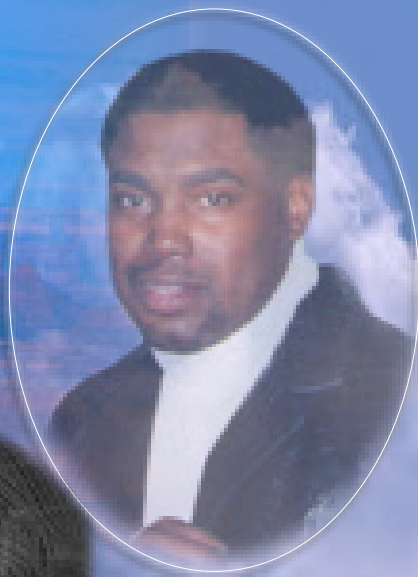


Home-Going
Celebration
for



Sunrise
January 15, 1971

Sunset
June 10, 2010

Stacey "Tokay" Rogers

Saturday, June 19, 2010 - 5:00 p.m.

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, NJ

Rev. Reginald Clark, Officiating
Emory Lee, Organist

Obituary

Stacey “Tokay” Rogers was born on January 15th, 1971 at Garnett Memorial Hospital in Paterson, NJ to Lola Harvey and Thomas Gourdine Sr. He was the 2nd child to be born to Lola.

Stacey attended and graduated from West Side High School which is located in Newark, NJ. While attending high school, Stacey worked at a restaurant in West Orange named LaFactoria. This is where his culinary career was cultivated and where he met his first mentor named Jim. Stacey loved to cook and would often prepare dishes for his friends to show off his cooking skills. He made some amazing dishes. After leaving high school, he continued to work at LaFactoria to improve on his skills.

Stacey entered the Navy in 1989. He trained to be a Navy Seal. When he completed his training, he served on the US Mooseburger which was stationed in North Charleston, SC. Stacey loved to be out on the ocean and would often write to us to tell us how beautiful it was out there. After leaving the service, he returned home and started working on taking his restaurant career to another level. He attended the New York Culinary School of Arts. After graduation, he was ready to embark on what he was most passionate about.

Stacey quickly became the top chef in many of the restaurants that he worked at. He started in New York, then moved onto D.C. and then finally to Las Vegas. He learned many different cuisines which made him the best at what he did. Stacey always wanted to own and operate his own restaurant. His latest venture would be called Southern Bistro.

Stacey’s greatest attribute was not cooking, although that’s what he loved to do. His greatest attribute was his loyalty and his integrity to everyone that he knew. When you became his friend, you quickly found out how loyal he was and how serious he took your friendship to him. He loved hard and he played hard. He gave you respect and demanded it in return. Stacey never backed out of any challenges when they presented themselves to him. He was often looked at as the father figure of the group. Whenever we had issues, he would often try to help us fix them. His heart was as big as this universe.

Stacey lived life to the fullest. He had an adventurous spirit and loved the outdoors. He loved things like rockclimbing, riding motorcycles, comedy shows, writing poetry, hanging with friends and anything that included him having some fun. He was a spur of the moment kind of person. When you said, “Let’s go”, he would often comment, ‘Come on’.

Stacey was called to be with the Lord on June 10, 2010. He is survived by his loving and faithful girlfriend, Saowanee Kittipongdaja and their two children, Arris Aroon Tokay and Thais Elewa Tokay; his two daughters from previous relationships, Zoe Nevaeh Rogers and Maddix Cragon Rogers; his mother, Lola Harvey and father, Thomas Gourdine Sr.; two brothers, Johnny “Merc” Harvey and Thomas “Chewan” Gourdine Jr.; five sisters, Helen Oliver, Dorinda Scott, Tamiko Gourdine, Alicia “TeTe” Harvey and Kiwa Gourdine; His extended family includes, his adopted family; mother, Carol Wright; father, Robert Wright Jr., brother, Robert Wright III and sister, Idwana Wright; his Soul family includes, Victor “Dez” Ramsey, Tamara Grandoit, Joshin Smith, Matthew Abney, Rob “MoMo” Brown, Randolph “Fuzzy” Peters and Joel Carera; seven uncles, six aunts; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Stacey will meet in heaven his adopted brother, Richard Wright, his grandparents, Mary and Milton Looney, and a host of other relatives and family who have departed from this life.

Keep a watchful eye over us all, we will meet you in heaven one day. Rest in Peace my brother.

Order of Service

Processional

Hymn

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Obituary Victor Ramsey

Reflections *(2 minutes each please)*

Selection

Eulogy Rev. Reginald Clark

Benediction

Recessional



Private Cremation



*Following the service, family and friends are
invited to the repast at:
107 Grace St. • Roselle, NJ 07203*

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard him call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared a laugh, a kiss;
Ah yes, these things, I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much;
Good friends, good times,
a loved ones touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Acknowledgments

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in their time of sorrow. May God continue to bless each of you.

***Memorial contributions may be made to the
Stacey Tokay Memorial Fund via Bank of America.***

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000