

# Celebration of Life



## Herman Odell Cowan

*Sunrise:*

*October 27, 1934*

*Sunset:*

*August 7, 2014*

*Saturday, September 13, 2014 -2:00 p.m.*

### **WOODY "HOME FOR SERVICES"**

163 Oakwood Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

*Rev. Dr. James A. Johnson, Officiating*  
*Myron Smith, Organist*

# Obituary

**HERMAN ODELL COWAN**, was born on October 27, 1934 in Madison, Virginia to Francis Odell Cowan and Dorothy Price. Surrounded by his family, Herman departed this life on August 7, 2014. Before his departure, however, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

“Herm or “Mr. C”, as he was affectionately called by his friends and those he mentored, was educated in the East Orange School System. After graduating from high school he was granted a basketball scholarship from A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina.

On July 14, 1956, Herman married Shirley L. Kelly and this union bore two beautiful girls, Kimberly and Kelly whom he loved dearly. Subsequently, on December 12, 1987, he married Brenda J. Street and bonded with his step-son, Johnny.

Most of his working career was with the City of Orange, Recreation Department. He held various positions while employed by the City, including the position of Acting Director of Recreation. While employed with the city the positions he held allowed him to touch the lives of many of the people in the community. However, the time came for Herman to seek new career opportunities so he, Brenda and Johnny moved to South Jersey. After moving to South Jersey, he began working for FairShare Housing in Camden, NJ where he served as Director of Recreation, for inner city youth. There is where he was given the title “Mr. C”. Herman retired in 1998, but returned to the work force in 2003. He was employed by Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NJ as a Van Driver for the next five years, finally retiring permanently in 2008.

Herman was a friend to everyone he met. He was extremely charismatic, and commanded a room when he walked in it! Herman was a good joke teller and comical to a fault - if you needed a good laugh, he was the one to do it! He had an undeniable passion for basketball, football, and he loved horse racing.

Herman was preceded in death by his parents, Odell and Dorothy. He was an only child. He leaves to mourn his passing: his daughters, Kimberly (Edmund Jackson), Kelly (Lawrence Zellers), and step-son, Johnny (Jvonne); his grandchildren, Takiya, Jenell (Larry Thomas), Tyesha, Monique (Aaron Smith) Talona, Isaiah, Taron, and Jordan; great grandchildren, Abdut-Tawwaab, Abdur-Razzaaq, Taylor, Haniyyah, Tahiar, Morgan, Logan and Sydney (twins), McKinley and Tyon; the mother of his daughters, Shirley Cowan and his ex-wife, Brenda Cowan; as well as a host of cousins, and many, many friends.

# Order of Service

Words of Comfort.....Rev. Dr. James A. Johnson  
*Peaceful Zion Baptist Church • East Orange, New Jersey*

Scripture Reading.....Corinthians 13:1-13

Solo.....“His Eye Is On The Sparrow”  
Tyrone Dunlap

Eulogy.....Brenda Street Cowan

Solo.....“One Day At A Time”  
Tyrone Dunlap

Reflections and Remarks.....Kelly Nicholls Zellers (Daughter)  
Tolona Johnson (Granddaughter)  
Johnny Taylor (Step-son)  
Gordon Roberts (Life Long Friend)  
Friends..... Please Limit Remarks To Three Minutes Please

Benediction

Closing Psalm 23.....Rev. Dr. James A. Johnson



# May I Go Now?

May I go now  
Do you think the time is right?  
May I say goodbye to pain filled days  
and endless lonely nights?  
I've lived my life and done my best,  
an example I tried to be,  
So can I take that step beyond  
and set my spirit free?  
I fought with all my might,  
but something seems to draw me now,  
To a warm and lovely light.  
Thank you so for loving me, you know I love you too.  
That's why it's hard to say goodbye  
and end this life with you.  
So hold me now just one more time  
and let me hear you say,  
Because you care so much for me,  
you'll let me go today.

*Author unknown*

## Acknowledgements

*The family of the late **Herman O. Cowan** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to our family during this time of bereavement.*

*May God Bless and Keep You!*

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Professional Services Provided By

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