

In Loving Memory of
Melvin Preston, Jr.

Sunrise
July 10, 1939

Sunset
April 20, 2011



Wednesday, April 27, 2011 - 12:00 Noon

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue
New York, New York 10027

Obituary

Melvin Preston, Jr., (Mel or Skippy), was born on July 10, 1939, in New York City, New York to Melvin Preston and Hazel Scott. Mel had three siblings, a sister, Barbara and two brothers, Donald and James. His family moved from Manhattan to the Bronx where he attended both junior and high school.

He joined the United States Army on November 4, 1957, serving as part of the Military Police. Additionally, he was a member of the 31st Infantry Boxing Team Bearcats, who were crowned the Eighth Army Boxing Champs. Mel was honorably discharged from the Army on October 31, 1963.

On June 10, 1963, he was appointed to the New York City Fire Department as a Firefighter and worked out of Engine Company 91. On July 4, 1981, he was promoted to the position of Fire Marshal of the City of New York, from which he retired after many years of service to the New York City Fire Department.

Mel was known for his sense of humor and laughter. Some of his friends describe him as “the funniest man on the planet because he would have people laughing so hard they would cry.” Mel loved to travel, he went to Reno with his best friend, Alvin Winters and to the Dominican Republic numerous times. He also went on many cruises with the Voyagers Bowling League (and No, he wasn't a bowler!).

Mel was a very generous person. Whenever he went to the store he carried several rolls of coins and would give them to anyone who asked for help, something he did on a daily basis. His generosity is also revealed by the many different charities to which he donated, including the Easter Seals Disability Services, Disabled American Veteran's, St. Joseph's Indian School, St. Jude's Research Hospital and The Humane Society of the United States. His favorite song was *Easy* by Lionel Richie. He would always say, “I'm easy. Easy as a Sunday morning”.

Mel was a fantastic cook and he cooked for his neighbors often. You could never leave his home without taking food he prepared with you.

We are saddened to say the Lord called him on April 20, 2011. Mel is survived by and will be missed by many including: his children, Melvin, Gregory and Addie; his granddaughter, Gabriella; daughter-in-law, Elsa; aunt, Evelyn Bethune; sister, Barbara McKinney; nieces and nephews; special friend, Dorice Bradley; and many dear friends including, Al and Bonnie; godchild, Morgan, Alba; great neighbors, Elmer, Delphine, Jonesey and Sherry.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Eulogy

Selection

Committal

New York Fire Department Honor Guard

US Army Honor Guard

Recessional



Final Disposition
Oxford Hills Crematory
Chester, New York

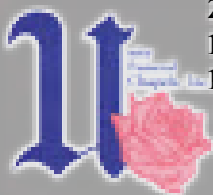
I'm Free

*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 His call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the end of the 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 too I will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savoured much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed 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.*

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

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



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