



## William "Bill" Lambert

September 12, 1935 - January 13, 2021

In Lieu of flowers, the family prefers any donations to be made in Bill's honor to St. James Episcopal Church.

If you choose to make a donation, you may send a check to the church at 1020 West Lafayette Avenue Baltimore, MD 21217. Please write "In memory of Bill Lambert" on the memo line.

### Early Years

William "Bill" E. Lambert was a life-long community servant with roots in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and had a heart for serving, helping, and encouraging others. Bill was born in Goldston, North Carolina on September 12, 1935 as one of 12 children to Gladys and Melvin Lambert. Bill spent a short time in North Carolina and then spent his formative years in South Baltimore when his family relocated in 1939. His younger siblings knew Bill to be stern - if he said something, they knew to obey! Growing up with modest means shaped Bill to cherish hard work and forged in him a fierce determination to make a difference in his community and to excel and succeed, despite his circumstances. This determination was evident in every aspect of his young life – whether it was walking from South Baltimore to West Baltimore daily to attend junior and senior high school, or the different jobs he held to help support the family such as driving oil delivery and ice delivery trucks while in high school, or working at a health department laboratory through college. Always athletic, Bill excelled at football in high school, earning a full college scholarship. Unfortunately, due to a serious knee injury he was not able to fulfill the scholarship. Undeterred and because of his love of sports, Bill chose to major in Physical Education when he attended Morgan State University. He earned his bachelor's degree from Morgan in 1958 and later went on to earn his master's degree, also from Morgan.

### Love of His Life

In 1956, during what some might say was a chance meeting, Bill met Thelma Barbara Rice and it was love at first sight. Their courtship included numerous dates to clubs on Pennsylvania Avenue to listen to the great jazz musicians of the day. After dating for 2 years Bill and Barbara were married on June 7, 1958 at St. James Episcopal Church Lafayette Square in Baltimore. The couple honeymooned at Watkins Glen, NY and then

Bill was drafted by the Army and sent to basic training at Ft. Bragg just a few short weeks after their wedding. Bill subsequently completed a two-year deployment in Honolulu, HI with Barbara at his side for the last six months. Upon returning to Maryland, they settled in West Baltimore where they began raising their family.

### Family Man

While pursuing their full-time careers, their family unit was expanded when their daughters, Erytheia and Cassandra, were born. Bill was a dedicated husband and father who worked hard to provide a stable and loving home. In later years, Bill was also a doting grandfather to Jamel and Naomi and loved giving advice, counsel, and encouragement, as well as sharing with them his opinions about politics and current events. He loved visiting out of town family members living in NC, VA and other states. He was happiest when reminiscing with siblings and other family members at family reunions. In fact, for many years Bill organized the Tuck-Womble-Lambert reunions. Bill also enjoyed attending the Lambert family reunions and meeting new family members on his father's side. He was protective, caring, and would do anything within his power for his family.

For fun, Bill and Barbara loved traveling. Among their travels were bus trips that included New York theatre productions, Senegal, Africa, and a ski trip (they didn't ski but enjoyed watching others!). In addition, Bill was a true history buff and could tell you little known facts about a wide variety of subjects. He greatly enjoyed going to museums wherever he traveled. The last trip that Bill took was an eight-day family cruise to Bermuda which he thoroughly loved – he was grinning from ear to ear the entire time (especially when listening to the Reggae band on the Lido deck!) and was looking forward to cruising again.

### Working Years

Bill's career spanned over three decades, beginning in the U.S. Army and culminating with the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, where he worked his way up through the ranks from jobs that were identified as "black only jobs." At a time when it was still difficult for African Americans to progress to leadership positions, Bill broke the barriers that kept many out of such positions to become Baltimore County's first African American area superintendent in 1985. During his tenure with the Department of Recreation and Parks, Bill worked tirelessly on numerous committees whose purpose was to improve and preserve the surrounding communities, as well as to improve the lives of those in the communities.

