

Obituary

Ron was born on April 6, 1936 in Chicago, Illinois. He was one of eight children born to George and Georgia Elumn. He attended James McCosh Elementary School, where he was the valedictorian of his class and Englewood High School.

Ron joined the Air Force as a Military Police Officer at the age of sixteen. He served for four years during the Korean War and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. While he was stationed there he learned Japanese and loved to speak it if he met someone who spoke the language. When he returned from the Air Force he worked as one of the first Black bus drivers in Chicago before moving to New York City to purse a career as a singer, model, and actor. He traveled the world with the Ink Spots and had a role on a television show called the Doctors, as well as in several movies including Death Wish. In the 1990's he began working for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and remained there until he retired from his last position as a Licensing Specialist. During his time as a New York State Employee he was active in the Public Employees Federation (PEF), a union for state workers. With PEF he held roles as a Steward and Assistant Council Leader, Division 191M. He took great pride in standing up for other union members and working with local politicians to ensure that workers were treated fairly. His office was in lower Manhattan at the time of the 9/11 attacks and he appeared in two documentaries about the affects of the dust from the World Trade Center on the health of residents and workers in lower Manhattan. He was active in fighting for benefits for those affected by the dust that blanketed lower Manhattan after the 9/11 attacks. He suffered from chemical asthma as a result of his own exposure and was no longer able to sing.

Ron was always an entertainer at heart and a very social person. In retirement, he loved to spend his days in restaurants on Broadway near Columbia University talking to those who lived, worked, and attended school in the area. During the last few years he was homebound and depended on the help of his son Bryan, who selflessly devoted his time to caring for his father and allowed him to be able to remain at home until his final days.

He was married twice. He had two children (Ron and Tony) with his first wife, Lena and two children (Johanna and Bryan) with his second wife, Vera. He had great love for and was very proud of all of his children.

Ron leaves behind three siblings: Barbara, Claudette, and Albert. He leaves behind four children: Ron, Tony, Johanna, and Bryan, nine grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren. He also leaves behind his nieces and nephews, cousins, and many friends. He was a favorite among many family members and will be greatly missed. He joins in heaven his parents (George and Georgia), and his siblings (George Jr., Charlie, Nancy, and Shirley).

Order of Service

Processional

Selection

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary

Selection

Eulogy

Committal

Viewing

Recessional

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery Calverton, New York A heart of gold stopped beating,
Two shining eyes at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove
He only takes the best,
God knows you had to leave us,
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day He took you home.
To some you will be forgotten,
To others, just part of the past,
But to us who loved and lost you,
Your memory will always last.

-Author unknown

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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