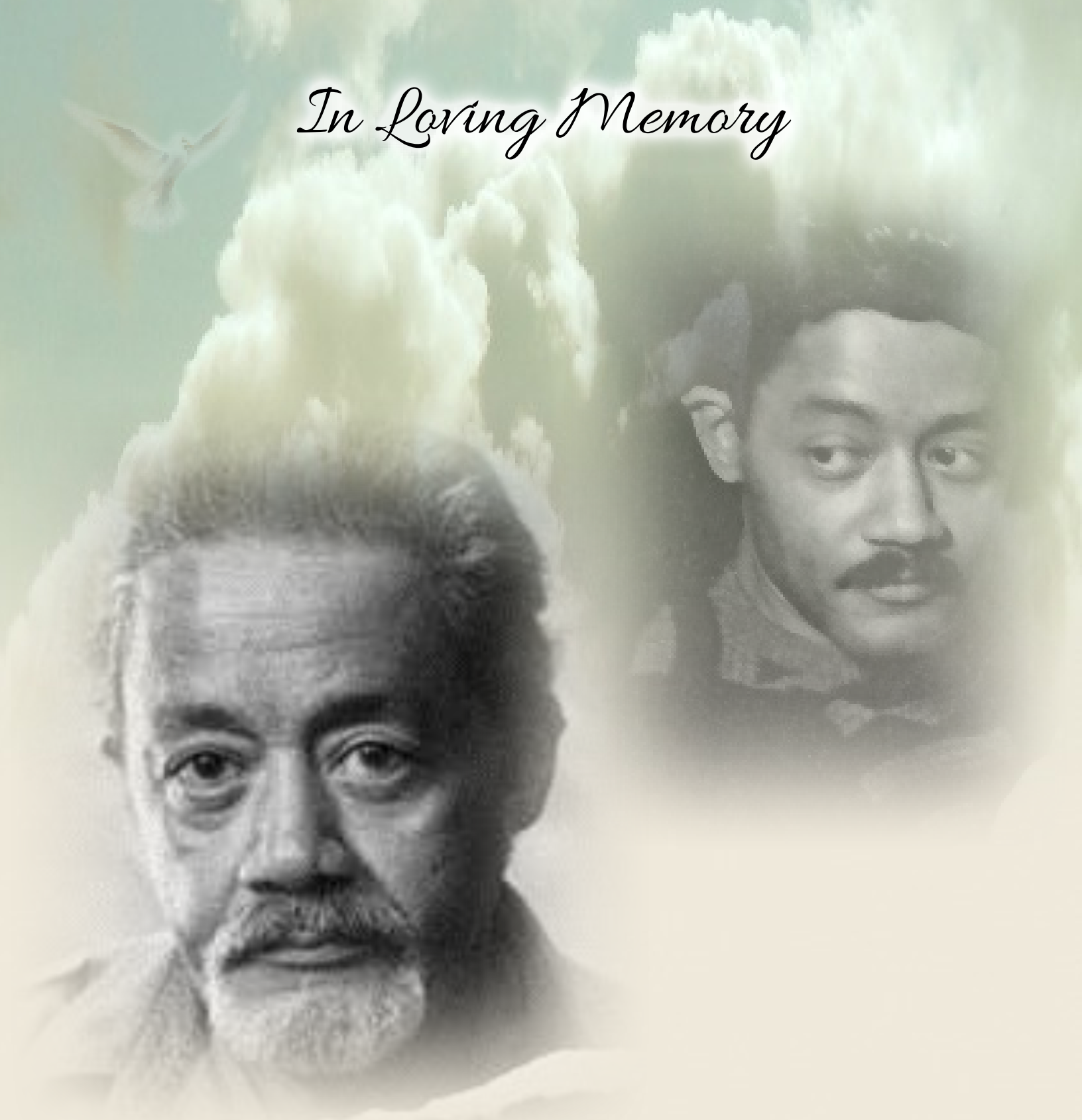


*In Loving Memory*



*Lee Jack Morton, Jr.*

*April 20, 1928 - June 27, 2014*

## Obituary

*Lee Jack Morton, Jr., a painter, graphic designer, art educator, civil rights activist, and veteran of the United States Navy was born April 20, 1928 in Detroit, Michigan, the second of six children of the late Lee Jack, Sr. and Theresa Magdalene Leonard. He departed this life on June 27, 2014.*

*Lee Jack left home early, enlisting in the Navy and serving with distinction on the Sumner-class destroyer USS Douglas H. Fox. While he was aboard in 1947, the ship was struck by a World War II era mine that killed several crew members. Thankfully Lee Jack was unharmed.*

*Returning home Lee Jack returned to his first love, art. In the words of the late Bernard Moore, press secretary for former Newark Mayor Ken Gibson and good friend of Lee Jack, "Lee Jack Morton's respect for art started before he graduated from Wayne University and the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts. As a youngster, before he reached his teens, Lee Jack Morton was referred to in his Detroit neighborhood as "Jack the Artist."*

