



Celebration of the Life

Ronald Prince Marshburn

Alpha
December 24, 1941

Omega
September 9, 2014

Celebration

Thursday, September 18, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.

Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey

Minister Joycie Garrett, Officiating

Robert Williams, Organist

Obituary

RONALD (RASHID) PRINCE MARSHBURN **Alpha: December 24, 1941 - Omega: September 9, 2014**

Born in Newark, New Jersey on December 24, 1941, Ronald Prince Marshburn was raised by his loving, mother Rosetta Bell Marshburn Gaynor. Ronnie was the son of Orrie Helms.

He was a product of the Newark Public School system, graduating from Newark Vocational Technical School. After high school Ronnie considered going into the military twice. His decision was finalized when his uncle said, "They gotcha now buddy" and handed him a draft notice. After proudly defending his country as a Combat Engineer, this Vietnam Veteran was honorably discharged from the United States Army. Ronnie took pride in being an Expert Rifleman with the US Army Corp. While serving in the Army, he made time to distribute candy and play games with children during visits to orphanages. The United States flag has always flown at the front door of his home in Hillside.

After being in the military, Ronnie was a Chemical Operator/Stationary Engineer at various New Jersey based chemical companies. He operated the power plant that controlled the heating units in Newark Housing Authority buildings. He gave his telephone number to senior citizens in these apartment buildings. During cold winters when they needed heat, they would call him. Through the State of New Jersey he earned a Boiler Operator License and a Black Seal High Pressure License. He retired in 2006 from the Newark Board of Education as the Head Custodian/Stationary Engineer.

Ronnie fell in love when he took one look at his wife Diane. After their first date, he vowed to marry the woman he nicknamed DD. Now, forty-five years later, their love flourished for better or for worse in sickness and in health. From that union, their son, Rashid was born.

Ronnie resided in Union, New Jersey for eighteen years prior to moving to Hillside where he lived for the past twenty years. His favorite sports were football and boxing. When he was in his 20's Ronnie competed in the Golden Gloves boxing tournaments. Although he had a collection of NFL football jerseys, he maintained his loyalty to one team, the New York Giants.

Beyond his military and professional career, Ronnie had a deep devotion for people of all ages, especially his family. Ronnie was known for making jokes, laughing out loud, and mercilessly teasing the people he cared about most. In addition to being a fun-loving family man, he was called Big Rashid by a group of local boys he mentored and affectionately called “The Thunder Brats.” He frequently took them to the movies, museums, and on trips to Manhattan. The boys enjoyed his upbeat personality and considered Big Rashid their ‘Community Father.’

Whether sharing a smile or offering an encouraging word, Ronnie communicated and related to children of various ages. He jokingly would say, “I hate teenagers,” but that was his way of starting a conversation. Young people brought a smile to his face and music gave Ronnie joy. His favorite sounds came from Jazz, Doo Wop, Be Bop, Hip Hop and Latin beats. Favorite artists include the voices of Marvin Gaye singing “Mercy, Mercy Me” and the Commodores’ hit song “Zoom.” Ronnie wore stylish clothes, drove sharp cars, enjoyed watching his flat screen TV in his Giants Man Cave and was attached to his TV remote control.

After a long illness, Ronnie made his transition peacefully at home with his family.

Preceding him in death were his mother, Rose Gaynor and his father, Orrie Helms, a sister, Connie and a daughter, Wendy.

He leaves to mourn: his wife, Diane; step-mother, Mattie Helms; his children, Donna, Majied (Ramesha), Rashid, sons-in-law, William and Brett Sr.; brother, Tariq (Valli); sisters, Mildred and Joan (Bernard); God daughter, Carla and family; sisters and brother-in-law, Maxine, LaVerne and Arthur; grandchildren, Zakiyah, Brett, Kristina, Ebony, Nakiayyah and Nydira; great grandchildren, Olajuwon, Elias, Zahir, Omara, Lakrisla and Omari and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and life-long friends. Ronnie’s laughter and personality will be remembered forever.



If Tomorrow Starts Without Me

By: David M. Romano

If tomorrow starts without me and I'm not there to see, if the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me; I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today, while thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you! And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too;

But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand that an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand; she said my place was ready, in heaven far above and that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye for all my life, I'd always thought I didn't want to die; I had so much to live for, so much left yet to do, it seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad; I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while; I'd say good-bye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized that this could never be, for emptiness and memories would take the place of me; when I thought of worldly things I might miss come tomorrow, I thought of you and when I did my heart was filled with sorrow.

But when I walked through Heaven's Gates, I felt so much at home. When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne, He said, "This is Eternity and all I've promised you."

Today your life on earth is past but here life starts anew. I promise no tomorrow but today will always last; and since each day's the same way there's no longing for the past.

You have been so faithful, so trusting and so true; though there were times you did some things, you knew you shouldn't do. But you have been forgiven and now at last you're free; so won't you come and take my hand and share my life with me?

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart...

God Be With You!

Order of Service

Musical Prelude Robert Williams

Processional

Hymn of Praise Kim Armstrong
Robert Williams

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Minister Arthur Garrett

New Testament Minister Jason Garrett

Musical Selection Kim Armstrong
Robert Williams

Reflections of Ronald (2 minutes)

Family

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Musical Selection Robert Williams

Eulogy Minister Joycie Garrett

Musical Selection

Recessional

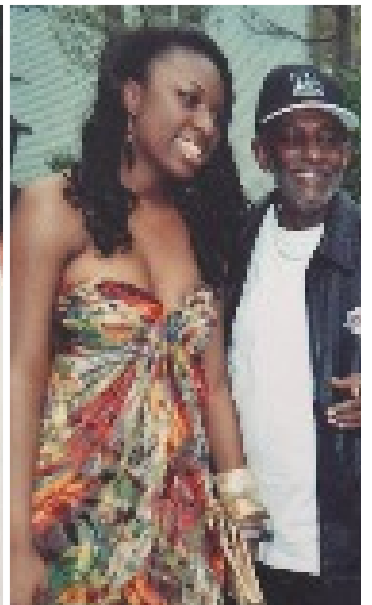
Private Cremation
Fairmount Crematory • Newark, New Jersey

Repast

St. Joseph Plaza • 233 W. Market Street

Newark, NJ • 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.





Pallbearers

Brett Manning, Sr. Robert Thornes
Arthur Garrett, III Jamal Bell
Steven Garrett Jason Garrett

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy that was shown to them during this time of bereavement.

Special thanks to Whigham Funeral Home.

Programs by Honor You Memorial Products.

Family and friends can visit www.whighamfuneralhome.com to sign the online guest book.

Floral Arrangements

Fresh and Pretty Florists • Hillside, New Jersey

Professional Services by:

Whigham Funeral Home

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Newark, New Jersey 07102

973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

