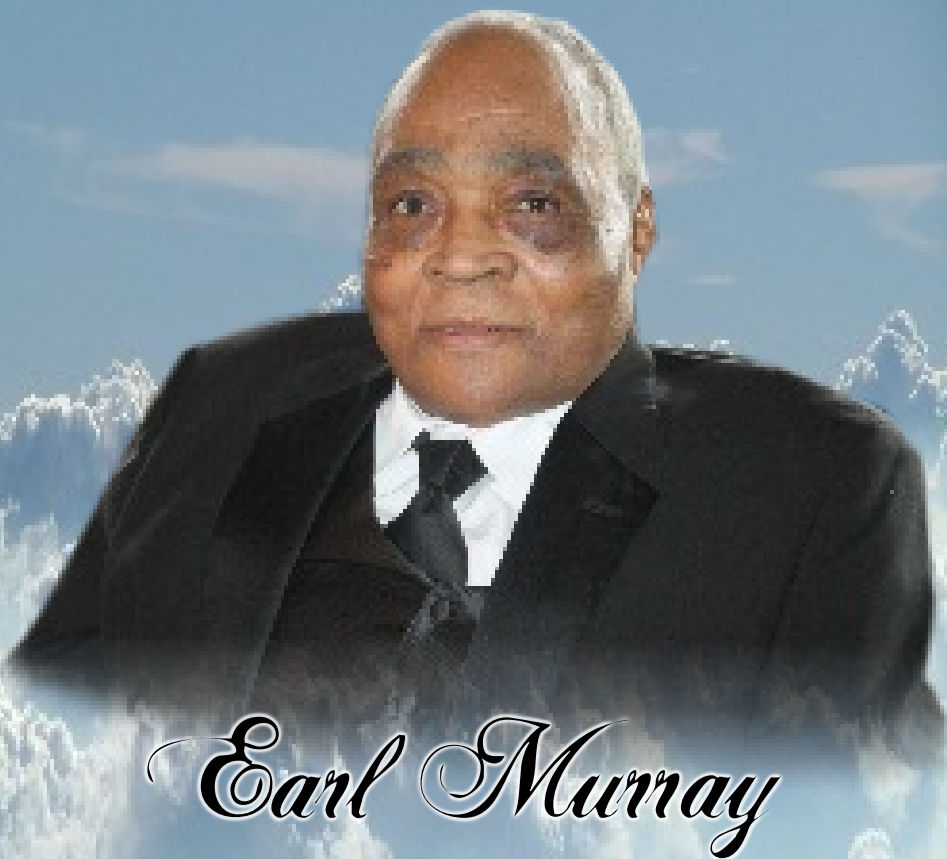


In Loving Memory of



Earl Murray

Sunrise

October 27, 1933

Sunset

February 4, 2015

Service

Monday, February 9, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

Obituary

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, **Earl Murray**, better known as Big Earl or Poppy of New York City, made a peaceful transition to be with the Lord and his lifelong sweetheart, Catherine Murray.

Earl Murray was born to the late Earl Murray, Sr. and Celeste Johnson on October 27, 1933 in Manatee County, Florida. He was baptized at Bradenton Church of Christ and graduated from Lincoln Memorial High School in 1950, where he was an offensive lineman on the football team.

Earl was united in holy matrimony with the love of his life on March 17, 1950, and soon after relocated to New York City. To this union, six children were born, the late Ritha Ann Armstrong, Earl Murray III, Gail Murray-Mays, Christopher Mark Murray, Michelle Murray and Eric Murray.

Upon arriving in New York City, armed with his brothers, Earl joined his father's tailoring business. They embarked upon several business ventures, they opened WREL Construction Company, Sunset Car Service, G&M Mobil, 3M Mobil, 2M Gulf Service Center and 5M Mobile Station. He supported local businesses and federal programs which included construction of the Second Avenue Train Station which is scheduled to open in 2016.

Earl Murray was a businessman who ran a tight ship and had high expectations of his employees. His understanding of time was money and his no nonsense approach to life made his family owned and operated business a success. He expected his employees to always be on time. If they arrived late, even by one minute, they would be sent home without pay and the next day they would know to be there fifteen minutes early.

Earl was also a contributor to the Harlem community and with over 55 years of sobriety cofounded and served as a board member of the Central Harlem Sobering Up Station until the doors closed in 2013. He would lead others to see that it was never too late to make amends and turn your life around.

Family was very important to Earl, he was a loving husband, excellent provider, a stern disciplinarian who wanted the absolute best for his children and grandchildren. He stressed the importance of a sound education, hard work and dedication. He knew that a tough world awaited them and he wanted them to be prepared for any and everything.

Waiting at Heaven's Depot is his wife, Catherine, a daughter, Ritha Ann, his mother, Celeste and father, Earl, sister, Inez and grandson, Earl IV.

Earl Murray leaves to celebrate his life: his children, Earl Murray III (JoAnn), Gail Murray-Mays (Walter), Christopher Mark Murray, Sr., (Magdalena), Michelle Murray and Eric Murray (Jessica); mother-in-law, Curleen H. Isaac; siblings, William Murray, Sr. (Joan), Wallace Murray, Sr. (Mary) and Ralph James Murray, Sr. (Elaine), sisters-in-law, Dorothy C. Isaac, Jessica Isaac, Loren Isaac and Sherry Leaks (Charles Sr.); brother-in-law, Norman Joyner; nine grandchildren, La Tanya Murray, Crystal Green, Ronald L. Foster (Migdalia), Monique D. Lewis (Patrick), Nadia D. Murray, Dominique Murray, Christopher Mark Murray II, Daisy Murray and Eric Murray, Jr.; eleven great grandchildren, Mehdi Zerrad, Alexis Ritha Murray, Mounir Zerrad, Ronald L. Foster III, Ariel Lewis, Monique Foster, Patrick Lewis Jr., Jasmine Foster, Daniel Green, Ritha Green and Samuel Calloway, Jr.; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Order of Service

The Processional

Musical selection

Julia Garrison

Scripture Reading/Sermon

Dr. R. C. Wells

Acknowledgements

Team Murray

Obituary

Team Murray

Music Selection

Amazing Grace (flute) Bobbi Humphrey

Eulogy/Commitment

Team Murray

Music Selection

Julia Garrison

Viewing of Remains

Recessional

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work or play,
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

-author unknown

Interment

Rubonia Cemetery • Rubonia, FL

S-trong
T-eam Murray
A-ggressive
R-esilient
B-rilliant
U-nited
R-onald
S-uperior
T-hat's All Bullshit

Starburst became Poppy's energy, his motivation and comfort. Poppy was strong willed and determined to always teach a lesson, no matter the situation. His resilience to pain and suffering kept me motivated. He was very talented and had a way of using the Jedi mind trick to get his way, his smile captured the hearts of others and a mean mug that would scare the devil. He remained with his aggressive attitude and taught me how to treat life like chess and use the pieces wisely. He was brilliant in a way that books could never teach, always with an answer or a way to find one. He kept our family united and always said, "fuck em" shit happens. He recently told me stay superior you're the Boss and forgive the Captain. A week before he died I told him I wasn't going to be at his funeral and he simply looked at me with a frown and said "Now Ronald that's all Bullshit, now give me a few "STARBURST".

*Inspired by Michelle Murray
Written by Ronald Foster*

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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