



Gilbert Austin, Jr.

August 22, 1930 - October 15, 2014

Gilbert Austin, Jr.

OPELOUSAS- Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM, Friday October 24, 2014 at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas, LA for Mr. Gilbert Austin, Jr, 84. He took the hands of the Lord for his eternal rest on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at his residence in Opelousas, LA.

Interment will be in St. Landry Catholic Church cemetery. Father Jaison Mangalath, SVD will conduct the Mass of Christian burial.

On the night of October 15, 2014, God looked around his table and saw an empty seat. He looked down upon the Earth and He saw Our Father's smiling face. He put his arms around him and lifted him to rest. God's table must be full now. He only takes the Best.

On August 22, 1930, Gilbert Austin, Jr. was one of nine children born to the union of Gilbert Austin, Sr. and Elinor Meche. He was united in Holy Matrimony to Alida Mercedes Arceneaux and through this union two children were born.

Gilbert Jr. was a loving husband, father, grandfather, provider, brother and friend. He was a member of the Third Degree Knights of Peter Claver Father John Council #8 Holy Ghost Court and Fourth Degree Knight James A. Highland Assembly #7, Inseparable Friends and Benevolent Association of Wybles Bridge Opelousas, LA, Knights of Columbus and other civic groups. He served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant and became a light heavy weight boxing champ while serving his country. He was a graduate

of Education from Xavier University of New Orleans. He obtained his Masters plus 30 in Administration and Supervision from Southern University of Baton Rouge. He served his church as a Eucharistic Minister and Usher. He was a retired St. Landry Parish Educator with over 22 years of classroom teaching experience.

He became the first Black Real Estate Broker in St. Landry Parish; He owned and operated Austin's Real Estate for over 30 years. He overcame adversity by winning a Federal Court case involving illegal voting procedures that deprived him of his constitutional rights which eventually lead him to serve the people of Opelousas and especially the residents of District 10 as a St. Landry Parish School Board Member for over 15 years despite numerous attempts to unseat him. He also served as the President of the School Board during his tenure as School Board member.

Mourning his departure, yet cherishing fond and loving memories are his loving and faithful children: Gwendolyn Ann Austin-Alsandor of Opelousas, LA, Gilbert Austin, III of Houston, TX, and Juliette Austin of New Orleans, LA: three loving and spoiled grandchildren: Nicholas Anthony Alsandor of Opelousas, LA, Alyssa Marie Austin and Alyxandra Morgan Austin both of Alexandria, LA; two brothers: Curtis Austin, Sr. of New Orleans, LA and James (Helen) Austin, Sr. of Richmond, CA; two sisters: Clydia Austin Giron of Opelousas, LA and Evelyn (Larry) Frelow of Baltimore, MD; two brothers-in-law: Al Arceneaux of Houston, TX and Christopher (Patricia) Arceneaux of Crosby, TX; two sisters-in-law: Elizabeth Arceneaux of Houston, TX and Linda (Paul) Sonnier of Houston, TX and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Gilbert Austin Sr. and Elinor Meche Austin; his loving wife of 39 years, Alida Mercedes Arceneaux Austin, brothers: Howard, LJ, Fertis and Joseph Hilton Austin and other relatives. Visiting hours will be observed from 7:00 AM until 10:30 AM Friday, October 24, 2014 at Williams Funeral Home in Opelousas. A Rosary will be recited at 9:00 AM.

Please feel welcome to share words of comfort with the Austin family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas at 817 E. South St., 337/942-2037.

Tribute Wall



“ *Gilbert Austin, Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *My sympathy and prayers are extended to the Austin family and all who are near and dear to them.*

Andrea Brisco - October 25, 2014 at 04:32 PM



“ *We would like to express our deepest sympathies to the Austin family during their time of sorrow. You are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.*

Russell and Artherine Gradnigo White - October 23, 2014 at 09:16 PM



“ *To the Gilbert Austin Family, Please accept my sincerest condolences on the passing of Gilbert. We taught together for a few years at North Elementary School. Stella J. Mason*

Stella J Mason - October 23, 2014 at 03:30 PM

AC

“ I did not have the pleasure of knowing your loved one personally, but was moved to send my condolences after reading your touching story of Gilberts life. He was certainly gifted with "Special mightiness" (Ps 20:10) to have lived such a long life. God's word makes this promise: "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." (rev. 21: 4,5). May you continue to have fond memories of your loved one until then.

A. Coleman - October 23, 2014 at 01:59 PM

AL

“ To the family of Gilbert Austin I am sorry for your loss. I hope you find comfort in knowing that the dead can live again. The Bible says, "There will be a resurrection." (Acts 24:15) JW.org

Ada Laws - October 22, 2014 at 05:37 PM

AM

“ The grand daughters, Alyssa and Morgan, will miss seeing their grandfather when they visit Nanny. As the other set of grandparents we had great respect for Mr. Austin and was impressed by his love of Christ. He truly presented himself as a loving and Christian man. With our deepest sympathy to Gwen and Gilbert . May God keep you wrapped in His loving arms during this difficult time.

Allen and Marsha Roy Alyssa and Morgan - October 22, 2014 at 04:39 PM

MJ

“ I want to send condolences to both of you on the loss of your father. I can remember growing up how your mom and dad were always willing to help out with our school activities whenever we needed anything. One memory in particular is when your dad helped chaperon a school field trip to Chicot State Park. It took great patience to put up with our class that day which showed the type of man he was, patient and caring. Again, condolences to you and your family.

Michael Jones - October 22, 2014 at 02:43 PM

TG

“ Gwen and Gilbert, y'all have my deepest sympathy on the loss of your father. Also, my thoughts are with Lance Gordon; I know how close he was to Mr. Gilbert and how hard he is taking the loss. Praying for you guys.

Todd Guillory - October 22, 2014 at 12:12 PM

TG

“ My deepest sympathy goes to Gwen and little Gilbert, also to Lance Gordon. I am praying for you guys. I know that Lance was not a son, but was very close to Mr. Gilbert, and how hard he is taking it. Praying for you guys!

Todd Guillory - October 22, 2014 at 12:05 PM

BC

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Gilbert Austin, Jr. Be assured of my prayers for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of the family, May he rest in peace.

Bishop Dominic Carmon - October 21, 2014 at 06:16 PM