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***WILLIAM MORRIS PENS INSPIRATIONAL MEMOIR,
THIS MAGIC MOMENT, CELEBRATING HIS
DEEP FRIENDSHIPS AND REMARKABLE JOURNEY
WITH AMERICAN R&B LEGENDS
AND THE POWER OF MUSIC TO UNITE PEOPLE
ACROSS GREAT DIVIDES***

***Morris' Serendipitous Meetings with Prentiss Barnes and Members of
The Moonglows Paved the Way to Lifelong Friendships with Rock and Roll
Hall of Famers Plus Two Gospel Albums by Original and Subsequent Members
of The Drifters, Known for Such Hits as "White Christmas," "This Magic
Moment," "Under the Boardwalk," "Stand by Me" and "Up on the Roof"***

"I love that Bill is chronicling his friendships with Prentiss Barnes and Harvey Fuqua (both of The Moonglows) and Bill Pinkney (The Drifters), sharing his magic moments with them and other contemporaries."

Mary Wilson – Original member of The Supremes; author of *Dreamgirl: My Life as a Supreme*, and *Supreme Glamour*

"Having known Bill Morris for over four decades, I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand . . . his relationship to the singers and musicians of this fabulous era. I never ceased to be amazed at what was unfolding in these moments Bill has experienced. Take the journey with him in this marvelous and exciting exposition of a faith-filled musical adventure."

Charles L. Overby – Former President of Gannett Foundation; Executive Editor of Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal-winning *Clarion Ledger*



Nashville, Tenn. (September 13, 2019) — “While I was in Jackson, Mississippi, listening to the music of the ‘50s and ‘60s and throwing dances to help pay my way through college, Prentiss Barnes was performing on the stages of New York City and all across the country. [We were] two men from different worlds who were being prepared for a rare breed of friendship,” recounts author William H. Morris in his nostalgic memoir, *This Magic Moment: My Journey of Faith, Friends, and the Father’s Love* (November 15, 2019, Fitting Words), about an often-overlooked but revolutionary era in American music.

Barnes was the original bass singer of The Moonglows, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers who were considered by many to be the best of the doo wop-era groups. Their songs included the *Billboard* chart-topper “Sincerely” and other ‘50s R&B hits such as “See Saw,” “When I’m with You,” and “Ten Commandments of Love.”

Growing up on music like theirs, William H. Morris so loved the rich harmonies and talented performers who visited his hometown that he began work as a music promoter of R&B artists throughout college. Years later, while traveling in Washington, DC, Morris had the chance to relive his youth and attend a Moonglows performance. Excited to hear one of his favorite groups again, he introduced himself during intermission to thank them for all the memories. As he and the guys started singing some of the standards of that era, just for fun, The Moonglows’ lead singer recognized that Morris’ voice was ideally suited for this type of music and asked Morris to join them onstage to sing in their second set. In that serendipitous meeting and the many to follow—all of them detailed so personally in *This Magic Moment*—Bill Morris’ life would be forever changed.

About a year after his magical moment with The Moonglows, Morris saw a newspaper article about Moonglows singer Prentiss Barnes, who had been permanently injured in an accident years before. Alarmed at Barnes’ plight, and learning that he was living in Jackson, Morris felt compelled to call him. He got the singer’s number, shared with him that he’d sung with The Moonglows once . . . and thus began a friendship that lasted until Barnes’ death.

As the two men learned to trust each other, their shared love of the music spurred Morris to reconnect the retired Prentiss with several of his contemporaries, including Bill Pinkney of The Original Drifters. Their conversations inspired further music connections, along with fresh opportunities for these nearly forgotten artists to be heard by a new generation of listeners through the release of The Original Drifters’ first two gospel CDs and notable reunion appearances for them and The Moonglows.

While *This Magic Moment* includes never-before-seen photos and endearing memories of an important era in American-music history, its signature is the deep bond that existed between these men. Such friendship tears down societal walls and changes lives, proving above all that when people come together in true friendship, miracles happen for everyone involved.

Says Morris: “My intent in writing this book was to bless people far and wide, and to celebrate the lives of these music legends who left an indelible impression on my soul. Despite our



differing backgrounds, we were drawn together by the universal language of music. It is the accompaniment to my story”—that of a music-loving businessman from Mississippi who, in a pivotal moment, a “magic moment,” enjoyed the rare privilege of enduring friendship with some of his musical heroes . . . who just happened to be rock ‘n’ roll legends.

