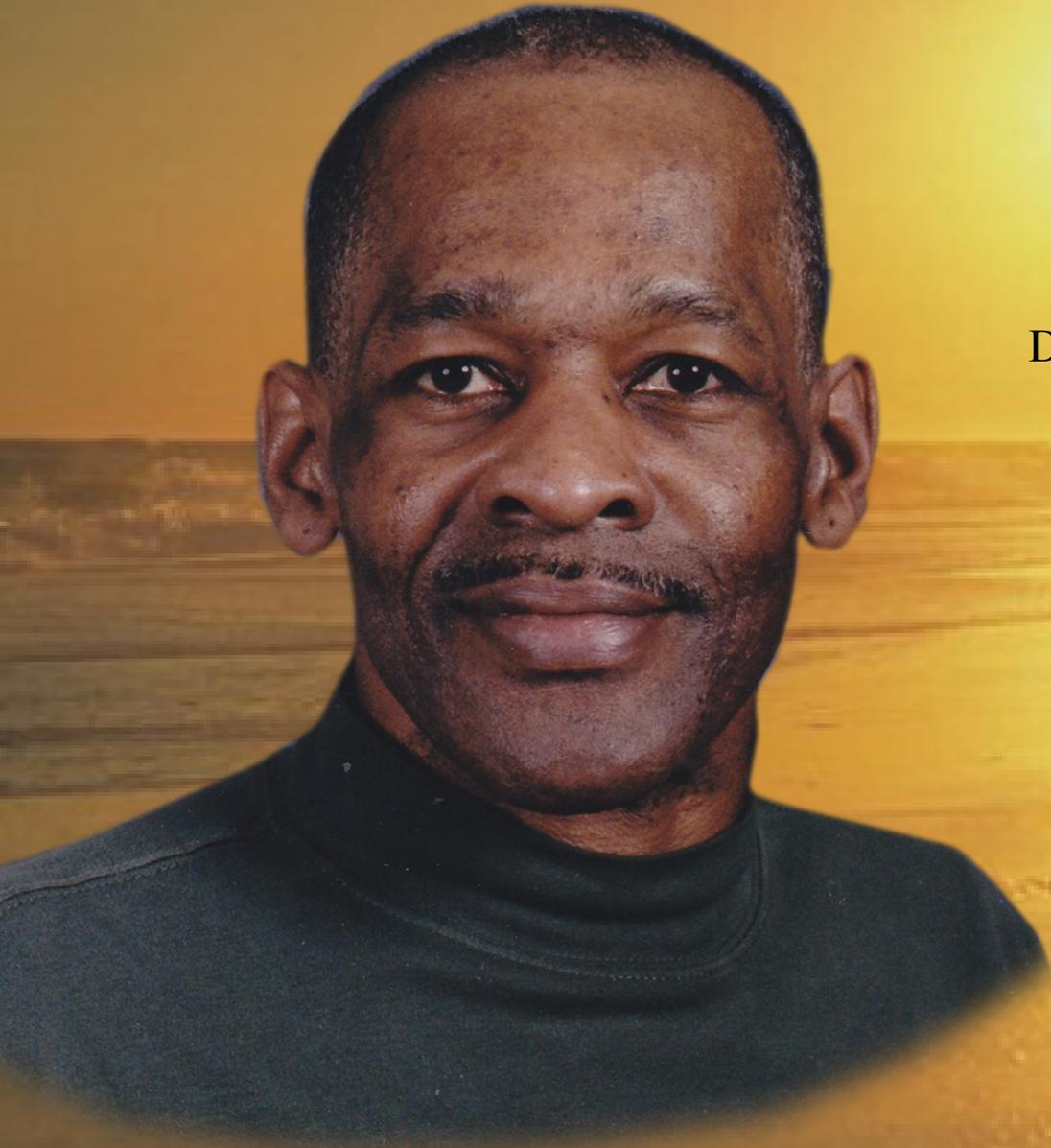


In Loving Memory of



Sunrise
December 10, 1960

Sunset
August 9, 2011

Michael E. Drakeford

Service

Thursday, August 18, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.

CREECH TEMPLE UHC

221 Hamilton Ave.

Paterson, New Jersey

Elder Moses McKenzie, Pastor

Reflections of Life

Michael Eugene Drakeford was born December 10, 1960 in Paterson, NJ to the late Lillie Mae Drakeford and Eugene T. Burns. God called him home August 9, 2011.

At an early age, Michael accepted Christ and joined Creech Temple. He was also a member of various organizations. Michael, affectionately known as "Flippe," was formally educated in the Paterson School system, Eastside High School (1978) graduating from Bergen Community College and Bloomfield College.

Michael resided in Wallington, NJ for the past twenty years. He has worked since the age of fourteen, starting with Pathmark and spending the last twenty-seven years working for Father English Community Center as the Director of Senior Transportation.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Lillie and Eugene, one sister, Peggy Burns, aunts, Catherine Stewart, Stephanie Drakeford and Beatrice Burns, uncles, Jackson and Bennie Burns, Larry Drakeford and James Jackson, nephew, Rashad Graham Drakeford and godchild, Marquette Ricks.

