

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Robert Cunningham**

*Sunrise*  
**December 30, 1946**

*Sunset*  
**January 9, 2012**



**Service**

Saturday, January 14, 2012 - 12:00 Noon

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue  
New York, New York 10027

## Obituary

**Robert Lee Cunningham**, the fourth child of Ezekiel and Gertrude Cunningham, was born on December 30, 1946 at the old Harlem Hospital in New York City. Robert Lee, affectionately known as Chino, attended New York City Schools and achieved his GED. He became a voracious reader, acquiring a wealth of knowledge and information far beyond conventional education. He was a self taught man. Chino had varied interests, music being one; with a deep love and knowledge of jazz. Due to the love of genre, he became a student of learning to play the guitar after the style of Bucky Pizzarelli, whom he admired greatly.

To say that Robert Lee, Chino, lived a colorful life and not to acknowledge that he did it his way would be an understatement to say the least about his cherished independence and his love of life. To have known Chino was to love him - be it as friend, uncle, cousin, father or brother. Chino, having acknowledged his missteps as a young father, began to have a loving and meaningful relationship with his children whom he loved dearly. His love of family began to take center stage in his latter days always wanting to take part in whatever family festivities, to acknowledge birthdays, to give an encouraging word, to send whatever financial help he could and to be there as father, uncle, cousin, nephew and brother. Also to be called Uncle Chino by his nieces and nephews and littlest of friends was pure delight to his soul.

He departed this life on Monday, January 9, 2012. He leaves to cherish his memory and mourn their loss his children whom he loved, Aliah, Sharif and Laurence; his grandchildren; his sister, Patricia and brother-in-law, John (Pie); brother, Clarence (Freetsie); sisters-in-law, Carol and Margaret; and a host nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

*To our beloved Chino, we love you and we will miss you.*

# Order of Service

Janazah Service

## Interment

Forest Green Cemetery  
Morganville, New Jersey



*No one dies except by Allah's leave, at a predetermined time. Whoever seeks the vanities of this world, we give him there from, and whoever seeks the rewards of the hereafter, we bless him therein. We reward those who are appreciative.*

*Holy Quran 3:145*

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 Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savored 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

I'm  
Free

### Acknowledgement

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

*Special thanks to the staff of Bailey's House for their commitment, support, compassion and love during his residency there. And special acknowledgement to Frida, Janice, Jimmie, Ola, Sheila and Lisa for their understanding, caring and lots of laughter that exceeded their job titles. And a special thanks to Jacqueline Smith, MSW who advocated for him during his treatment to live and die with dignity.*



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