To learn more about William Morris and his new book, *This Magic Moment*, visit: www.williammorrisauthor.com. You can also follow Morris’ journey via social media on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

A portion of the proceeds from *This Magic Moment* will benefit [MusiCares®](#), a safety net of critical assistance for music people in times of need.

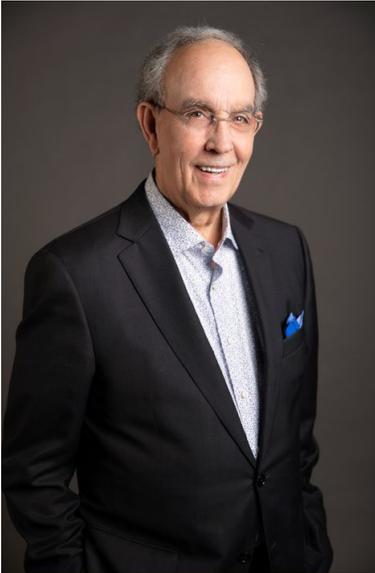
William H. (Bill) Morris, a lifelong resident of Jackson, Mississippi, is the founder and president of The William Morris Group, an elite insurance consulting and marketing firm. Because of his love for the R&B music of his youth and his ability to sincerely connect with people, Morris developed enduring friendships with members of two Rock and Roll Hall of Fame groups of the doo wop era, The Moonglows and The Original Drifters, as well as some of their contemporaries, which he shares in his newest book, *This Magic Moment: My Journey of Faith, Friends, and the Father’s Love*. As president of Hallelujah Productions, Morris had the privilege of producing The Original Drifters’ first two gospel CDs. He has also published a coffee-table book, *Ole Miss at Oxford: A Part of Our Heart and Soul*. Morris and his wife, Camille, have been married for 47 years and have two grown daughters and five grandchildren.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Long Bio



William H. (Bill) Morris has lived a dream come true. Following his days as a student at Ole Miss and an officer in the US Army in the mid-'60s, he launched into a remarkable insurance career. While building a who's who among Mississippi clientele, he authored insurance books and was published in national articles. A highly sought-after speaker, Morris achieved nearly every accolade in his industry, including 52 years as a member of the Million Dollar Round Table. Though he founded and built The William Morris Group, comprised of 17 professionals serving the company's clients, he never forgot his love for the music and the musicians he listened to growing up. His ability to connect with people paved the way to enduring friendships with several doo wop-era singers, including members of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame groups The Moonglows and The Original Drifters. Besides being invited to perform onstage with The Moonglows in numerous venues, Morris, the president of Hallelujah Productions, produced The Original Drifters' first two gospel CDs. He tells of these providential friendships in his memoir, *This Magic Moment*. He has also published a coffee-table book, *Ole Miss at Oxford: A Part of Our Heart and Soul*. Morris still finds time to serve on the boards of many organizations, and is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He and his wife, Camille, have been married for 47 years and have two grown daughters and five grandchildren.

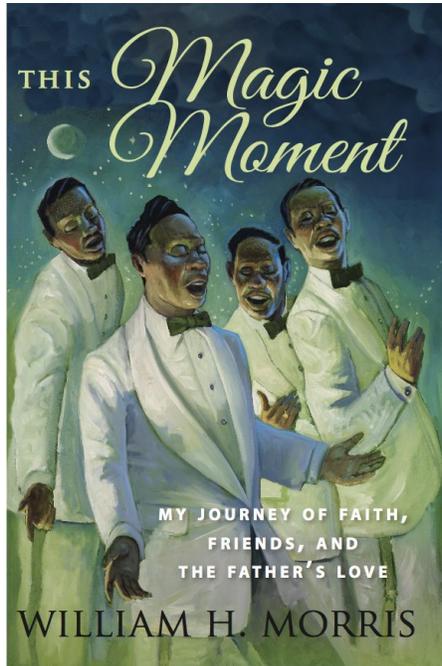
Short Bio

William H. (Bill) Morris, a lifelong resident of Jackson, Mississippi, is the founder and president of The William Morris Group, an industry-leading insurance consulting and marketing firm. Because of his love for the R&B music of his youth, his ability to sincerely connect with people, and what he credits as divine leading, Morris developed deep friendships with members of two Rock and Roll Hall of Fame groups of the doo wop era, the Moonglows and The Original Drifters, which he shares in his newest book, *This Magic Moment: My Journey of Faith, Friends, and the Father's Love*. As president of Hallelujah Productions, Morris had the privilege of producing The Original Drifters' first two gospel CDs. He has also published a coffee-table book, *Ole Miss at Oxford: A Part of Our Heart and Soul*. Morris and his wife, Camille, have been married for 47 years and have two grown daughters and five grandchildren.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: *This Magic Moment*