### Faith Life

Connecting his talents and his faith, Bill was an active and committed member of St. James Episcopal Church for over 60 years and tirelessly served in numerous capacities including: Chairman of the Board for Youth Ministries, President of Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Chairman of Adult Christian Education, Co-chair of the Jazz Vespers Committee and Chair of Jazz Concerts, Sunday School teacher, member of the Church Vestry, lay reader, Rites of Passage instructor, and member of the Bereavement Committee. Bill also

served the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland by co-chairing a regional convention and serving on their Anti-Racism Committee, and the Commission on Ministries. He was always ready to support the church's activities and would volunteer to escort guest speakers/artists when needed. Bill was not satisfied to simply read the scriptures but strived to live them out and encouraged others to do the same.

### Community Service

Bill used his God-given talents as a leader, teacher, mentor, speaker, advisor, and outspoken advocate to help the organizations of which he was a part to operate at their best and to help others succeed. In the process, Bill lived out the words of the apostle Paul: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23, 24). Since his retirement in 1996 Bill remained actively involved in serving the community in many ways, such as serving as past President of The Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum (which promotes the historical preservation of the Historical Park and Museum), past treasurer of the East Towson Community Association, and past campaign manager for the current speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Adrienne Jones. He was also involved with numerous community organizations - Baltimore County Health Department Volunteer Association, State Board of Dietetic Practice, Windsor Mill Community Association – to name a few. Even in his later years, Bill was still actively involved as a member or chairman of several committees in his church, a member of the Baltimore County Commission on Aging and the Featherbed-Windsor Park Community Association and served as president of the Board of St. James Terrace Apartments (a housing complex for low-income seniors).

### Legacy

Bill will be deeply missed by many. He was preceded in death by his parents Gladys and Melvin Lambert and his siblings: Cordelia, Theodore, Daisy Mickle, Talf "Monroe", Harry, Rita Williams, Vernell and Evone Penn. Bill leaves to mourn his passing his wife of 62 years, Barbara; daughters Erytheia (Kelven Jones) and Cassandra; his grandchildren, Jamel Murphy and Naomi Jones; his great granddaughter, Gisselle "GiGi" Rose; his siblings, Arthur Lambert, Eugene Lambert (Barbara), and Anita Lambert Carter (Jerry); and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Although we are deeply saddened, the family finds healing, comfort, and strength in God's tender embrace and in knowing that Bill touched so many lives during his fruitful life. We rejoice in knowing that Bill loved Jesus and we anxiously await the day when we will meet him again at the Tree of Life in a new world in which we will have eternity together with our Heavenly Father.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in

death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

# Events

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**JAN**   **Viewing**      01:00PM - 04:00PM

**23**

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March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road, Windsor Mill, MD, US, 21244

# Comments

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“ Our condolences to the Lambert family and loved ones. We were totally unaware that Mr. Lambert had passed away. We remember him as a good neighbor and his dedicated work with the community association. May God continue to bless you all.

Stella and Coley

**Stella Satchell** - March 24 at 12:25 PM

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“ Bill was a masterful storyteller in conveying information about African American history. It was my pleasure to work with him as a member of the Diocese of Maryland's Truth and Reconciliation Commission where we led workshops and created opportunities to further dismantle the sin of racism. Rest in Peace good and faithful servant.

**The Rev. Dr. Angela F. Shepherd** - February 18 at 05:00 PM

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“ I met mr Lambert once at his daughter rhythee s and felt like I was part of his family very quickly and definitely wished that I was  
He made my family feel so at ease and recognized even my children  
I will continue to lift up the family especially Mrs Lambert I admired what I saw in you relationship sand what is evident of your influence in the life of your daughter who is a joy to me a true friend

**Judith Davidson** - February 13 at 08:32 AM

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“ Barbara,

We will miss Bill, too. We remember, vividly, the tubs of crabs that we ate at your home during the reunions! Perhaps he is with Delores, now

The Atlanta Sheltons

**Lee Shelton** - February 07 at 04:54 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Lambert.



January 28 at 07:50 AM

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“ On behalf of the Banneker descendant family I would like to express our families' respect and gratitude for Bill's work on behalf of Baltimore expressed through his continual effort to transform the Charm City into a better and more caring community.

