



Dudley Burrell

February 4, 1940 - November 12, 2023

Dudley Brown Burrell was born on February 4, 1940, in Columbia, Mississippi to the late Ulysses Burrell and Irena March Burrell. Dudley, known as Hubert by his family, and the “Little Speedster” by classmates, was the fifth of six children. Raised in Chebanse, Illinois, he graduated from Central High School. Dudley went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Olivet Nazarene University and completed work towards a Master of Science degree in Biology Sciences and Entomology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. A proud member of the United States Air Force, he served until being honorably discharged in 1962.

He met and fell in love with Willie Pearl (Billie) Lamb and married in 1961, to whom five children were born. They lived in San Antonio, Texas, Champaign, Illinois, and Saskatchewan, Canada but would eventually call Kankakee, Illinois home. While Dudley and Billie ended their legal union, they continued in their business together until his retirement.

Work, family and friends, and a constant yearning to learn about the world around him were his core motivators. His mother modeled for him a passion for family and friends. The work ethic he learned from his father, the mentoring he received from an older brother, William “Bill” Burrell and the inspiration from Tom Jones who was the only visible Black businessman in the community during the 1960’s. These are the people that supported his dream

to be able to create affordable and safe housing for Black residents within the community. He credited his family and desire to provide opportunities for all his children to go to college for his sustained commitment to his work, even when much of his work was embattled.

Dudley was a real estate developer who began his career with the purchase of his first building in 1965 with his business partner and former wife, Willie P. Burrell. They turned this small investment into two thriving companies called New World Development and B&D Management. It was in the early 1980's when New World Development embarked on one of their most significant projects. The company was able to secure and create a significant relationship with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development known as HUD. This allowed Black residents in Kankakee to have access to new and affordable housing during a depressed economy. The project alone brought several million dollars into the city of Kankakee with purchase of material and employment opportunities.

Additionally, the commercial portion of the Renaissance project created an opportunity for New World Development and B&D Management to become one of few Black developers and property management companies across the country at that time to enter a federal contract to manage the property for the Social Security Administration. This lease was held by B&D Management for over 22 years.

Dudley was involved in the community and served as a former member of the Black Contractors United of Chicago, Kankakee Landlord Association and the NAACP. Even after retirement, Dudley's main "hobby" was work. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed fishing, listening to music and traveling. And he developed a love for wine in his later years. He was an incredible conversationalist and storyteller and enjoyed talking to people from different backgrounds. Dudley was a huge fan of his grandchildren- supporting them in

special school events, encouraging them about the importance of a fine education and cheering them on at their sporting events. You could always hear him in the stands or from the sidelines.

Dudley departed this life on November 12th surrounded by his children who mourn his memory and life: Derek Steven Burrell of Kankakee, IL, Todd Allen (Zinia) Burrell of Kankakee, IL, Jose Murray of Maple Grove, Minnesota, Kara Denise (Sherman) Wright of Chicago, IL, Kyron Douglas Burrell of Kankakee, IL and Nicole (Toussaint) Werner of Chicago, IL. He also leaves two godchildren, Songa Burrell and Kimberly Pitts, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews and cousins and siblings Eddie (Peggy) Burrell Sr. of Chicago, IL, Louis Burrell and Mary Yolanda Gant of Kankakee, IL, brother-in-law, William McCrary, Decatur, GA and sister-in-love, Delores Burrell of Aurora, IL.

Preceding him in death include his parents, Ulysses and Irena Burrell, brother William Bill Burrell, brother Clifton and his wife, Ann Burrell, and sister, Hattie B McCrary.

