

*Home Going Services  
for*

*Robert  
C.  
Wilds*



**Sunrise**

*November 1, 1951*

**Sunset**

*June 26, 2010*

Saturday, July 3, 2010 - 9:00 a.m.

***Cotton Funeral Service***

130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

***Pastor David Brawley, Officiating***

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## *Reflections of Life*

**Robert Cornell Wilds** was born November 1, 1951 in Jersey City, NJ to Georgia and Robert Wilds. After Georgia's marriage to Kenneth Pugh, the family moved to Newark where they were long time residents.

Robert was a graduate of Essex Catholic High School where he was a champion track runner. His athleticism also led him to a 2nd degree black belt in Karate by age sixteen. Robert's patriotism led him to enlist in the army at the tender age of seventeen. After basic training at Fort Bragg, NC, he volunteered for the 82nd airborne. While in North Carolina he met and married Janice Dawson and had a son, Robert C. Wilds, Jr. He successfully completed the qualifications for the elite Special Forces and served in the republic of Vietnam. He was a paratrooper and his military occupational standard was demolition specialist and light weapons. During his second tour of duty, he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. Robert was honorably discharged and returned to Newark where he became a fireman for Conrail. While in Newark, Robert attended Rutgers University and later relocated to Washington, DC. He continued his progression at Conrail and when they merged with Amtrak, he became one of a few African American locomotive engineers at that time.

Robert had a passion for photography, cooking and tennis. He once took a photo of President Elect, Jimmy Carter, which the Star Ledger used in their newspaper. He loved cooking for friends and family and his skills were legendary. He always entertained to a packed house. He learned to play tennis at an early age, and participated in many tournaments. He played a key role in promoting the sport by teaching other African Americans to play.

After returning to Newark, he met his love, Sheila Girard, who lived on the same block as his parents. Sheila and Rob had a long relationship and married in March 2007. In August of 2005 they moved to Randolph, NJ. Robert worked for the City of Newark for a number of years and eventually went to work for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. Service related illness led to declining health and he left the turnpike in February 2010.

He leaves to celebrate his life: his devoted wife, Sheila; his sons, Robert C. Wilds, Jr. of Charlotte, NC and Nigel Girard of Randolph, NJ; his mother, Georgia Pugh of Chester, VA; sister, Dr. Kendra Pugh of Chesterfield, VA; grandson Dre'Quan Wilds of Winston Salem, NC; his uncle, Benjamin Pugh of Queens, NY; aunts, Mildred Stanley of Dearborn, MI, Elizabeth Pugh of Queens, NY, Edith Cuffy of Savannah, GA and Delores Gilliam of Lewiston, NC; and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

## Order of Service

Organ Prelude ..... Organist

Processional ..... Clergy & Family

Hymn of Consolation ..... Pauline Faison

Scripture Readings ..... Pastor David Brawley

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort ..... Psalm 27

Remarks

& Reflections ..... The Honorable Mildred Crump  
(Municipal Council President)  
Assemblywoman Cleo Tucker  
The Honorable Donald Bradley  
Charles Davis

Obituary Reading ..... Colleen Holbrook

Solo ..... Pauline Faison

Eulogy ..... Pastor David Brawley

Final Viewing

Benediction/Recessional

**Interment**

Evergreen Cemetery  
Morristown, New Jersey

*Friends are invited to join the family for the repast at  
Donald Tucker Civic Association  
23-35 Elizabeth Ave. • Newark, NJ*

# *Give Lavishly Live Abundantly!*

The more you give, the more you get  
The more you laugh, the less you fret  
The more you do UNSELFISHLY,  
The more you live ABUNDANTLY...  
The more of everything you share,  
The more you'll always have to spare  
The more you love, the more you'll find  
That life is good and friends are kind...  
For only WHAT WE GIVE AWAY,  
ENRICHES US FROM DAY TO DAY.

*-Helen Steiner Rice*

## **Pall Bearers**

Charles Davis	Maurice Purcell
Dennice Robertson	Lewis Powell
Jason Davis	Dennie Robertson

## *Acknowledgments*

*The family of Robert Cornell Wilds 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.*

### **Professional Services Provided By**

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE	COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME	
130 Main Street	1025 Bergen Street	37 Clinton Avenue
Orange, NJ	Newark, NJ	Jersey City, NJ
973-675-6400	973-926-6400	201-433-1000

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