It was in part through Bill's relentless passion that the forgotten Banneker family land was reclaimed. It was thereafter that along with his community of "the Friends" once again the spirit of Benjamin Banneker "Baltimore's" First Black Man of Science was reintroduced to Baltimore's diverse community of people as Bill stood among and in service to the Historic Benjamin Banneker Park and Museum.

In closing this message I'll include the words from an old Banneker descendant family poem which reminds us that it is from here that we depart and there we will greet

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Robert Lett

zzRobert Lett - January 25 at 05:46 AM

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“ There were 12 of us; now we are 3.



Anita Carter - January 23 at 09:49 PM

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“ Bill was a very caring brother-in-law. He always asked about my health when he talked to his sister. He sent me a beautiful poem that touched and inspired me doing my sickness. He is at peace now. Love you Bill.

Jerry Carter - January 23 at 07:03 PM

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“ Anita Carter lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Lambert



Anita Carter - January 23 at 06:11 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Anita Carter - January 23 at 06:10 PM

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“ I was honored to work with Bill as the attorney for St. James Terrace Apartments over many years. He was a fine gentleman and a natural leader. I will miss his smile and friendship.  
Larry Caplan

Larry Caplan - January 23 at 06:09 PM

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“ To my dear brother who I will miss deeply. His last words to me were "I love you kid".

Anita Carter - January 23 at 06:07 PM



“ Thank you William for being the family historian as we will miss the lessons and your big smile while sharing your stories. Rest in peace now as your work here was well done. Love Always, your cousin Shelly Tuck-Winston

**Shelly Tuck-Winston** - January 23 at 10:15 AM

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“ I met Mr. Lambert when I worked as an office assistant in the northwest region of Baltimore County Rec. & Parks. He was always kind, professional, and quietly inspiring. It was a blessing and a privilege to have his influence in the workplace and his sage advice as a mentor. I always felt honored when he remembered me over the years after I left Rec. & Parks and I was so sad to learn about his passing when I looked him up this year. My condolences to Ms. Barbara and the Lambert family. His legacy lives on.

**Lisa Sladden-Thompson** - January 22 at 10:06 AM



“ My name is Robert Holley . I've never met Mr Lambert personally, but I've such wonderful things about him. I feel the sadness in your hearts of the you loss. Just know I and my friends and family are praying for you strength and in comfort in this time. PEACE BE WITH YOU.

**Robert Holley** - January 23 at 08:37 AM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Lambert.



January 22 at 09:36 AM

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“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Lambert.



January 22 at 12:14 AM

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“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Lambert.



January 21 at 09:08 PM

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“ 23 files added to the tribute wall



Rythee Lambert-Jones - January 20 at 11:40 PM

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“ As a fairly young buck, a few years out of college I was hired by Recreation and Parks of Baltimore County in 1986 as a Center Supervisor. I was blessed to have Bill as my first Regional Manager. I found Bill to be kind and understanding as he would mentor me if I made a mistake. At our bi-weekly area meetings I would watch as veteran employees would share frustrations with department policies. Bill had a way to make us feel we were being heard and that he would share our concerns with Towson. As the years past I always felt Bill was in my corner as I rose in the agency. Years later I transferred to the Department of Aging and had the chance to interact with Bill again. Thoughts and prayers to the Lambert family, Bill was a great dude!

Chet Jones

Chet Jones - January 20 at 02:30 PM

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“ As the recently retired Chair of the Baltimore County Commission on Aging I've had the pleasure to know Bill, an intelligent and gentle soul. Bill was a great asset to the Commission and always had a positive attitude. He will be missed and it has also been wonderful to have worked with him to improve the lives of the aging in Baltimore County. God bless Bill and his family. Bill has made a difference in many ways and the aged citizens are better off because of his dedication. Cyndy Allen

Cyndy Allen - January 20 at 01:52 PM

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“ I didn't have the pleasure of physically meeting Mr. Lambert, but of over seven years of working with his daughter Rythee, I feel like I knew him inside out! She would say great things about Him and fuss about his demeanor in the next breath when he wouldn't listen... Lol. I send my deepest condolences to the Lambert and Jones family at this time. My God give you peace and comfort in knowing your Dad is no longer in distress. Continued prayers. Lisa & Kayla Gant



Lisa & Kayla Gant - January 20 at 12:30 PM

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“ I always saw Mr. Lambert tending to his beautiful yard and always admired how him in my grandmothers were the most beautiful gardens on the block. It saddens me to hear of his passing because I just seen him a few weeks prior and he seemed in good spirits. He will be greatly missed but he leaves a strong legacy that will be remembered for generations may he Rest In Peace.

