

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Henry Whitley

January 23, 1952 - January 2, 2016



Saturday, January 9, 2016

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

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 his call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the end of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things too I 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' 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.*

Janice M. Fair-Salters

Obituary

John 14:1-4

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

On January 2, 2016, **Henry Whitley**, longtime resident of Franklin Park, formerly of Newark, passed away at home. He was 63. He was born January 23, 1952 to Joan McMillan and Henry Bruton in Newark, New Jersey. He graduated from Weequahic High School in 1970. Henry went on to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ he left school to start his 25 year career in the computer technology industry as a Key Punch Operator. Henry worked his way to a Computer Programmer in the banking industry next and finally an IT Project Lead specializing in computer system disaster recovery at Panasonic headquarters in Secaucus, NJ.

Henry loved the holidays and took pride in decorating and the season for giving. He was a family oriented man, in his youth he spent holiday weekends in Baltimore, MD. First thing he wanted to do was get a sub sandwich and hang out with his cousins. Henry was a fantastic bowler in his youth, winning many awards and trophies in various leagues. Because of his love for swimming, he would jump in a pool anytime, anywhere. Unlike most men, he could drive anywhere and never get lost. He had an excellent sense of direction.

On November 24, 1990, he married Rita Whitley in Las Vegas, Nevada, ultimately his soul-mate. Henry and his wife moved to their custom built home in Franklin Park, NJ, 21 years ago. They truly enjoyed decorating and entertaining at their home, backyard barbeques and pool parties we so much fun. Henry loved Christmas and celebrated each year with Rita and lots of gifts for each other. They loved to travel the world but Cruises were their favorite. They also spent almost every weekend in Atlantic City during the warm weather months and visited Las Vegas a few times per year. As most of you knew Henry and Rita, they had a fabulous flare for fashion. They shared an amazing life together filled with love and friendship.

Henry and his only child, La-Tonya shared a very special relationship. “Tonya” as many of us know her as is and will always be her Daddy’s Little Girl. When Tonya was younger Henry took her on dates to see Broadway

plays and lunch at fancy restaurants, to give her a sense of how a man should treat a woman they cared for. Henry was always there whenever she needed to talk about something, whether it be good or bad, happy moments or sad. They talked on the phone every other day to check-in with each other. In recent years, they met at his favorite Short Hills Mall to enjoy a meal, catch-up, and spend time laughing. Henry taught Tonya lessons in life and her love for him will be forever burned into her heart.

Henry had 1 grandson, Aidan Chase. He loved receiving his monthly letters from his grandson. Which included recent school work, photos and sports schedules to keep grandpa up to date on what was going on in Aidan's life. They talked about dinosaurs, animals, music and cartoons. Grandpa really enjoyed their conversations, and took pride in the bond they created together!

Henry and his sister Joannie "Cookie" were extremely close to each other. While raising their children they would hang out together on weekends at Cookie's house. They talked on the phone every day, laughing, joking and enjoying each other. Henry and Cookie shared a tight brother/sister bond filled with love, laughter and friendship.

Henry and his oldest nephew Al-Terique Whitley were like father and son. Henry and "Teriq" had many long talks about life and manhood. Henry would say I am passing the torch to the next Whitley generation.

Henry's unique personality and sense of humor will be greatly missed. He was always the life of the party full of jokes, laughs and stealing the show with his fly outfits. As most of you called Henry in his youth "Superfly" He also loved to cut a rug on the dance floor. He truly enjoyed partying with his family especially his sisters Debbie, Denise and Tonya. He spent hours in his yard planting trees, cutting grass and enhancing his property, holiday time his house was lit up like Rockafella Center.

Henry was a straightforward man who demanded little from those around him and a lot from himself. He was a proud man who believed that there was no obstacle that he couldn't overcome. We will all remember the tall, handsome dynamic man, who lit up a room with his presence.

Henry is survived by his daughter La-Tonya (Whitley) Johnson son-in-law Radney, grandson Aidan, sisters Joannie, Deborah, Tonya, Denise and brother Derrick he will also be forever remembered by his nieces, nephews, cousins extended family and friends. Henry was deeply loved by his family.

To everyone here today, when you get home raise a glass and make a toast in celebration of the life of Henry Whitley! He loved a good drink, CHEERS to a man we will greatly miss.

Order of Service

Welcoming Remarks.....Elder Traci Skinner

Video Slideshow..... Memory Lane

Musical Prelude.....Musical Medley
“The Battle Is Not Yours” - Yolanda Adams

Candle-Lighting Ceremony

Musical Selection.....“Don't Cry For Me “
Soloist – Carole Jackson-Reels
Organist – Ronald Gass

Reading - I'm Free.....Tonya Gilchrist
I'm Free - Janice M. Fair-Salters

Obituary.....Raquel McMillan

Eulogy.....Elder Traci Skinner

Closing RemarksElder Traci Skinner

Closing Music.....Musical Medley
“I Will Always Love You” – Whitney Houston

Memories of Henry – friends and family
(2 Minutes Please)

Repast at 5pm to 7pm
Social Club
40-42 Livingston Ave., Newark, NJ

Acknowledgements

Our family wishes to convey our sincerest appreciation for your prayers and support during this difficult time. We are blessed to have friends like you and are thankful for all you've done.

The Family of Henry Whitley



Professional Services Provided By

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