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood
Kankakee, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **24**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Lax Mortuary
187 S. Greenwood Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 935-0090
laxmortuary@laxmortuary.com
<http://laxmortuary.com/>

Visitation

NOV **25**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Second Baptist Church
717 N. Wildwood
Kankakee, IL

Service

NOV 25. 10:00 AM (CT)

Second Baptist Church
717 N. Wildwood
Kankakee, IL

Tribute Wall

TJ

“ Dudley was my landlord, was always kind. He was a good Dad and Grandfather. I am glad that I met the Burrell family. And I pray that the Burrell family will be surrounded by God's love during this time and always. You will be missed Mr. Burrell. 🙏❤️❤️



Tammi Jeffries - December 01, 2023 at 06:09 AM

SF

“ Prayers and Condolences to the Burrell Family. May GOD comfort your heart and strengthen you at this time 🙏🌺



Samuels Family - November 30, 2023 at 12:30 AM

CB

“ Sending my deepest condolences to your family. Todd and Zinia and family so sorry for your loss.

Cathy Betourne - November 29, 2023 at 05:12 PM

EM

“ Uncle Dudley Burrell, thank you and Aunt Billie for setting an example of how a Black Businesses can be built from the ground up, to become successful for a lifetime! My condolences and prayers to your entire family! RIP, Emmett (Billy) & Sun Yon Mitchell

Emmett Mitchell - November 25, 2023 at 01:53 PM

DA

“ *Praying for the Burrell Family. May God comfort and strengthen you.
Dr Rodney & Jackie Alford*



Dr Rodney & Jackie Alford - November 24, 2023 at 04:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dudley Burrell.*



November 24, 2023 at 11:29 AM

SW

“ *My name is Scott Weedon, son of the late Wayne and Joann Weedon. I was raised by my grandparents, Fred and Leola Weedon, in Chebanse. I remember fondly of my grandma proudly telling of the friendship that my dad had with the Burells. Quite often during the basketball seasons at Central H.S., after practice they came to our home and developed a great friendship. I know I met your family at a funeral a few years ago, and felt very welcomed, and I appreciated that opportunity to meet the Burrell family and hear stories about my dad and their friendship! I know Mr. Burrell was met in heaven with many smiles from my parents and my grandparents. May God Bless you all!!*

Scott Weedon - November 23, 2023 at 09:30 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dudley Burrell.*



November 22, 2023 at 10:05 AM



“ *Debra Williams lit a candle in memory of Dudley Burrell*



Debra Williams - November 22, 2023 at 04:02 AM



“ *Sending our condolences and prayers to the Burrell family*



Cheryl Tall & Family - November 21, 2023 at 04:38 PM



“ *My love and condolences to the Burrell family during this time of bereavement. I pray peace and comfort is your constant friend as you adjust to this change in life. Rest easy Dudley.*



Patricia Jamison - November 21, 2023 at 01:08 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Dudley Burrell.*



November 20, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *PI Omicron - Zeta Line planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dudley Burrell.*

PI Omicron - Zeta Line - November 20, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *Rosetta Mason lit a candle in memory of Dudley Burrell*



Rosetta Mason - November 20, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dudley Burrell.*



November 20, 2023 at 08:59 AM

RG

“ River Valley Arbor Gleaner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dudley Burrell.

River Valley Arbor Gleaner - November 20, 2023 at 08:59 AM

TL

“ Love Family



tammy love - November 19, 2023 at 04:03 PM

EL

“ My deepest sympathy to the Burrell's family



Ethel Lee - November 19, 2023 at 01:54 AM

JF

“ JOANN FORD-BOX lit a candle in memory of Dudley Burrell



JOANN FORD-BOX - November 18, 2023 at 05:47 PM

KW

Thank you, Ms. Ford-Box. Your support means everything!

Kara Wright - February 20, 2024 at 07:55 PM

EC

“ *Elayne Coffie lit a candle in memory of Dudley Burrell*



Elayne Coffie - November 18, 2023 at 05:50 AM

KW

Thank you so much.

Kara Wright - February 20, 2024 at 07:55 PM

CW

“ *My Condolences, sending Prayers.*



Cheryl Wilson - November 17, 2023 at 09:18 PM

KW

Thank you, Cheryl. As shared with Ethel we are grateful for you and your family's friendship and love.

Kara Wright - February 20, 2024 at 07:55 PM