



## Jerald James Williams

June 8, 1940 - May 5, 2022

Jerald James Williams, 81 of Alachua, Florida transitioned on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at UF Health Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Florida.

Mr. Williams was born in Alachua, Florida to the late Susie (Roxie) Lewis Williams Mills and James Williams. He began school at ACT, Alachua, FL and later transferred to Douglass High School in High Springs, FL then to A. L. Mebane High School in Alachua, FL, graduating in 1959.

Mr. Williams spent his career in law enforcement, beginning at Alachua County Sheriff's Department Auxiliary Branch where he worked as a Bonded Deputy with the power to arrest. In 1967, Mr. Williams joined the University of Florida Police Department as the first Black Police officer in department history. He later transferred back to the Alachua County Sheriff's Department as the first Black sworn officer authorized to arrest "White Citizens". During this time he also worked part-time as the first Black Alachua County Ambulance Service Driver and Attendant.

In 1972, Mr. Williams began working in Broward County as a Deputy Sheriff as the first Black Deputy Sheriff to work the Airport of Ft. Lauderdale detail and Civil Law Department, serving there until his retirement in 2001.

He leaves to mourn his memories: wife, Mattie Williams; sons, Jerald

Williams, Jr., Christopher Williams, Pete Williams; daughters, Atosha Logan and Tonja Williams; a host of extended family, friends, and fellow law enforcement officers all of whom he considered family.

Funeral Services for Mr. Williams will begin 11:00 AM, Saturday, May 14, 2022, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church located at 718 SE 11th Street Gainesville, Florida 32641. Burial to immediately follow in St. Mathews Cemetery, Alachua, Florida. There will be a viewing and fish fry Friday, May 13, 2022 at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church from 4:00-6:30 PM in his honor. Flowers may be ordered on this website via the link below. Resolutions are accepted via email at: [admin@chestnutfh.com](mailto:admin@chestnutfh.com).

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.chestnutfh.com](http://www.chestnutfh.com)