



Willie E. Peale Jr

April 6, 1950 - March 3, 2025

Frankfort – Willie E. Peale, Jr. age 74, passed away Monday, March 3, 2025. Services will be held at First Baptist Church, Clinton Street, on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Dr. Bishop E. Carter, III officiating. Visitation will be held at First Baptist Church, Clinton Street, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Mr. Peale was born in Jackson Mississippi on April 6, 1950, as the eldest of two children from the union of Willie Edward, Sr., and Nellie Johnson Peale. His early education was in the Jackson State College community beginning with nursery school, kindergarten, and the Laboratory school grades 1 through 8. On completion of eighth grade, he attended Lanier High School. It was at this point he began his athletic career, playing scholastic football and baseball. Yet, he also played baseball in summer leagues since the age of 10. It was during this period he developed his sense of social activism in what has been termed “the turbulent 60s” when Jackson, Mississippi was a “bastion of segregation” with fervent civil rights activity. Specifically, he marched and demonstrated with Dr. King, Stokely Carmichael, James Meredith, Charles Evers, and Aaron Henry, at other times with others based on the purpose of the demonstration.

His activism led he and his classmates and friends to found a community service organization named “Organization of African American Youth” aka OBAAY, which was dedicated to the improvement and service in the community. This organization existed for 15 years. His activism included being

one of the first Black students to attend, then, an all-white Murrah High School. His attendance was brief, due to not being able to join the football team. He then returned to Lanier High School where he graduated.

During his attendance at Lanier, he made all city, all conference, and all state in both football and baseball for three years. He received one of the first scholarship offers to attend an SEC school, Mississippi State University. He began his college education as a freshman scholarship player at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. When Wiley discontinued its athletic programs, except basketball, he transferred to Kentucky State College, now KSU. His collegiate athletic career was highlighted by my senior year when he served as captain of the football team. This team set the modern record for wins in a season at eight, and played in the 1971 Orange Blossom Classic for the mythical Black Nation Championship against Florida A&M University.

On graduation from KSU in 1973, he began his full-time employment at KSU in the biology research program. He also worked with the football team as an assistant. After three years, he decided to pursue law and was accepted in the 1975 University of Kentucky Law School where he graduated in 1978. His legal career began in the Kentucky Attorney General's Office as an assistant. After two years, he decided to start his own practice and opened his own firm as a solo practitioner on November 1, 1980. His practice served as a general practice that spanned over the Commonwealth and surrounding states in both state and federal court. Mr. Peale was elected as the President of the Franklin County Bar Association and was the first African American to serve over a county bar association in the Commonwealth. After 43 years, he retired from law.

Mr. Peale has received numerous awards over the years and rendered service to his community. Some of his most cherished awards include Hall of Fame in KSU football; NAFEO Alumnus of the Year, KSUNAA Alumnus of the Year, Charles Anderson Award, Omega Man of the Year, United Way Citizen of the Year, Frankfort Arts Foundation for continuous sponsorship of Black History Month Programs. Mr. Peale was a life member of KSUNAA and have

served as legal advisor over the years. His “Homecoming Open House” was an example of his ongoing love for KSU and its graduates who came back annually to enjoy the event. He was also a lifetime member of NAACP – having represented referred clients in discrimination and employment cases. He was also a life member of UK Alumni Association and UK Law Alumni Association.

He also belonged to Prince Hall F&AM of Kentucky and served as Grand Counselor, the K Club, KSU Hall of Fame, and Team Legacy. However, his heart and soul remain loyal to KSU. He most recently served as a member of KSU Foundation Board of Trustee and served as its President.

Mr. Peale was divorced, but is survived by his three boys, Willie III, David, and Porter; sister, Vicki, and grandchildren, Elijah and Iya.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 8. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church, Clinton Street
100 Clinton Street
Frankfort, KY KY

Service

MAR 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church, Clinton Street
100 Clinton Street
Frankfort, KY KY

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Tammie Smith lit a candle in memory of Willie E. Peale Jr*



Tammie Smith - March 15, 2025 at 08:43 AM

DJ

“ *Dorothy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Willie E. Peale Jr*



Dorothy Johnson - March 11, 2025 at 06:58 PM

DJ

My heartfelt condolences and prayers for the loss of our dear loved one. May the Lord give you peace that passes all understanding in Jesus name. He will be sorely missed by all. His legacy will continue to live in our hearts. He was truly a blessing to all and will never be forgotten for all the great and amazing things that he did to bring change in the lives of many. Continue to RIH most caring brilliant and intelligent nephew.

Dorothy Johnson - March 11, 2025 at 07:12 PM



“ *My condolences to the Peale Family. I pray for healing and comfort. Mr. Peale was there for me in 1982. Thank you 🙏. Peace Be Still.*

Ricardo Abbott - March 08, 2025 at 05:51 PM

NS

“ My condolences to his family. Had known Willie Peale for over 50 years. He was a wonderful friend. I will forever remember him as a warm and compassionate man. His family are in my prayers

Nataline Carman Savoy - March 07, 2025 at 11:32 AM

SS

“ Willie was a wonderful man. Prayers of comfort for his family.

Sharon Simmons - March 07, 2025 at 11:28 AM

JW

“ Our deepest condolences to the Peale family. So sorry for your loss. Willie was a good friend to me and my wife and we would always stop by to visit him and his family at homecoming. Bro. Peale will be missed. R.I.P. my brother.

James and Twanda Watkins
Class of 75/76



James and Twanda Watkins - March 07, 2025 at 09:04 AM

VH

“ Mr. Willie helped me during a rough patch while in college battling court issues during my sophomore year at KSU...his support paved the way for my ability to focus and succeed and never deal with the justice system again. Thank you for your representation, sir!

Vachel Hudson - March 06, 2025 at 07:43 PM

DR

“ Willie was a wonderful man. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for comfort for his family.

Deborah A. Redmon - March 06, 2025 at 03:08 PM

SH

“ Great memories of a southern gentleman. Excellent athlete and great civic mind. Last converse with him when we celebrated our 50th year reunion in 2022. Always was uplifting when we talked. He will be missed!
Prayer of comfort to his family.
In His grip.
Service Hurst (1972)

Service Hurst - March 06, 2025 at 11:36 AM

DO

“ David O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie E. Peale Jr.

David O. - March 06, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ I'm sorry to hear this. Willie was always extremely nice with I saw him.

Francine Poe - March 06, 2025 at 08:29 AM

MN

“ I am so sorry to learn of Willie's passing. We shared a lot of good times while classmates at Kentucky State. My prayers are with the family for their comfort.
Melanie Taylor Nunn
Class of '72

Melanie Nunn - March 05, 2025 at 06:11 PM

DO

*Your family has our deepest sympathy. Willie was a great friend and colleague.
Betty & David Olinger*

David Olinger - March 06, 2025 at 09:44 AM

MM

My deepest sympathies to the family of a wonderful teammate and friend. Rest easy my Friend 🙏

Michael McGuire - March 07, 2025 at 02:06 PM

JB

*“ I had many conversations with willie and always liked him, R. I. P.
Man*

Joe Barnes - March 05, 2025 at 04:44 PM

LC

I tried many cases with Willie. He was a gifted advocate and a good friend. The Franklin County bar will miss him.

Larry Cleveland - March 07, 2025 at 10:38 AM