

A Reflection of a Good Man



Willie Albert Goodman

March 31, 1943 - July 26, 2010

Service

Monday, August 2, 2010

Wake: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Service: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PAC Theater / Temporary Church Home for Community Baptist Church
30 North Van Brunt Street • Englewood, NJ 07631

Rev. Dr. Bestor W. Taylor, Officiating

Reflections of The Life of

“A Good Man”

Willie Albert Goodman peacefully made his transition to join his Heavenly Father on July 26, 2010. He was predeceased by his parents the late Mr. Albert Goodman and Ms. Ethel Adams. “Al” as he was affectionately called by his family and friends was born in Jackson, Mississippi on March 31, 1943. He was one of nine children and he will forever be remembered by his devoted brothers Jaycee Griffin, Charles Griffin, the late Bennie Goodman, Milton Goodman, and his loving sisters Beverly Griffin, Ruthie Hurst, Gayle Griffin, Margaret Goodman, and Edna Goodman.

His love of music began at the early age of 12 years old, where he took pleasure in listening to the melodious sounds of Nat King Cole and Ray Charles. Al was an extremely gifted musician and he was educated in the Jackson Public School system where he attended Jim Hill High School. It was there he met his lifelong friends, the late Tommy Hardin, Walter Lee Catchings, Charles Haynes, and Albert Brown. The fabulous five later formed a group called the Corvettes. The Corvettes replicated the sounds of Smokey Robinson and Miracles, the Spaniards, the Flamingo’s, the Coasters, the Ink Spots, Hank Ballard and the Midnighters, the Dells, the Dell Vikings, and James Brown. They eventually recorded two melodies “A Lover’s Prayer” and “You’re Never Gonna’ Leave Me.”

In the early 1960’s, Al decided to take his talent to New York City where he married his high school sweetheart the late Alice Goodman, and to this union three children were born. They later divorced in 1974 and he married his best friend, the beautiful and talented Henrietta Goodman, and with this union two children were born.

As time would have it, Al met Mr. Billy Brown, formerly of the group the Broadway’s, and John Morgan of the Moments at All Platinum records. Al and Billy replaced two of the original members of the Moments and the trio came together and performed the hits “Love on a Two Way Street,” “Sunday,” and “Somebody Loves You Baby.” Later John Morgan was replaced by Mr. Harry Ray and in 1979 they became the group Ray, Goodman, and Brown.

Al went on to become one of the major writers and producers for the group and many other artists. He wrote “Look at Me I’m In Love,” “Sexy Mama,” “Inside of You,” “Special Lady,” “Girls”, and “Happy Anniversary,” just to name a few. Moreover, the group went on to perform in plays, performed commercials, made a host of television appearances, and produced 47 albums (of which several went gold and platinum), and toured over 27 countries swooning fans in England, Germany, Japan, and South Africa. The group was so dynamic that they appealed to younger artists such as Alicia Keys and performed and toured with her during her hit single “You Don’t Know My Name.” Recently, rapper Jay Z sampled “Love On a Two-Way Street” which in turn created his most recent hit “Empire State of Mind.” In addition, rapper Wale recreated the groups hit single “Girls.”

Al loved life and he cherished his family and friends. It was evident in the way that he shared special moments about his loved ones with everyone. Always smiling, and living life to the fullest, he never met a stranger. He will be missed by his loved ones; his mother-in-law, Ms. Carrie Young, devoted sisters-in-law, brothers- in- law, and nieces and nephews. In addition to his loved ones he will be missed by his closest and dearest friends; Gerald and Edna Alston, Mr. William and Arlene Day, Bernice Moncrief, Ronald Holt, Debbie Owens, Pat Fields, Vaughn and Sandra Harper, Lonnie and Debbie Youngblood, Larry Winfrey, Clarence Oliver, Jonathan Williams, Walter Morris, Sammy Lowe, Jr., Dana Thomas, Clea Stewart, Rowena Harris, Millie Jackson, Shelia Frazier, Vance Holiday, Fred Holiday, Brian Williams, Colt Younger, and various band members. Most important his musical partners and friends for over 40 years, the flexible first and second tenor Mr. Billy Brown and the seductive first tenor Mr. Kevin Owens, who replaced the late silky smooth falsetto Mr. Harry Ray in 1992.

Al leaves to cherish his memory: his loving and devoted wife, Henrietta Goodman; his children, Linda Elizabeth Goodman, Rhonda Renell Goodman, William Albert Goodman, Brandon Henry Goodman and James Albert Goodman, daughter-in-law, Stephanie Goodman; and his grandson, Aidan Albert Goodman.

Al Goodman – *a true gentleman that carried the most appropriate last name...a Good man.*

Order of Service

Processional

A Parting View

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Taylor

Hymn of Comfort *"Blessed Assurance"*

Scriptures Pastor Taylor

Old Testament Psalm 23

New Testament John 14

Solo Gerald Alston

Words of Comfort First Lady Gayle

Acknowledgments, Resolutions & Obituary Betty Gross

Family Tribute The children

Reflections Shelia Frazier, Reginald Haynes, Billy Brown and Walter Catchings

Solo Dwight Fields

Eulogy Pastor Taylor

Benediction Pastor Taylor

Recessional *"When We All Get To Heaven"*

Interment

Maple Grove Cemetery
Hackensack, New Jersey

Pall Bearers

- Jonathan Williams
- Andrew Brittan
- Irvin Jones
- Clarence Oliver
- Bobby Faison
- Bay Holiday
- Cuba Gooding, Sr.
- Hot Dog
- Clea Stewart

Photo Courtesy Of Julius 'Juice' Freeman

My Dear Beloved Al,

There are men, and there are men of God. There are good people, and then there are angels; you are all of them my love. May God shine a special light on you always. Thank you for being such an amazing husband and friend, and leaving me with such beautiful children.

*Love your wife,
Henrietta*

Dear Dad,

As you complete this temporary journey you have embraced our hearts. Yes, we mourn but realize this is where your life truly starts. Your smile sparkled greater than silver and gold. We're willing to let go of your hand so that God can grab hold. We will always love you as you have continued to love us. All we ask now is that you look down while you are above us. We are grateful that God put us in the midst of your presence we breathe with your memory and walk with your essence. The Lord is our Shepherd, He tends to us as sheep and mends the hearts that are weak until one day we can shake his hand and sit at his feet. We don't think of you as a loss to our family that remains; however, we cherish you as a beautiful angel that heaven has gained.

*Love you always,
Your Children
I love you Pop Pop...amen.*

Acknowledgement

The Family of Al Goodman says "Thank You"

Though there is emptiness in our hearts today as we mourn the loss of our beloved Al, we are overwhelmed by the massive outpouring of your love. Thank for embracing us, thank you for comforting us. Though we do not understand why sad things happen, we understand that you care deeply for Al and we thank you for loving him as much as you did. Each call, e-mail, card, word of comfort, hug, smile, tear, funny story, tribute, flower, and morsel of food is gratefully acknowledged. Having you as a family of friends is powerful and gives us more memories of comfort that are indelibly etched in our hearts and minds forever, and for this we say "Thank You."

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Rev. Dr. Taylor and the Community Baptist Church Family

Eternity Funeral Services, LLC

Mount Olive Baptist Church

Bergen PAC Performing Arts Center

Englewood Police Department

The City of Englewood

Staples, Englewood, NJ

Ronald Holt

Zeek Mowatt

and family and friends for all of your love and support.

Professional Services Entrusted To:

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