



### Gratitude From The Gipson Family

**T**he Family of Benford Gipson wishes to thank the community for the intentional acts of love and the outpouring of kindness which has been extended during this time. He leaves a rich legacy of love & inspiration that will continue to guide us on our journey. In his memory, may we strive to embody his unwavering commitment to family, his wisdom, and his ability to find joy in life's simplest moments.

**Comfort Ministry and After-Care  
Transitional Arrangements Entrusted To**

J.E. Washington Funeral Services  
2234 Glenwood Ave. 📍 Youngstown, OH 4451  
(330) 782-8500

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE *In Loving Memory of*

**Benford Gipson**

1936-2024



Friday, February 16, 2024  
Calling Hours 10:00am  
Funeral Service 11:00am

Jaylex Event Center  
2110 Glenwood Ave.  
Youngstown, OH 44511

**BISHOP WILLIAM BURNEY, JR.**

*Officiant*

**ELDER WILLIAM "GUY" BURNEY, III**

*Celebrant*



## *Celebrating the Life of Benford Gipson*



**Musical Prelude & Parting Viewing**

**Prayer of Comfort**

**Sacred Text to Comfort**  
**Old & New Testament Readings**

**Musical Tribute**  
**Martin Charles Moore**

**Community Tributes & Obituary**  
**Pastor Ashawnte J. Phipps**

**Selected Reflections & Expressions**  
Please respect the limit of TWO Minutes

**Music Ministry**

**The Words of Comfort & Hope**  
**Pastor William "Guy" Burney III**

**Recessional**

**Cortege to Tod Homestead Cemetery**  
**Military Honors by the United States Army**  
**Committal & Benediction**



**Following the interment, please join us for the repast  
luncheon at the Jaylex Event Center**

*"To be absent from the body is to be present  
with the Lord." II Corinthians 5:8*



## *The Life & Legacy of Benford Gipson*

*Sunrise November 24, 1936*

*Sunset February 5, 2024*



**B**enford Gipson, a military veteran and dedicated family man, peacefully passed away on February 5, 2024, at The VA Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Born on November 24, 1936, in Hazard, Kentucky, Benford was the third of 4 children born to Isaac 'Ike' Gipson and Iona Hogg Gipson. The family migrated north in the 1950's and settled in East Liverpool, Ohio.

Benford's career journey began when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a teen and after 2 years he transferred to the U.S. Army January 1954. He proudly served his country, retiring after 22 years of service with an honorable discharge on December 31, 1974. His commitment & bravery were evident as he carried out his duties in Japan, Germany and during his deployment in the Vietnam War (1968-1970), attaining the rank of Sgt. First Class. He was a decorated Vietnam Veteran.

In 1958 Benford had returned to his hometown East Liverpool, Ohio and married his childhood love Clara Richardson. There were four sons and one daughter born to their union. After years of travelling and relocating with his wife and children, living in Alaska, Texas, Pennsylvania and Ohio, Benford and Clara along and their five children settled in Youngtown, Ohio after he retired. He embarked on a new career in the steel industry, serving as a Shift Foreman at Columbiana Iron & Metal until his ultimate retirement from the work force.

Benford was devoted to his family and was always close and in touch with his parents, siblings and other family members as well. After the passing of his wife Clara, Benford made his home with his daughter who cared for him throughout the years of his failing health until the day he passed away.

He was a beloved father to his daughter Carla D. Gipson and his two sons Richard K. Gipson and Russell A. Gipson Sr., all of Youngstown, Ohio, who he leaves to cherish his memory. He was also the proud grandfather of 7 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren, a loving uncle to a score of nieces and nephews who adored him.

Sadly, Benford was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Clara L. Gipson and two sons, Kevin H. Gipson and Benny E. Gipson. He also mourned the loss of his parents, brothers Haze Gipson & William Gipson and sister Leola Gipson Bailey, his in-laws and two nephews.

*Lovingly shared by The Gipson Family*