# In Loving Memory of illiam H. Rich Sunset Sunrise April 24, 1915 January 12, 2011

Thursday, January 20, 2011 - 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

New York, New York

## <u>Obituary</u>

Early Wednesday, January 12, 2011, **William Rich**, affectionately known to family as "Dad", stepped into the arms of God, and, released from care and pain, began his journey to a higher place.

William Rich was born on April 24, 1915 in Augusta, Georgia to the late Charlie and Fanny Rich. William lovingly known to his friends as "Bill", was educated in Augusta, GA. He attended Haines High School. In 1932, Bill migrated to New York and made Harlem his place of residence. He worked for Central Railroad and later for Young America Hat Company.

William became a member of St. Joseph of The Holy Family Church and a devout Christian, he also became an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

In 1939, Bill entered into Holy Matrimony with Kathryn Cooper and from this union their daughter, Kathy was born. He also enlisted in the Coast Guard.

On March 26, 1943, Bill was drafted into the Armed Forces. He served three years in the European Theater with the US Army during World War II where he earned two battle stars. After serving his country with distinction, he went to work building Aircrafts then went on to work for Citibank. William retired in 1980.

William moved into Morningside Gardens in 1986, sadly on the heels of his beloved wife of nearly fifty years, Kathryn's passing. Deeply hurt but unhinged, he continued to lovingly raise his young granddaughter, Karen by himself. He relished in that endeavor and made sure she received a high quality education through the Catholic School system to college, and he was always there to help her tackle the challenges of adult life. His guidance proved priceless. Bill loved golf, jazz music of which he was a true aficionado, softball, dancing, football and dressing to the T.

He was delighted and oh so proud to have witnessed the ascent of the First African-American President, Barak Obama. Above all William loved life, God, family and community. He was deeply spiritual and stood fast on his principles until his meeting with the Lord.

Loved by many and hated by none, he is a true testament to righteous manhood, a true class act. William Alexander Rich lived a full life characterized by good, magnanimity, truthfulness and numerous personal achievements.

He leaves the following to cherish his memory: granddaughters, Karen Branch and Ashley Laval; great granddaughters, Sharnice Branch, Salimah and Karimah Diallo; grandson-in-law, Mamado "Muhammad" Diallo; and countless friends and associates.

## Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Eulogy

Selection

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

#### **Interment**

Calverton National Cemetery Calverton, New York I thought of you with love today
That is nothing new,
I thought of you yesterday,
And days before that too,
I think of you in silence
I often speak your name,
Now all I have are memories
And pictures in a frame.
Yet your memory is my keepsake,
With all we'll never part.
God has you in His keeping,
I have you in my heart.

~A Loving Friend

#### Acknowledgement

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for your kindness during a time of sorrow.

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