Subtitle: *My Journey of Faith, Friends, and the Father's Love*



AUTHOR: Willam H. Morris

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Hashtag: #ThisMagicMoment

The Moonglows were considered, by many in the know, to be the best of the doo wop-era singers. An unlikely incident allowed Bill Morris and Prentiss Barnes to meet, and through a series of rare and providential events that followed, the retired singer was rescued from the depths of despair. Prentiss was the original bass singer of The Moonglows and was disabled from a train car collision years before. He was now living in Jackson, Mississippi, Bill's hometown. Prentiss and Bill connected and became very close friends. From that historic encounter, Bill facilitated a reunion of Bill Pinkney of The Original Drifters and Prentiss. This led to Bill producing The Original Drifters first two gospel CDs. Over the next few years, he found himself singing with The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Drifters and Moonglows at various events. The last occasion was with the legendary Harvey Fuqua and The Moonglows' in their final performance at the Doo Wop Hall of Fame milestone moment held in Boston Symphony Hall.

The real strength of this book lies in the deep chemistry that existed between Bill and each of these singers--the kind of friendship that changes the world. When people of different backgrounds and races come together with the love given from above, miracles begin to happen.



SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS WILLIAM H. MORRIS, AUTHOR OF *THIS MAGIC MOMENT*

1. What led to your interest in music, and how did you come to love the distinctive styles of the doo wop era?
2. What made you decide to work in the insurance industry instead of sticking with music promotion, which you did during your college days?
3. You had multiple opportunities to sing on stage with the legendary Moonglows. How did that happen?
4. Who was Prentiss Barnes, and how did you meet him? Was there any racial tension between you in your first meetings? What were some of the barriers that he and his peers had to overcome?
5. Tell us the story of reuniting Prentiss with Bill Pinkney of The Original Drifters.
6. Why did you title your book *This Magic Moment*?
7. What is one behind-the-scenes story about these R&B singers that readers would be interested to know?
8. What was the biggest surprise for you on this unexpected journey you took with some of American music's greats?
9. How were you changed by these friendships?
10. Is this book just for music lovers? Who else will it appeal to, and why?
11. Where can we learn more about you and your book?



ENDORSEMENTS

“Wow! This book should be a movie! It’s a powerful story of love and brotherhood across the racial divide at a time when our nation needs healing as never before.”

—**Michael W. Smith**
Singer/Songwriter

“I love that Bill is chronicling his friendships with Prentiss Barnes and Harvey Fuqua (both of The Moonglows) and Bill Pinkney (The Drifters), sharing his magic moments with them and other contemporaries.”

— **Mary Wilson**
Original member of The Supremes, and author of
Dreamgirl: My Life as a Supreme, and *Supreme Glamour*

“I never ceased to be amazed about what was unfolding in these moments Bill has experienced. Take the journey with him in this marvelous and exciting exposition of a faith filled musical adventure.”

— **Charles L. Overby**
Former President of Gannett Foundation and
Executive Editor of Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal-winning *Clarion Ledger*

“Magic to be sure, but moment? It’s extended into a lifetime. That Bill Morris can write and sing comes as no surprise. That he has this story to write about makes us all want to sing and shout—if only we could, as he does.”

— **Bill Dunlap**
Artist, writer and humorist

“In my long editorial career—over 50 years—seldom have I met a writer with more passion or compassion than Bill Morris.”

—**Anne Severance**
Former East Coast Acquisitions Editor, Zondervan

“You did it, Brother Bill! It’s a truly magnificent book. You were all along right there—in the center of the universe of harmony; and also “At the End of a Rainbow” of beautiful people, inside and out.”

—**Eli Goodman**
M.D. & DJ, author of
The White Horse and *The Adventures of Abe, the \$5 Bill*