

William Carter Biography

William Carter graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1964 with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. In April 1965, while waiting at his parent home in New Orleans, LA to enter the Air Force Officer Candidate School, William accepted an interim position as science teacher at Lincoln High School, Paducah Kentucky. Toward the end of his interim employment, he took a position as a laboratory technician at PennSalt Chemical plant in Calvert City, Kentucky. He was the first African American to be employed there. He served there 36 years, 35 in management as Chemist, Shift Superintendent and Senior Supervisor. After getting married to his college sweetheart, Aretha LaVerne, William opted out of Officer Candidate School. He joined the local Kentucky National Guard becoming the first African American to do so. He took several business classes at Murray State University before officially starting his photography business in 1972 working mostly on the weekends. Early in his photography career he devoted time to the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club of Paducah, teaching photography. William has helped several photographers to start their own business. During a ten year span, William was considered the best wedding photographer in Western Kentucky. He was the exclusive photographer for the Paducah Sun POSH magazine from 2010 thru 2013.

William is a member of Gideons International Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a past member of the Paducah Junior Chamber of Commerce, Concord Lions Club, and Lourdes Hospital Regional Board for 9 years.

William is a member of Harrison Street MBC where he serves as a deacon, and along with his wife, LaVerne, serves as facilitators for the marriage ministry.

The Carters have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. William describes himself as compassionate and a giver, with no enemies. He added, "If I have enemies, they will have to tell me."

On October 30, 2013, William was diagnosed with second stage Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells. William was given the medical treatment options, chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplant. Faith in God gave William immediate hope in survival from this disease. He saw God work through him, the prayers of family, church, friends and the knowledge and wisdom of medical professionals to get him where he is today.

William is inspired by the scripture: ***II Corinthians 1:3-4 "Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."***