



## Deacon Albert Urps Jr

April 23, 1953 - March 30, 2025

### A Life Well Lived

On April 23, 1953 in La Marque, Texas, a precious gift of God was given to Albert James Urps, Sr. and Jessie Lee Thomas-Urps, as they welcomed their handsome baby boy into their family and lovingly named him, Albert James Urps, Jr.

Albert, fondly known as “Bird”, received his education in the public schools of La Marque, Texas, attending Lincoln High School and later proudly graduating with the trailblazing first integrated Class of La Marque High School, the Class of 1971. During his high school years, Albert’s passion for sports shone bright as he actively participated in basketball and football.

Albert’s spiritual journey began when he accepted Christ at a young age and was baptized at Greater Bell Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Texas City by the late Pastor Wiley L. Dunn, Sr. His dedication continued as a devoted member of Progressive Missionary Baptist Church under the late Pastor M. C. Bridges and the late Pastor Jonathan D. Steele, Sr.; and later at Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church in Hitchcock under Pastor William L. Randall, Jr. As a pillar of the church, Albert’s selfless commitment earned his honor of being ordained as a Deacon in the year 2000 where he humbly served with pride as Co-Chairman of the Official Board. His remarkable leadership and loyalty were

evident in his roles as a FAITHFUL member and past president of the Usher Board, member of the Brotherhood, Sunday School, Assistance Ministry Volunteer and Seasoned Saints. Albert's generosity and kindness inspired countless lives, as he was always ready to share words of encouragement, make changes and share his peppermints with everyone.

Albert married the love of his life Gwendolyn Fay Sowell on February 16, 1974. This remarkable union of 51 years was blessed with two children. Albert was a diligent and devoted man who selflessly provided for his family. He was employed at Sterling Chemicals as a machinist in Texas City, retiring after a remarkable 35+ years of service.

In his leisure time, Albert loved being outside. He was passionate about cars, and he always made sure to keep them clean. He loved bonding with his family, manicuring his yard, staying active outside, and he made the best barbecue. Albert loved attending sports events and was proudly a #1 Dallas Cowboy Fan.

Revelations 2:10, be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life. After attending and fulfilling his duties during Sunday Morning Worship Service, on the evening of March 30, 2025, Albert was called from earthly labor to his heavenly reward, a testament of his unwavering faith. His earthly presence, love, and faithful service will be greatly cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. Albert was joyfully reunited with his mother, Jessie Lee Hughes; father, Albert James Urps, Sr.; sisters, Linda Susan Urps and Althea Urps-Porter; his mother-in-law, Ester Smith; his father -in-law JDean Smith and his Godmother, Lucille Randall.

Left to celebrate a lifetime of love and devotion are his loving and devoted wife, Gwendolyn Fay Urps; children, Derrick Randle (Adriane), Albert J. Urps, III (Cheryl) and Tricey Young (Dennis); his sister, Brenda Urps, brothers,

Robert Estell, Sr. (Lynnette) and Kip Urps (Anahi); brother-in-law, Carl Porter his adoring grandchildren, Ariele, Aareon, D'Aviant, Dennis III, Jace, Dentric, Donovan, Essence, Tyrell, and Alec; bonus grandchildren, Steven, Jr., Cherish, Jordan and Robert; great-grandchildren; his extended family, The Sowell, Parker, Booth, Burnett, and Randall Families; and a host of nieces, nephews, family members and his Greater St. Matthews Church Family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 12. 8:30 AM (CT)

Greater St Matthews Baptist Church  
6333 Highway 6  
Hitchcock , TX 77563

## Celebration of Life

APR 12. 9:30 AM (CT)

Greater St Matthews Baptist Church  
6333 Highway 6  
Hitchcock , TX 77563

## Burial

APR 12. 11:30 AM (CT)

Galveston Memorial Park Cemetery  
7301 Memorial Street  
Hitchcock, TX 77563

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ RIP BIG BIRD MHNCB MICKEY BRITTON

MICKEY BRITTON - April 12, 2025 at 04:54 PM

SH

“ Shell lit a candle in memory of Deacon Albert Urps Jr



Shell - April 12, 2025 at 04:16 PM

KB

“ I will never forget this man and his sense of humor, his passion for cars and the love had for his family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

*Karen Blankenship*

Karen Blankenship - April 12, 2025 at 09:21 AM

CB

“ Clyde, Elaine & Jayland Booth lit a candle in memory of Deacon Albert Urps Jr



Clyde, Elaine & Jayland Booth - April 12, 2025 at 08:16 AM

ES

“ *Edith Savoy-Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Deacon Albert Urps Jr*



Edith Savoy-Ferguson - April 09, 2025 at 07:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Deacon Albert Urps Jr.*



April 07, 2025 at 05:32 PM

BG

“ *Thinking of you during this difficult time, sending healing prayers and comfort during this tough time. Love you!  
Barbara Gamble and family.*



Barbara Gamble - April 05, 2025 at 11:37 PM

HR

“ *Henrietta Ramirez lit a candle in memory of Deacon Albert Urps Jr*



Henrietta Ramirez - April 04, 2025 at 05:58 PM