

*In Loving Memory Of*

*Sunrise*  
*July 27, 1927*

*Sunset*  
*April 30, 2012*



*William Benjamin Hill, Jr.*

*Services*

*Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - 11:00 a.m.*

*Woody "Home For Services"*

*163 Oakwood Avenue*  
*Orange, New Jersey*

## *Obituary*

**William Benjamin Hill, Jr.**, was born in 1927 to the late Dorothy Hughes and William Hill, Sr., in Newark, NJ. He grew up in the Oranges, where he attended Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and spent his last 42 years as a resident of New York City.

After attending Franklin High School, William entered the workforce at Edison Electric, where he worked alongside his father. In 1950, he joined the U.S. Army, serving his country in the Korean War, and earning the Combat Infantry Badge, the Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, and the UN Service Metal. Upon his return he was employed by NJ Transit (trolley and bus driver), and for five years was the personal physical assistant to Dr. Katzen, prominent hematologist at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, helping Dr. Katzen cope from a debilitating stroke until his death. William ended his work career as a warehouseman / truck driver in New York City.

William took violin lessons as a child, and played piano, flute, and saxophone (studying under Jazz composer and alto saxophone player Lee Koonitz). He loved composing, playing and listening to Jazz, and knew many Jazz artists well – especially those who came out of Newark and the Oranges. As a young man, he was a member of the big band “Modern Rhythm” of Newark. William was an intellectual and loved to read, with a special interest in biographies, history, Egyptology and health.

Besides music, reading and electronics, one of William’s hobbies was baking and cooking. He catered “Khalil’s Kitchen” for several years, baking goods for health food stores, Soho supper clubs, and local day laborers - who early each morning quickly bought out his famous sweet potato and bean pies. His favorite food was Indian, and he perfected his skills by taking classes taught by noted Indian cookbook author, Madhur Jaffrey, at the James Beard Cooking School. His dishes were so tasty that friends would stop by the apt. on Saturday afternoons with, “Hi, I was in the neighborhood, so thought I’d come by – hope it’s not a bad time.” Yes, they were just in time for dinner – and yes, they were graciously fed.

William maintained his health by following health advocate and political activist Dick Gregory. Wherever Mr. Gregory lectured in New York City, William was in attendance. He was an avid chess player, teaching the game to many youth. He spoke and read conversational Arabic (being taught by a Columbia University professor), Korean and Spanish.

William hated all types of injustice, and was a founding member of the East Coast branch of the Black Panther Party. Later in life, he organized dozens of warehouseman in Lower Manhattan, getting them into the Teamster’s union, so that today they are eligible to receive pension checks for their hard labor. After retirement, due to his love of books, the constant requests for reading recommendations from friends, and his desire to remain active, William became one of the top book vendors in Lower Manhattan, with his client’s including judges, college professors and well-known actors and artists.

William was preceded in death by son Tony, and leaves behind to mourn, two sisters – Juanita Hill Flood and Sharon Hill; former wife, Susan Alexander Hill; special friend, Margarita Colon; five children - Nita, Ricky, Yolanda, Stephanie, and Khalil, twelve grandchildren - Star, Tati, Ellis, Tony, Antuan, Lindsey, Brandon, Stephanie, Jeremy, Mya, Lana, Imani, 1 great grandson – Carter, and cousins.

He was known to family and friends as “Dad,” “Jr.,” “Uncle Pro,” and “Professor.” By whichever name, we will miss him dearly.

# *Order of Service*

Words of Inspiration .....	<i>Tanya Hill Shareef</i>
Prayer .....	<i>Omar Shareef</i>
Hymn of Praise .....	<i>“What a Fellowship”</i>
The Scripture	
Old Testament.....	<i>Minister Charity Gunter</i>
New Testament .....	<i>Walter Douglas, Sr.</i>
Prayer of Comfort.....	<i>Pastor Timothy Howard</i>
Solo.....	<i>Deborah Johnson</i>
The Obituary .....	<i>Judy Jenkins</i>
Moments of Reflection (soft music) .....	If anyone at this time would like to say something about <i>William Hill, Jr.</i>
Solo.....	<i>Deborah Johnson</i>
Poem .....	<i>Juanita Hill Flood</i>
Funeral Sermon .....	<i>Minister Charles Johnson</i>
Benediction	

## **Interment**

Washington Crossing National Cemetery  
Newtown, Pennsylvania

## **Pallbearers**

Ricardo Hill	Khalil Hill
Ellis Stanton	Darryl Hill
Harold Coombs	Gregory Shields

## **Repast**

Following the service, family and friends are invited to the repast at  
**Civic Center, 1 Fellowship Circle (off of Greenwood Ave.), 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., East Orange, NJ**

## **“His Heavenly Rest”**

Written and read by **Juanita Hill Flood**

***Sleep on, Dear One, sleep on and take Thy rest!***

*No sorrow, care, or loneliness shall fail Thy breast.  
Nor shall Thee feel the sting of Life and war's casualties,  
sometimes portrayed upon Thy sad, unsmiling face.*

*Thou didest strive to run this race, to  
leave behind a beautiful legacy  
of family pride, and friends, and love,  
and respectability,  
with Thy failing strength and sweet humility,  
and God's Grace and Life's longevity.*

*But God was with Thee all the way, Dear One.  
He did see fit to close Thy eyes in peaceful rest,  
and place Thy name upon the war's most-honored best,  
***So sleep on, Dear One, sleep on and take Thy rest!****

## **Interment Readings**

From William's favorite book, The Prophet, by **Kahlil Gibran**

Selected and read by **Khalil Hill**

*“I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are sons of one religion, and it is the spirit.”*

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*“Hearts united in pain and sorrow will not be separated by joy and happiness. Bonds that are woven in sadness are stronger than the ties of joy and pleasure. Love that is washed by tears will remain eternally pure and faithful.”*



## **Special Thanks**

The Hill Family would like to thank family and friends – too numerous to mention - and Woody Home for Services, for your love, support, guidance and assistance.

***May God's Blessings be with you.***

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Professional Services Provided By

***Woody “Home For Services”***

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