

In Loving Memory of



# Willie J. Raye

Sunrise  
*August 31, 1931*

Sunset  
*March 13, 2011*

Saturday, March 19, 2011 - 12:00 Noon

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, NJ

*Rev. Betty A. Horne, Officiating*

## Obituary

**Willie J. Raye** was born August 31, 1931 to the late Johnny and Irene Raye in Moultrie, Georgia. He departed this life at the age of 79 on Sunday, March 13, 2011.

He was educated in Springfield, Massachusetts and New York City.

Willie married Caretha Brothers on August 22, 1986. They spent twenty-four wonderful years together.

He worked as a supervisor of Code Enforcement in the city of Newark, New Jersey and a Maintenance Supervisor in the city of New York. Willie was always community minded and enjoyed helping others. South Ward Democratic District Leader, President of Ridgewood Ave. Block Association, South Ward Police Community Relation Board, NAACP and a member of Coalition of Trade Unionist. He attended Essex County College, Cornell University and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He serviced in the US Army for five years.

Willie was an avid fisherman. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

He leaves to cherish in his memory: his beloved wife, Caretha Raye; his four sons, John Raye, Michael Raye, Steven Raye and Ronald Durr; three sisters, Gracie Bass, Betty J. Sherrod and Barbara A. Pearyer; one brother, Melvin Slaughter (Linda); one sister-in-law, Carolyn Brothers Braxton; four brothers-in-law, Redwood Braxton, Leon Brothers, Carl Watkins and Norris Brothers; fourteen grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Special thanks to cousin, Valerie Roberts, caregiver and Rev. Betty A. Horne (Cameron) of Christ Church United Methodist, Paterson, NJ.

# *Order of Service*

*Organ Prelude*

*Processional* ..... *Clergy & Family*

*Soloist* ..... *Organist - "Our Father"*

*Scripture Reading* ..... *Rev. Betty A. Horne*  
*Old Testament - 23rd Psalm*  
*New Testament - II Timothy 4:7-8*

*Prayer of Comfort*

*Poem* ..... *Valerie Roberts*

*Acknowledgement* ..... *Shakira Chance*

*Obituary* ..... *Redwood Braxton*

*Soloist* ..... *Aryn Chance*

*Eulogy* ..... *Rev. Betty A. Horne*  
*Christ Church United Methodist • Paterson, NJ*

*Recessional*

**Cremation**  
*Rosedale Crematory*  
*Orange, New Jersey*

*Friends are invited to join the family for the repast held at*  
*290 Meeker Ave. • Newark, NJ 07112*

# God Knows Best

*Our Father knows what's best for us,  
So why should we complain ...  
We always want the sunshine,  
But He knows there must be rain.  
We love the sound of laughter  
And the merriment of cheer;  
But our hearts would lose their tenderness  
If we never shed a tear.  
Our Father tests us often  
With suffering and with sorrow;  
He tests us, not to punish us,  
But to help us meet "tomorrow."  
So whenever we are troubled,  
And when everything goes wrong,  
It is just God working in us  
To make "our spirits strong."*

*~The Family*



## *Acknowledgement*

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.*

### **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

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