

Willie Percy Yarbrough

Willie Percy Yarbrough, 91, of Rockford, passed away Tuesday, September 20, 2016, after a short illness. He was born February 14, 1925, in Athens, Alabama, the son of Nish and Sudie Mae (Thatch) Yarbrough. His family moved to Rockford in 1932.

Willie graduated from Rockford High School, and was drafted into the US Army soon thereafter, serving three years in the China Burma India Theater (CBI) in

World War II before he was Honorably Discharged. He married his high school sweetheart, Eva Cameron, on May 1, 1946. From this union, they raised one son, K. Patrick Yarbrough. Willie worked for the National Lock Company for 33 years as Foreman, Operating Engineer and Chief Engineer of the Power House, respectively.

As a member of Bethel Baptist Church, he taught Sunday School for over 20 years and was Superintendent for two years. He was a member of Welcome Star Masonic Lodge #36 for 52 years, a Charter Member of Balthasar Consistory #92 of Rockford, and a Charter Member of Al-Waris Shriners Temple #220. He was a member of Booker Washington Center, where he taught the Senior's Bible Class. After the passing of his wife Eva in 2008, he was introduced to a God Loving woman,

Mattie Harvey Lee, whom he married on October, 27, 2010. From this union are two daughters, Rochelle Bookhart and Patricia Cleveland, one son, Robert Anthony Lee, and numerous relatives. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, reading, attending military events, and socializing with family and friends. He was a die hard fan of the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears. He is survived by his loving wife, Mattie; son, K. Patrick (Tammy) Yarbrough of Rockford; daughters Rochelle (Clifton) Bookhart of Titusville, Florida, and Patricia (Robert) Cleveland of Jacksonville, Florida; sister,

Viola Jones of Rockford; numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins and grandchildren.

Predeceased by his first wife Eva Cameron; parents; son Robert Lee; brother Paul Green; sisters Velma Ruth Green and Lahgretta Green. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rockford Rescue Mission P.O. Box 1958 Rockford, IL 61110-0458.

Funeral service will be at Noon on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at Bethel Baptist Church, 724 Harrison Avenue, Rockford, IL. Visitation will take place at the church 10:00 a.m. until the time of the funeral service.