

Felix Ozsee Williams, age 88

Felix Ozsee Williams was born July 9, 1918, in Huntville, Texas, to Rev. Felix C. Williams and Birdy Dickey. Felix's mother preceded him in death in 1919.

Felix and his father moved to Omaha and in 1928 his father married Clara Chase, and to that union two daughters were born, Marie and Coleta.

Felix was a member of Zion Baptist Church, where he took an active part in the youth activities. He was also a member of the "Los Cantoros Chorus" directed by Ms. Ethel Jones. At the time of his passing he was a member of Heritage Christian Center, Denver, Colo.

Felix, better known as Ozsee by family members and friends, attended Howard Kennedy Elementary School and graduated from Omaha Technical High School in 1938. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Felix moved to Denver in 1962, and in 1967 married Martha Marie White, who preceded him in death in 1983. In 1997 Felix married Mary Hunter, who brought to that union her two daughters and one son.

Felix was drafted into the army during World War II in 1941, at the age of 22, and assigned to the 9th Cavalry Regiment as a Buffalo Soldier, tra-



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ditionally a segregated, all-Black unit. The term originates from a period during the 19th century when, while fighting against American Indian uprisings, the black units were first referred to as "buffalo" soldiers.

In 1942 he was sent with a more mechanized 27th Cavalry Division to North Africa, and later served in the 524th Port Battalion and 371st Infantry Regiment. He earned the Bronze Star for meritorious action where he acted as a scout during combat missions in Africa, Sicily and Southern France. Felix distinguished himself with gallantry during five separate invasions. Fifty-five years after the Army discharged him, an assortment of military medals arrived unceremoniously in the mail at his home. On April 18, 2000, he was given the ceremony that was supposed to go with them when U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard pinned a Bronze Star on his lapel.

Felix is preceded in death by his biological mother Birdie Dickey Williams, his father Rev. F.C. Williams, former pastor of Zion Baptist Church, and his step-mother, Clara Chase Williams.

He is survived by wife Mary, step-children Vivienne (Roger) Cooper of San Diego, CA; Gloria and Gwendolyn Gordon of Denver, Eric Gordon of Orlando, FL; step-grandson Maurice Cooper of San Diego; sisters Marie (Charles) Rountree of Denver, Coleta Wilkerson of Englewood, CO; nephews Charles (Jorrame) Rountree of Aurora, CO, Eric (Irina) Rountree of Centennial, CO, Chris Wilkerson of Denver; niece Yvette (Rupert) Barron of Missouri City, TX; great-nephews William and Julian Barron of Missouri City, Connor Rountree of Denver; great-niece Zoe Barron of Missouri City; step-great-nieces Cissie Clark of Denver and Ruthann Rountree of Long Beach, CA; aunt Aretha Williams of Mobile, AL; and a host of cousins and many friends.

CITATION (APA STYLE)

(2007, April 5). *Omaha Star*, p. 4. Available from NewsBank: America's News – Historical and Current: <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=image/v2:1469E7D6123E0888@EANX-NB-146FCC001080C813@2454196-146FCC0010EC0510@3-146FCC0010EC0510@>.