**Justin Jackson** - January 19 at 05:24 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to the family. Bill was a part of my life for as long as I can remember. He and my mother, Evelyn Johnson, were great friends. Bill supported me through every aspect of my life. His care and concern for me will forever be in my heart. He will truly be missed. Rest easy. Love Tanya Johnson Martin.

**Tanya Johnson Martin** - January 19 at 03:11 PM

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**March Life Tribute Center (Randallstown)** - January 19 at 08:29 AM

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“ Very sorry to hear of Bill's passing. His dedication to the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum was truly impactful. I extend my deepest sympathies to Bill's family.

**Amanda Lauer** - January 18 at 04:00 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sandy Lambert** - January 17 at 07:30 PM



“ With his great granddaughter Gigi

**Sandy Lambert** - January 17 at 07:30 PM



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**Sharon** - January 17 at 09:01 PM



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I'm a resident at St. James Terrace Apartments and when ever I saw Mr Lambert, he would make my day, because he always had a positive attitude when he spoke, and a pleasant smile on his face.

**Cheryl** - January 18 at 12:49 PM



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I was South Eastern Area Supt. in the early 1980's when I was elected to the Maryland General Assembly. It was up to me to choose a temporary replacement for the three monthes I was gone. I felt Bill would be best person for the position. There was a rebel rouser who made a comment to me that it was about time the Department promoted a black person. I looked at the person and said " Oh is bill black? I just thought he was the best person for the job." Bill did a great job as acting Area Superintendent and every year after he was the Acting Area Supt. Bill was one my favorites and the one I looked for at every Department event we had. I will miss him dearly and love him like a brother!

**Bob Staab** - January 21 at 04:14 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sandy Lambert** - January 17 at 07:23 PM



“ 62 yrs of marriage

**Sandy Lambert** - January 17 at 07:24 PM



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**Sharon** - January 17 at 09:04 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sandy Lambert** - January 17 at 07:14 PM



“ Poppy's birthday dinner

**Sandy Lambert** - January 17 at 07:17 PM



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**Sharon** - January 17 at 09:03 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rythee Lambert-Jones - January 17 at 03:43 PM



“ 2018 Anniversary celebration

Rythee Lambert-Jones - January 17 at 03:43 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Rythee Lambert-Jones - January 16 at 08:29 PM



“ God bless you Sandy and your family.

Love India, Rod and Joe

India Henry - January 16 at 09:25 PM

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“ I believe cousin William and I are second cousins. I remember as a little girl him and Monroe coming to visit my Dad Willard Womble. They were all southern gentleman standing when my Mom entered the room or not entering the house until my Dad arrived. These gestures made me know respectful tall handsome men . Unknowingly, I searched for these qualities in the men I dated. Men like to this will not walk this way again. Good night and RIP King William Lambert . Love you forever, Your Cousin Tina

Bettina Washington - January 16 at 06:16 PM



“ Such a strong man and leader. I will forever miss my cousin William and treasure the memories.

Love to the family and God Bless

Brian Tuck

Brian Tuck - January 17 at 05:09 PM



“ You will be missed Uncle Bill.



**Monica Eborn** - January 16 at 05:11 PM

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“ The Moore Family lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Lambert



**The Moore Family** - January 16 at 05:09 PM

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“ Trina lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Lambert



**Trina** - January 16 at 05:08 PM

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“ I will miss you Great Granddaddy. Love Gisselle (GiGi).

**Elsie Rose** - January 16 at 05:03 PM