

In Loving Memory of



**Spencer Lee Bryant, Jr.**

Sunrise  
*July 25, 1942*

Sunset  
*May 17, 2014*

*Friday, May 23, 2014 -11:00 a.m.*

**WOODY "HOME FOR SERVICES"**

163 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

# Obituary

**Spencer** was born July 25, 1942 in Newark, New Jersey to the late Spencer Lee Bryant, Sr. and Donora Stewart Bryant. He was the eldest of three siblings. Family members fondly referred to him as Spencer Junior.

He grew up in East Orange, New Jersey and was a student of the East Orange Public School system. As a teenager, Spencer was baptized at Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey where he came to serve as a youth usher. He graduated from East Orange High School in 1961.

As he was growing up, Spencer was fun-loving, friendly, outgoing, and always ready to give to, and help others. Spencer could not have been a better brother to his younger siblings. As the three were very adventurous, they could often be found playing on their grandparent's farm in Somerville, New Jersey, and getting into all kinds of mischief. Spencer was infamous for coming back home with poison ivy after their many adventures. At home in East Orange, Spencer displayed his loving and protective qualities by often confessing to some misdeed that he didn't do – that James or Evelean did – and bearing the punishments that should have been meted out to either of them.

He was a guardian to his younger sister, and he and James were the gatekeepers that kept out any 'undesirable' acquaintances. Throughout high school, Spencer was known as the "Burna Turna", because of his desire to succeed and excel at the things he was really interested in, and his desire to help others. East Orange High's 1961 yearbook caption beneath his picture captured this quality well: "Burna plans to work at General Motors ... and help people when he gets in such a position."

After high school, Spencer attended Rutgers University studying math and science; subsequently, joining the United States Navy Reserve. He was called to service and sent to Viet Nam on active duty to become a Hospital Corpsman in one of the most dangerous arenas of the war. After serving dutifully for almost two years, he received an honorary medical discharge from the Navy. He, then, was immediately admitted to the Veterans Administration Hospital and Nursing Home for Veterans in Lyons, New Jersey, and remained under their care for the next forty-five years of his life.

Even as a resident at Veterans Nursing Home in Lyons, Spencer was a charmer who would wink at the nurses and female doctors, and make everyone laugh. In his generous nature, he frequently gave away clothes, shoes, and other items to his fellow residents. He managed to continue that same magical mixture of love, laughter, and service that brought such delight and joy to others.

His life is a testimony to us all that Love triumphs – it erases bitterness, projects hope, and induces caring -- no matter our earthly circumstances.

On Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., Spencer Lee Bryant, Jr., surrounded by family and friends, was once again called to service – this time to his heavenly home. Thusly, he departed from us.

He leaves wonderful memories to: his sister, Evelean Bryant Harris; brother, James Bryant; brother-in-law, Ralph A. Harris; aunts, Beulah Stewart Thomas, Pearlie Bryant Bellamy, Ernestine Fudge Stewart, and Vicki Stewart; uncles, John Stewart and Ralling Stewart; and numerous loving cousins and friends.

We bid you farewell, dear Brother, until we meet again. You bring to remembrance, the Scripture:

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet, which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. Philippians 1:21-33.

# Order of Service

Musical Selections

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 100:1-5..... Evelean Harris

New Testament - 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

Prayer of Comfort..... Deacon Ralph A. Harris

Solo..... “Amazing Grace”

Reflections (2 minutes please).....Kenneth Hurdle - (friend)

Lynson Gilstrap - (friend)

Ralph A. Harris - (brother-in-law)

Evelean B. Harris - (sister)

James Bryant - (brother)

Song..... “The Road is Long”

Obituary .....Licia Jennings

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Jeffrey Kearney

Solo.....“His Eye Is On The Sparrow”

Recessional Hymn..... “I’ll Fly Away”

## Interment

Graceland Memorial Park

Kenilworth, New Jersey

# The Master Called

*I'm sorry I had to leave you,  
My loved ones, oh so dear.  
But you see the Master called me,  
His voice was very clear!  
I had made my reservation  
A heaven bound ticket for one  
And I knew that He would call me  
When He felt my work was done.  
I know that your hearts are heavy  
Because I have gone away,  
But when the Master called me,  
I knew that I could not stay.  
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you  
My loved ones oh so dear  
But you see the Master called me  
And now I'm resting here.  
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory  
And to you all I say  
Just stay in the hands of Jesus  
And we'll meet again someday.*

*-author unknown-*

## Acknowledgements

*The family wishes to thank all who have extended loving support, spoken a kind word or expressed an act of kindness during their time of bereavement. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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