Michael leaves to cherish his memory: one daughter, Latanya D. Drakeford; two granddaughters, Cy'Erah and Ur'Riah Pinnick; three brothers, Percy Drakeford, Derek (Zaida) Drakeford and Van Burns; five sisters, Janice (Willie) Palmer, Lorene Sumblin, Lucille Hall, Carolyn Burns and Denise Burns; six aunts, Hannah Stevens, Marie Drakeford, Betty Spencer, Gwendolyn Hartzog, Katherine Jackson and Annie Patterson; four uncles, Van (Lillie) Burns, James Drakeford Wilbert (Sylvia) Drakeford and Benjamin Drakeford; thirteen nephews, Curtis, Jahmel, Jahvon, Jarret, Darren, Marcus, Tajeon, Clifford, Ashanti, Omar, Darryl, Andre and Mustahime; eight nieces, Licie, Jasmine, Connie, Jenifer, Katasha, Fatima, Shayna, Elise, Colette and Nikki; six great nieces and nephews, Zaniyah, Aaliyah, Amirah, Jordan, Al'Samir and Curtis; godchildren, Rageane, Shaniece, Rashawn, Yolanda, Tiffany, Randy, Jr., Marquette, Lashanna, Jordan and Danasia; special family and friends, Loranetta Anderson, James Valentine, Wilbur Valentine, Darryl Stevens, Floyd Stevens, Elena Drakeford, Danzel Mouzone, Lidia Oliver, Tamra Ricks-Pough, Debra Harris, Woody and Nola Lawrence, Bob and Carol Vsoto ; and a host of other family members and friends.

Order of Service

Processional

Hymn

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Solo *Latanya Drakeford*
Coretta Lawrence

Prayer of Comfort

*Acknowledgements
and Reflections of Life*

Remarks

Poems *Jahmel Drakeford*
Latanya Drakeford

Musical Selection

Words of Comfort *Pastor Linda Hindsman*
Lambert Chapel • Brooklyn, NY

Recessional

Interment
Cedar Lawn Cemetery
Paterson, New Jersey

If Tomorrow Starts Without Me

Submitted by: ScrappinTXn

Author: *Richelle*

If Tomorrow Starts Without Me...

If tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise you find your eyes all filled with tears for me;

I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you
And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.
But when tomorrow starts without me please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.

He said my place was ready, in heaven far above
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.
But as I turned and walked away a tear fell from my eye.

For all my life I'd always thought, I didn't want to die.

I had so much to live for, so much left yet to do.

It seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays the good ones and the bad.

I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while,

I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized that this could never be,

For emptiness and memories would take the place of me.

When I thought of worldly things I might miss come tomorrow
I thought of you and when I did my heart was filled with sorrow.

When I walked through heavens gates I felt so much at home.

God looked down and smiled at me from his great golden throne

He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you"

Today your life on earth has passed but here life starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last

And since each day is the same there's no longing for the past.

You have been so faithful so trusting and so true.

Though there were times you did some things you knew you shouldn't do.

You have been forgiven and now at last you're free.

So won't you come and take my hand and share my life with me?

So when tomorrow starts without me don't think we're far apart,

For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

Acknowledgements

The family of Michael Drakeford wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the acts of kindness and love shown to them during their time of sorrow.

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No More

By Jahmel Drakeford

A man walked up to the entrance of Heaven and stood there with a bewildered look on his face. He shouted *“I’m not ready, it’s not my time.”* a voice came from beyond the gates and said *“Michael, my son Yes! It’s your time.”*

“For fifty years you’ve been a loyal servant of mine and I need you to serve with me in my kingdom. During your time on earth you were a son, a husband, a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a godfather, and a friend. You were hardworking, dedicated, and loyal to friends and family alike. You left your mark on the hearts of many people and brought joy to those who came into contact with you. Now the time has come for me to take care of you my child. I’ve watched you throughout the years and I can’t continue to watch you suffer in pain. Your journey is complete, take my hand and let me ease your pain.”

