



## Obituary

**Died:** Thursday, September 10, 2020

### Obituary

The legendary *Yancey Edwin Whitley, Sr.* was born July 24, 1938 in Indianapolis, Indiana to William Earl Whitley, Sr. and Viola Floy-Whitley. *Yancey* was the oldest of six and he had much love and support for all his siblings.

As a child, *Yancey* believed he could accomplish anything he set his mind to do, and he did just that. *Yancey* attended Indianapolis Public Schools and joined the United States Air Force at the age of 16, during the Vietnam War. He served for 4 years and an additional 4 years in the Air Force Reserves. While overseas, *Yancey* quickly began to make a name for himself as a boxer.

### Service Summary

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#### Visitation

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Fri Sep 18, 2020

#### Stuart Mortuary Chapel

2201 N. ILLINOIS STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46208

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#### Interment following funeral service

Sat Sep 19, 2020

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#### Visitation

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Sat Sep 19,  
2020

#### Stuart Mortuary Chapel

2201 N. ILLINOIS STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46208

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#### Private Services

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*Yancey* quietly went about his business creating his own unique relationships along the way. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, lifting weights, and participating in competitions from karate to brick breaking.

In 1962, *Yancey* returned to Indianapolis and began his career at Carrier where he eventually met the love of his life. On July 4th, 1996, he joined in holy matrimony with Wanda Forrest-Smile. He worked over 30 years for Carrier before retiring to focus on Whitley's Furniture which he is founder and owner.

*Yancey* was a long-time member with AMVETS in Indianapolis, where he had served for many years on their color guard team. He was also a lifetime member with the Naptown Riders.

In the late 1990's, *Yancey* re-committed his life to Christ, and began serving in the Purpose of Life Ministries Church immediately. As a lover of music, he was a member of the choir, the Male Chorus, the Men of Praise, and the Senior's ministry. In 1997 he was ordained as a deacon.

His final chapter was his best chapter. He never lost that boyish grin that signaled he was about to start something. *Yancey* fought to the very end, no matter how doctors counted him out. *Yancey* will be missed by all of his family, numerous friends and his dog, "Tootie" who stayed by his

side to the end.

**Yancey** was preceded in death by his father, Earl Whitley, Sr., mother, Viola Whitley, his son, Yancey Jr, brothers, Frederick Whitley, Ronnie Whitley, and William Whitley, Jr.; and mother-in-law, Mable Forrest.

**Yancey** leaves behind to cherish his memories his wife, Wanda Whitley; sons, Ryan Whitley (Larry), Demitrious (Regina) Whitley, and Laronzo Smiley (Beth); sisters, Benita "Niece" Whitley and Vernetta Whitley-Trotter; sisters-in-law, Virginia Forrest, Doris Whitley and Pam Whitley; childhood friend, Grace Hawkins, longtime friend, Vincent Williams, 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews and brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Yancey will never be forgotten!!!**

***Humbly Submitted.....The Family***