



Mr. Joe Ray Winters

June 13, 1937 - December 15, 2023

Joe Ray Winters, born on June 13, 1937, in Kentwood, LA to the late Jim and Alice Miller Winters, peacefully departed this life on Friday, December 15, 2023, at his Kentwood residence, surrounded by his devoted family.

In matrimony since October 13, 1958, to Yvonne Cambell, their union was blessed with six children: Joe Anthony, Oliver, Bruce, Elonda, Christopher, & LaTonya. And he cherished his family with profound love.

Joe dedicated himself to hard work, commencing his professional journey in 1955 at Allen Brothers Feed Mill in Kentwood, where he tirelessly delivered feed and farming supplies for 16 years. Transitioning to the Tangipahoa Parish School System, he served the Kentwood area as Bus Driver for 28 years, making history as the first African American Owner Operator for the school system, setting a precedent for his community. Simultaneously, he blazed trails in law enforcement, becoming the inaugural African American hire at the Kentwood Police Department, where he faithfully served for 38 years until his retirement in 2009.

Beyond his professional achievements, He was known to many in the community as "Uncle Joe!", he took a special delight in encouraging younger ones to seek high education and to stay out of trouble. Among that, Joe Ray cultivated a love for gardening, tending to expansive plots of watermelon, peas, greens, squash, okra, peanuts, and various vegetables. His culinary delights included fried fish, gumbo, honey buns, and moon pies.

On December 31, 2011, Joe Ray Winters embraced a spiritual journey, being

baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. He often expressed that this decision was among the best in his life. Alongside his wife Yvonne, he found joy in serving God, dedicating himself to the ministry until his last breath. His steadfast dedication to Jehovah spanned 13 full years as of the 31st of this month.

Joe Ray Winters leaves to cherish his memories: his wife of 65 years, Yvonne Winters; four children: Bruce Winters, Elonda Miller (Ronald), Christopher Winters (Sharice Cook), and LaTonya Smith (Kendrick); seven grandchildren: LeKyra Dunn, Quadry Giv, LaKrystal Cook, Dylan Sibley, Kendrick Isaiah Smith, Miracle Winters, and Thomas Chance Winters; five great-grandchildren: Deziah Steele, Steven Steele, Kahari Steele, Au'drea Lott, and Princeton Clayton; and three sisters: Irene Banks, Josephine Duncan, and Mary Henderson.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Alice Miller and Jim Winters; two children: Joe Anthony Winters and Oliver Winters; two brothers: Estus Winters and Oliver Winters; and two sisters: Beatrice Winters and Janice Winters.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

B.J. Ginn Funeral & Cremation Services
61077 Bennett Rd
Amite, LA 70422
(985) 247-2950
bobby@bjginn.com
<http://bjginn.com>

Service

DEC **23**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
63551 I-55 Frontage Road
Roseland, LA 70456

Interment

DEC **23** (CT)

Winter's Cemetery
Kentwood, LA 70444

Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Sending condolences and sympathy to the Winters family. the community and town will miss he greatly.*

Charles Wells - December 27, 2023 at 12:30 PM



“ *Such a sweet man and so blessed to say I knew him my whole life. I used to love to see him at the feed store growing up, praying for his family*

Sherry Simpson - December 21, 2023 at 09:52 PM

MG

The Town of Kentwood is sadden by the death of Mr. Joe Winters, Our Uncle Joe. Uncle Joe, thank you for always keeping Kentwood close to your heart.. You gave so much to Our Town and Families, we will forever keep your works and service in The Town's History Books and in our Hearts. Rest Peacefully Uncle Joe, for you are Home Now. Mayor Irma Gordon and The Kentwood Citizens.

Mayor Irma Gordon - December 21, 2023 at 10:09 PM

TF

“ *To the Winter's family. We are so sorry for your loss. Soon Isaiah 25:8 will be fulfilled.*
Felton & Vernita Freeman

The Freemans - December 20, 2023 at 10:32 AM

SR

“ I remember when I came back to Kentwood. I didn't know who all I was kin to but this man came to my house to fix my electricity, he was such a serious guy. Somebody came through there saying Hey Uncle Joe and he look at me and said everybody call me that but I ain't they Uncle... Lmbo! 😊 Then he said but I am your cousin. 😲 I had no idea but I appreciated him.

With my deepest sympathy and condolences to all who loved and cherished him.

Rest up until the resurrection Cousin Joe!

- Cousin Robin

Sweet1 Robin - December 20, 2023 at 09:44 AM

DW

“ Sending my condolences to the Winters family. Uncle Joe will be greatly missed. May God continue to bless and comfort you.

Dennis Wells - December 20, 2023 at 08:17 AM

MB

“ Sending prayers and condolences to the Winters family. With deepest sympathy to you all. Uncle Joe will be truly missed. The late Rev. Wardell and Ferra Dean Dyson Family.



Mae Dyson Berry - December 20, 2023 at 12:09 AM

FR

“ My prayers & sincere condolences are with you all during this difficult time. He will be missed dearly.

Felisha Robertson - December 20, 2023 at 12:08 AM



“ *Sending our Condolences to the family.
Jackie Womack and Family*

Jackie Womack - December 19, 2023 at 09:12 PM