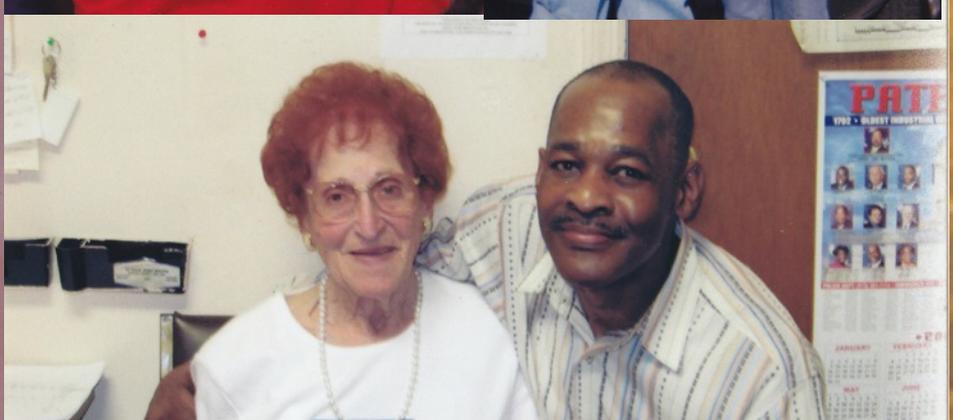
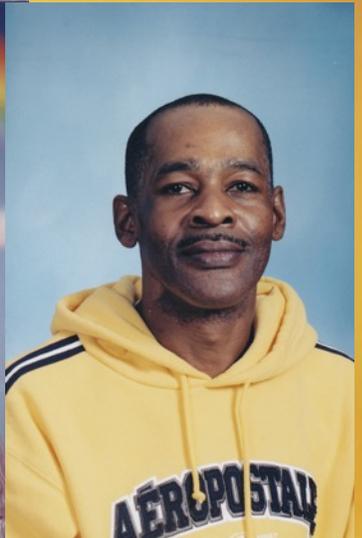
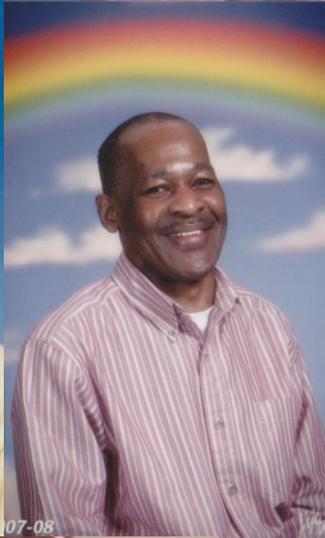
Michael asked *“what about my family and friends?”* The voice said *“Michael let me worry about them: the moment has come for you to worry no more.”* Now repeat after me:

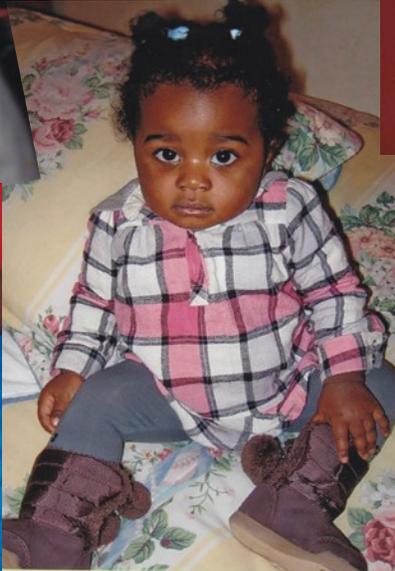
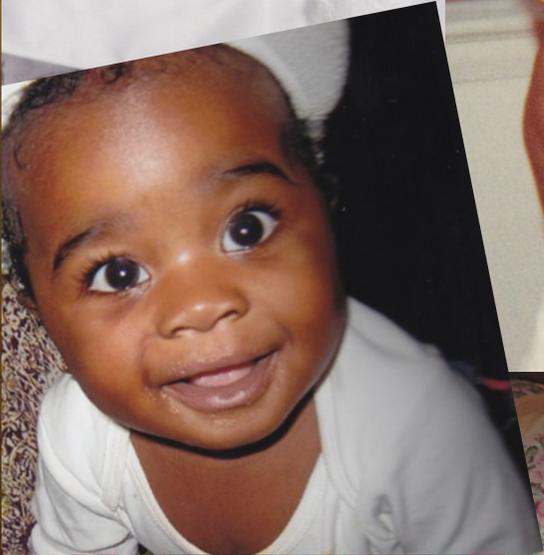
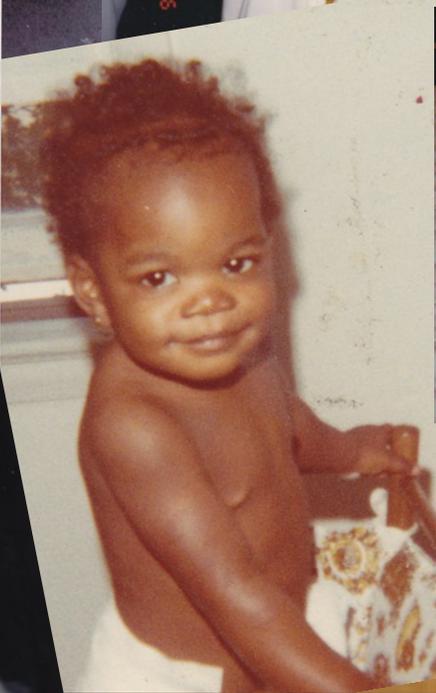
No More Pain.

No More Suffering.

No More Worries.

“You’ve lived your life, Welcome Home. My Kingdom is now your Kingdom. Your pain, suffering, and worries are NO MORE!”





What Makes A Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... "DAD!"



*God saw the road was getting rough,
The hills hard to climb.
He gently closed those longing eyes
and whispered, "Peace Be Thine."
The weary hours, the days of pain
And sleepless nights have passed.
The ever-patient, worn-out frame,
Has found sweet rest at last.*

~The Family