand in marriage. It was the best thing that ever happened to me. I enjoyed all those years of being in your Sunday school class, learning from you, according to what the Bible taught. From working on the same job together back in the 1980's and listening to your life stories, I am going to miss you. I was glad I was able to be at the hospital praying for you during your final days. I will **Love you always and forever.**

Brett (Son-in-Love)



GRAMPY,

Living with you at a young age, I got to experience so much that most grandchildren don't have the opportunity to do so. I was always watching you: from you ironing your clothes to making sure the perfect crease was in your pants, to you waking up early every morning to do push-ups. There was always a spirit of order and discipline in you. But I knew that spirit came from the one thing I watched you do the most: reading your Word. Not just reading it but studying it and putting it on display with the love that you have always shown me. From EVERYTHING that our family has been through over the years, through the Lord's strength, you endured it all. You were always a fighter, even to the very end. You fought the good fight Grampy. It pleases my heart, my mind and soul, that you are resting in the arms and presence of the Lord. I am going to miss you Gramps.

Love you. Scott Brandon, (The Preacher)

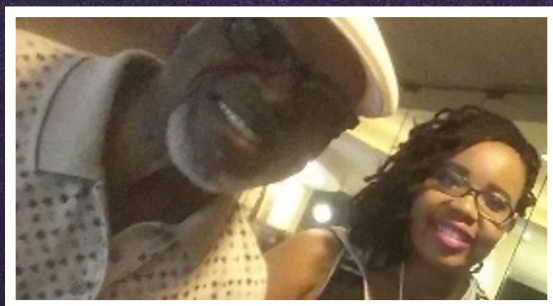


GRAMPS,

I'm glad I got to experience living with you and Grandma-moo when I was younger. I'm going to miss when you were reciting the scriptures when we took Communion at Thanksgiving or when you would ask us, "Is there any Word from the Lord?"

I remember when I woke up and you would be doing your morning pushups; also when you would take your dentures out and smile with the little teeth you had, we both would laugh so hard. I'm happy I got to spend time with you in your last moments when Scott and I held your hands and you were smiling in your sleep. This isn't goodbye but this is, "I will see you next time."

Love your Snook (Laurenne Christiana)





ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Music

Family Processional

Scripture Reading

Prayer

Flow-Director of Ceremony: Gwen Gaston-Gray
Brett Lopez, Son-in-Love
Scott Brandon Lopez, Grandson
1994 Posthumous Tribute from Darren Vance (Son of WVW & Father of CVW):
Christopher Vance Washington: Grandson

Tribute & Musical Selection

Laurenne Christiana Lopez, Granddaughter
(Goodness of God)

Tribute & Musical Selection

April Nicole Washington, Granddaughter
(Holy Forever)

Musical Selection

Angel Feaster
Minister of Music for Faith Movers Church

(My Tribute)

Acknowledgements:

Brigitte Annette Gaston-Harris

Selected Remarks/Memories:

Frances Melodie Henton

Tribute and Obituary Reading

Cheryl Lynne Lopez, Daughter

Memorial Video Presentation:

Lovingly Prepared by Cheryl Lynne Lopez, Daughter
and Scott Brandon Lopez, Grandson

Eulogy:

David Priest
Associate Pastor of Living Hope Church

Final Review

Benediction:

Frances Melodie Henton
Tree of Life Agape Ministries

PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS
PSALM 116:15

PALL BEARERS

Scott Brandon Lopez
Christopher Vance Washington
Brett Lopez
David Frankin
Russell Earl
Vince Browder

Honorary Pall Bearers:

Larry Spearman
Terry Wachowiak
Steve Warren
Ethan Warren

INTERMENT:

(Immediately following services)
Dr. Carolyn Diane Henton, Tree of Life Agape Ministries
Abraham National Lincoln Cemetery
20953 W Hoff Road,
Elwood, IL 60421

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of Dr. Willard Vance Washington would like to express their sincerest appreciation for every text prayer/personal phone prayer, compassion cards, floral tributes, and additional expressions of love. Daddy-Grampy-Gramps lived a long life, and while we feel saddened by his move, we embrace and stand strong in the Spirit of Gratitude for the many years that Father God shared him with us. We earnestly request that each one of you keep our family in your thoughts and prayers as we process this new normal. Blessings and Much Love to you all and your families in the ever-FAITHFUL NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD!!!

Arrangements Entrusted to:

Nabors Family Funeral Home
Lillie Nabors, L.F.D.E.
470 W. 172nd St
Thornton, Illinois 60476
Office/Cell: 708-704-5023

*Expect Great Service...
and Receive Greater.*