

## Obituary

Robert "Bobby" Ray Reese was born December 13, 1938 in Paris, Texas to the union of Mary Herndon and George Reese. Bob was the youngest of seven children. He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Melba Reese, Georgia Mae Reese, Novella Sanchez, Christine Shields, Verlene Reese and Edison "Ed" Reese.

At an early age, Bob accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, worshipping under the leadership of his maternal grandfather, Reverend Herndon.

The family later relocated from Paris, Texas to Wichita Falls, Texas where Bob excelled in sports and music, earning scholarships in both. He studied under the musical direction of Gwendolyn Jackson while attending Booker T. Washington High School. Bob traveled with the high school chorus group singing for Senators' Sam Rayburn and Lyndon B. Johnson.

After graduating from high school, Bob attended Lincoln University in Missouri, later transferring to Tennessee State University. While attending Tennessee State, he suffered a sports injury so he chose to leave school and pursue a singing career in Quartet Gospel Music. He traveled throughout the south with the professional gospel group, The Soul Seekers of Texas. Bob later moved to Oklahoma City where he joined the Oklahoma Cavaliers.

In 1961, Bob married Iola Faye Reese who preceded him in death. They were blessed to share a life together of 43 years loving and raising together four children.

Bob united with Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in the early sixties serving as a church Trustee. During his years of service at Mt. Pilgrim, Deacon Reese served in the Adult Choir, Brotherhood, Deacon Board and contributed his expertise in church building maintenance.

In 1977, Bob went into partnership to form R and R Construction Company, later branching out on his own to start Reese's Construction, building a solid cement finishing business of over 30 years.

Bob loved his family, and took pride in being able to spend time with them especially during family celebrations and holidays. He was affectionately called "Daddy", "Big Daddy" and "Granddaddy".

Bob leaves to cherish his memory three daughters: Deleria Y. Devers of San Antonio, Texas; Casandra D. Silas-Goffinet (Ron Nicely) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; K. Mechelle Williams (Kenneth) of Memphis, Tennessee; one son, Allen M. Silas (Cheryl) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; one godson, Harold Jefferson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; a brother-in-law, David Shields of Harvey, Illinois; a sister-in-law, Yvonne Daniels-Reese; nine grandchildren: Vipa Sherman (David), A. Bernard Devers (who preceded him in death), Demetrius Devers (Cristi), Demika Devers, Tamra Silas, Kenyada Brown, Elsha Burris, Sicily Murray, Shanel Breedlove (John), R. Seth Murray; twenty-six great grandchildren, four great, great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.