*He worked as a display designer for the Detroit Historical Museum and later studied printing production at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Lee worked as a Graphics Designer for the Herbert Morris Advertising Agency in New York and Production Manager for Temco Press before assuming the creative responsibilities as Director of Public Relations for the Harlem Commonwealth Council. He produced voter registration graphics for the New York office of the NAACP and for the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). Lee took time away from his life and career to travel to Mississippi in conjunction with the Mississippi Summer Project in the dual roles of field secretary and English teacher for COFO (Conference of Federated Organizations), where he was one of a team of experts in programmed instruction whose purpose was to prepare literacy materials and methods for teaching basic verbal and vocational skills. The materials developed in this project were aimed at adult illiterate blacks. Lee Jack spent two years off and on, working in Mississippi.*

*Lee Jack was an illustrator of children's books and produced art work for such publications as "Animal Stories from Africa", Birthday Present for Katherine Kenyatta", The Freedom Ship of Robert Smalls", and numerous others. He was the recipient of the Highlights for Children's Illustrator of the Year Award, the Outstanding Service Award from the National Council of Negro Women, the Communications Concepts Graphic Design Award of Excellence, and many other awards and accommodations.*

*Moving to New Jersey in 1972, Lee Jack became the Senior Art Director for the city of Newark and remained there until his retirement in the spring of 1996, upon which he was awarded the Key to the City of Newark. All the while Lee Jack remained prolific in producing artwork both painted and computer generated. In a world driven by information and digital communications, He produced creative and imaginative web site designs and served as senior graphic artist and publications designer for many political campaigns in New York and New Jersey.*

*He loved oil paintings, kids, his and everyone else's, model making, reading voraciously, hoisting a few with his friends, telling stories, and above all, his family. He hated hypocrisy, racial injustice (or any other kind), war, and giving orders. He worked hard, played hard, loved hard, and there wasn't much in the world that didn't interest him, mainly because his world had little to do with secular things, mundane things, and temporal things. Lee Jack is perfectly at home in eternity and would enjoin you to hoist one in his memory and overtip the barmaid by a fair factor. Give a homeless person a one, maybe even a five, and for once don't worry about what they'll do with it. Learn something new. Make a fool of yourself so a child will laugh. Help get food to the hungry and don't worry about whether they deserve it. Don't worry about being safe. In fact, don't waste much energy worrying at all. Let life break your heart, and not just once. Love your neighbor and yourself, and your God, if you're lucky enough to have one, with your whole heart.*

*With the exception of literally hundreds of paintings, drawings, and prints, Lee Jack left very little material things behind, except exasperated, bemused bosses, charmed co-workers, fellow artists and a special place in the heart of nearly everyone who ever met him, all of whom are happy he has been released from pain and sorry as hell to lose him.*

*Lee Jack leaves to cherish his memory: three loving children, Gina Kibiloski of LaGrange, KY, Jill Bowens of Hamden, CT, and Lee Jack (Jud) Morton III of Linden, NJ. He is also survived by one brother, Rufus Eric Morton of Berkley; two sisters, Doris Jean Rhodes and Marilyn Alma Bell of Detroit, MI; five grandchildren, Jason and Ryan Bowens, Jouri Vines, Jamir Bratton, and Lee Jack Morton IV; two sons-in-law, Terry Kibiloski and Tracy Bowens; one brother-in-law, Issac Watson; one daughter-in-law, Janai Morton. Lee Jack was predeceased by his sister, Lena Darling Watson, brother, Richard Garland Morton, granddaughter, Coki-Tai Bennett, and his beloved wife of 52 years, Vivian Louise Shepherd Morton, who departed this life less than two months prior. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.*

***Note- This obituary, with the exception of minor additions, was written by Lee Jack Morton.***

*Saturday, July 5, 2014 -11:00 a.m.*

**Woody “Home For Services”**

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050

*Order of Service*

*Organ Prelude*.....*Sir Joshua Nelson*

*Seating of the Family*

*Invocation*

*Selection*.....*SuSu Montgomery*

*Scripture Readings*

*Old Testament*

*New Testament*

*Prayer of Comfort*

*Selection*..... *SuSu Montgomery*

*Acknowledgements and Remarks*

*Obituary Reading*.....*Leslie Saltus-Evans*

*Selection*.....*Sir Joshua Nelson*  
*“How I Got Over”*

*Eulogy* .....*Rev. Ruby Williams*  
*Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church • Newark, NJ*

*Recessional*

*Cremation*

*Evergreen Crematory*

*Hillside, New Jersey*

# "The Measure Of A Man"

Not - How did he die? But - How did he live?  
Not - What did he gain? But - What did he give?

These are the things that measure the worth  
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

Not - What was his station? But - had he a heart?  
And - How did he play his God-given part?

Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer?  
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

Not - What was his church? Not - What was his creed?  
But - Had he befriended those really in need?

Not - What did the sketch in the newspaper say?  
But - How many were sorry when he passed away?

These are the things that measure the worth  
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

*Author: Anonymous*

## *Precious Memories*



### *Acknowledgements*

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

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