



## Bruce Williams

February 22, 1938 - August 19, 2024

IN MEMORY OF:

Bruce Williams

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – ANNA

135 West Vienna Street, Anna, Illinois

Bruce Williams, 86 of Anna, passed away Monday, August 19, 2024 at his residence surrounded by his family.

Bruce was born February 22, 1938 to Rufus and Erline (Brown) Williams in Anna, Illinois. On January 31, 1957, he married his forever love, Louise Heisner, and together they spent over 62 years together until her passing in 2019.

He served in the U.S. Army, obtaining a rank of Staff Sergeant. Bruce began working for Ralston Purina in 1966 and retired, the first time, from Nestle Purina in 2003. He continued his career with Nestle Purina, retiring a second and final time, in 2014. He received his FDA processing control certification from the University of Wisconsin in 1974, certified as a Professional Engineer in 1975, and earned his engineering degree from Washington University in 1976. Bruce designed and built factories and churches all over the world, with

his family living in some of these locations. He was a member of NSPE, MSPE, and was also a member of the Anna Heights Baptist Church. He built 30 plus ADA wheelchair ramps in the Anna-Jonesboro area. He also earned his Blue Hat for the Illinois Disaster Relief, and worked tirelessly with the Royal Ambassadors and camps within Illinois Baptist State Association and Southern Baptist Convention. He also volunteered his time to coaching young girls and boys with the Upwards Basketball program. He and his wife, Louise, cared for 53 foster children. Bruce and Louise were (PA PA & MA MA LOU) international host parents to many SIU-E and SIU-C international students for 50 years.

Survivors include his daughters, Mona Morgan, Melody Williams-Bassett, Dawn Holmes, Judith (Billy) Halter, Heather (Michael) Walker, Holly (Dean) Barringer, Robin Brazel, Tammy (Chuck) Ridens, Belinda (Dan) Robertson, Jessica (Lewis) Haines, Luciann (John) Barnitz; sons, Anthony (Andrea) Williams, Timothy Crippen, and many other foster children loved dearly by Bruce and Louise; 43 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren and more on the way; sister, Sherry (LaRue) Parr; brothers, Michael (Carroll) Williams and Billy (Donna) Williams.

Along with his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his son, Shawn Williams; sons-in-law, Michael Brazel and Alan Morgan; grandsons, Micah Williams and Ashton Brazel; great-granddaughter, Adleigh Cuevos; brother, Harold Williams; and sister, Patty Williams.

Funeral services will be on Friday, August 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM at Anna Heights Baptist Church with Rev. Darryl Williams officiating with special remarks by Rev. Perry Williams and Tony Williams. Burial will follow at Anna City Cemetery.

Visitation will be on from 1:00 PM until the time of service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to Baptist Children's Home and Services in Carmi, IL. Memorial envelopes will be available at the church.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Anna Cemetery

E Davie St  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-4083

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 23.** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (cst)

Anna Heights Baptist Church  
100 Turner Ave  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-5916

## Funeral Service

**AUG 23.** 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM (cst)

Anna Heights Baptist Church  
100 Turner Ave  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-5916

## Interment

AUG **23**. 4:45 PM - 5:15 PM (cst)

Anna Cemetery  
E Davie St  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-4083

# Tribute Wall

CF

“We are very fortunate to know you Papa Bruce. You were a dad to us and many international students at SIUC. You left many memories by sharing lot of stories from the places you travelled and projects you completed. We always had good time visiting you and the family for holidays other events. Our next visit to Anna will be different without you. You and the family meant so much to us. Our thoughts and prayers with the family.”

Chamila, Aroscha and Family - August 22, 2024 at 12:15 PM



“Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Bruce Williams.”



August 22, 2024 at 09:05 AM

SG

“Bruce and Louise were one of the first to welcome us to Anna Heights when we visited looking for a church home. They treated us to lunch and a visit at the Giant City Lodge that first Sunday. They certainly made us feel at home from the start. They're the kind of folks who make Anna Heights feel like the family that it is. What a blessing it was to know them.”

Sarah Gibson - August 21, 2024 at 09:33 PM

AG

“ Bruce was more than a Deacon at New Douglas Baptist when I was pastor. He was a dear friend and brother in the Lord. Our families were together often. If not at church we were at their house for a meal or Bruce’s great peach cobbler. Bruce was great with the RA program and we went to Lake Sallateska every summer. His family has meant so much to me over the years. Our prayers are with this great family.

Art Gormley - August 21, 2024 at 04:23 PM

PB

“ Patty Burgess purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Bruce Williams.



Patty Burgess - August 21, 2024 at 02:59 PM

KN

“ Kevin&Kelly Nowak, purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Bruce Williams.



Kevin&Kelly Nowak, - August 21, 2024 at 02:56 PM

RH

“ Rob Heisner purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Bruce Williams.



Rob Heisner - August 20, 2024 at 07:56 PM

RC

“ Bruce was a volunteer who loved the Lord and loved people. I could always count on Bruce to help train RA leaders and lead RA Campcraft at Sallateeska. His desire to share Christ through giving his time, resources, and himself to people was authentic. His presence will be missed but his legacy lives on for generations. “Bruce, Well done good and faithful servant.”

Rob Carr - August 20, 2024 at 06:48 PM

RA

“ Ms. Judy I’m so sorry for the loss of your father and Chaya so sorry for the loss of your grandfather. Sending love and prayers to you both and families ❤️

Robin Adams - August 20, 2024 at 05:11 PM

TR

“ First met Bruce at Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp many years ago when our son went to camp there. Then was able to get to know him and his beautiful family when we started going to Anna Heights. What a Blessing he was to us Will miss not seeing him in his Sunday school class smiling and waving as I walk by, will miss him sitting in his pew in front of us on Sunday nights. His legacy will live on with his family. And one day I will be walking the streets of heaven and he will be there smiling and waving Thank you Mr Bruce for your example of Jesus

Terrie Rhymer - August 20, 2024 at 05:06 PM

MS

I knew Bruce mostly through his daughters. How did this man manage to accomplish all that he did as a father and a volunteer of so many activities. I had no idea of the magnitude of his work. My thoughts and prayers to his family.

michael scott - August 21, 2024 at 10:49 PM