

In Loving Memory of



Willis Conaway

Sunrise
May 4, 1936

Sunset
February 9, 2015

Service

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

PERRY FUNERAL HOME
34 Mercer Street • Newark, New Jersey

Obituary

Willis Conaway was born May 4, 1936 in Egypt, Georgia. He attended grammar school and high school in Sanford, Florida where he had a paper route at the age of twelve. During his formative years it was realized by his Mom, Natalie Conaway that he was on the path to being a task master. One day he came in from school and noticed that his Mom had not come home yet. Upon her arrival he said in his most stern five year-old voice, "the next time you're going to be late, you have to be sure to leave me a note".

Willis had a love of learning and maintained excellent grades. After graduating from High School he attended the University of Florida A & M as an English Major. To say he was an articulate wordsmith was an understatement. He worked as a Disc Jockey for WTMP in Tampa, Florida. Affectionately referred to as Mumbo Slim, he was known for cutting a rug and being the center of attention.

Mr. Conaway came to New Jersey with his late wife, Lillian in the early 1960s with aspirations of pursuing a career as a radio DJ. Willis and Lillian had six children (Brian Conaway, Natalie Conaway (Thomas), Derwin Conaway, Valerie Conaway, Kelvin Conaway, and Dennis Conaway. He enjoyed taking his children to the park, playing board games and listening to music. His favorite genre was Jazz, and Nina Simone was his favorite Jazz vocalist. Mr. Conaway was a very proud man, and teaching his children about Black History was of paramount importance as part of his parenting.

Mr. Conaway had a great work ethic, a commitment to excellence and a fruitful work history. The various employers include; JC Penney Department store (worked eight years throughout high school and college). He worked as a Manager for the Prudential Insurance Company in the Corporate Expense Department (twenty plus years) while working part-time for Bamberger's Department Store in the Men's Department (fifteen years). This store is now referred to as Macy's Department Store. After the landscape of Corporate America began to change, he opted to begin another career with NJ Transit as a bus operator (twenty-five years).

Mr. Conaway is survived by his mother, Natalie Conaway and brother, Johnelle Conaway. In addition to his six children his legacy includes seventeen grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren and a plethora of nieces, nephews and children who held a special place in his heart.

Willis Conaway departed this life February 9, 2015 at his home in Iselin, New Jersey. He will be truly missed by all who love him.

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Acknowledgements

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Final Viewing

Recessional

~Interment~

Evergreen Cemetery

Hillside, New Jersey

~Repast~

Priory Restaurant

233 West Market Street

Newark, New Jersey

To Those I Love

*To Those Whom I Love And Those Who Love Me
When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do
You must not tie yourself to me with tears
Be happy that I have had this many years
I gave you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness
I thank you for the love each has shown
But now it is time I travelled on alone
So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
It is only for a while that we must part
So bless the memories in your heart
I will not be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come
Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear
All of my love around you soft and clear.
Then, when you must come this way alone
I will greet you with a smile and say,
"Welcome Home!"*

Acknowledgements

*The Family of **Willis Conaway** with deepest gratitude, acknowledge all of the cards, prayers, calls and many acts of kindness extended to them during this time of bereavement. May God continue to bless you.*

Professional Services Provided By:

Perry Funeral Home, Inc.

**34 Mercer Street
Newark, New Jersey
(973) 824-9201**

www.perryfuneralhome.com

