



Fred Cunningham, Jr.

July 3, 1935 - September 27, 2025

Born to Fred Cunningham, Sr. and Ola Lee Wills Cunningham on July 3, 1935, in Talladega, Alabama, Fred's journey was one rich in love, music, and industrious spirit.

Fred dedicated many years of his life to the poultry industry, serving with distinction at Spring Valley and Tyson Foods, where, even after retirement at the age of 62, he continued to pour his heart into his work, demonstrating his unwavering passion and commitment. His work ethic was a testament to a life lived in service and dedication.

On July 11, 1976, Fred found his soulmate in the former Murine Wilson, and together they shared a bond of love and companionship that enriched their lives. Known affectionately to friends and family as "Blues Man," Fred embraced life with an infectious spirit, finding great joy in fishing, gardening, and expressing his boundless creativity through wood crafting.

His true passion, however, lay in music. Fred was not just a musician; he was a maestro whose melodies echoed through the hearts of many. He played the drums, harmonica, keyboard, piano, and the beloved guitar he named "Bessie Mae." At the tender age of 22, he traveled to Chicago, where his talent intertwined with Blues celebrities, leaving a legacy of rhythm and soulful sound. Fred also cherished his time with The Friendly Brothers Quartet gospel group, his music a testament to his faith and love for community.

On Saturday morning, September 27, 2025 Mr. Fred "Blues Man" Cunningham, Jr. departed this earthly life when God called him from labor to eternal rest at the age of 90. Preceding him in death are his parents, Fred Cunningham, Sr. and Ola Lee Cunningham, son, Freddie Wilson, bonus daughter, Santa Le Wilson, brothers, Dwight Cunningham, James "Tommie Lee" Cunningham, and Lonnie Cunningham, sisters, Nellie Jane Cunningham, Minnie Jemison, and Lizzie Curtsey, and special sister-in-law, Sarah Kelley.

Fred's legacy is further illuminated by the love of his family. He is survived by his devoted daughter, Rujeana Wilson; sons, Tim (Erica) Wilson, Rodgerick (Laura) Patterson, and Reginald (Patricia) Patterson; and his daughter-in-law, Mae Wilson. He leaves behind a special brother-in-law, Billy Wilson; a cherished sister-in-law, Geraldine Walker; an abundance of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will hold his memory close to their hearts. As we reflect on the life of Mr. Fred "Blues Man" Cunningham, Jr. we celebrate his legacy-a tapestry woven with love, laughter, and music that transcends time. He will be deeply missed, yet his spirit will forever resonate in the hearts of those who had the privilege to know him.

Cemetery Details

Simmons Family Cemetery

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT 3. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home
217 Coosa St. East
Talladega, AL 35160

Celebration of Life

OCT 4. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home
217 Coosa St. East
Talladega, AL 35160

Tribute Wall

SA

“ *Uncle Fred you will truly be missed. Praying for the family that God gives comfort and peace. Love you*
Sandra Walker

Sandra - October 02, 2025 at 09:26 PM

EM

“ *Elaine McKenzie lit a candle in memory of Fred Cunningham, Jr.*



Elaine McKenzie - September 29, 2025 at 10:17 PM

LP

“ *Sending up my prayers and condolences to this family !!!I'm so sorry for y'all loss*



lori pope - September 29, 2025 at 06:34 PM

TL

With Deepest Sympathy to the entire family! May God's love give you the strength and peace you need to make it through this difficult time!

Tawanna Lloyd - September 29, 2025 at 07:45 PM