

*The Memorial Celebration for*

# **Royce Davis**

*Sunrise*

*December 8, 1944*

*Sunset*

*June 13, 2016*



*Saturday, July 16, 2016 - 2:00 p.m.*

**Woody "Home For Services"**

163 Oakwood Ave.,

Orange, New Jersey

*Deacon Darryl Harrington, Presiding*

*Reverend Jeffery Garland, Eulogist*

# Obituary

**Royce Davis** was born December 8, 1944 in Hereford, England to parents Joyce Nickson Davis and Levi Davis, Jr. He lived in England with his mother until he was 4 years old. He came to the United States in 1948, lived in Brooklyn, New York and Bridgeton, NJ for a few years before settling in Newark, New Jersey. He was raised in Newark with his parents and siblings, Charles and Sharon.

Royce graduated from Westside High School in Newark, where he was an award-winning football tight end. He had several offers to attend college on athletic scholarship but turned them down to work and support his family. He began his career as a Welder in 1964.

Royce had a brief first marriage in 1965 and had a son from that union, Scott Michael. He met his soul mate, Yvonne Patterson Davis, "Bunnie", in late 1967 and they were inseparable from the moment they met. They remained devoted to each other for 47 years until his passing. From their union came two daughters, Shannon Kathleen and Sarah Kaye.

Royce continued his passion for football in the Essex County, Belleville and Bloomfield Touch Football Leagues as a player and later as an offensive coach. He won several championships in over 25 years as a coach. He was affectionately nicknamed "Rocket". It was through football that he cemented friendship with his dearest friends, Charles Griffin, who he met as an 8 year old in the West Kinney Street projects, and Ermet "Boobie" Caldwell.

Royce also prospered in his career as a welder. He worked for Roben Manufacturing in Lakewood, NJ from 1985 until his retirement in 2007. For several years, he traveled across the country to lead special projects and train apprentice welders in the trade.

After retirement, Royce devoted himself to his family. He reveled in his grandchildren and looked forward to traveling to North Carolina and South Carolina to spend time with them. He drove 10 hours one-way at least three times each year to visit with them until he became too ill to travel in 2013.

Like all things in his life, Royce quietly and bravely battled back from three major strokes, congestive heart failure and kidney disease for the final 3 years of his life. He quietly passed away the morning of June 13, 2016 in home hospice, surrounded by the love of his wife, Bunnie, brother-in-law, Danny, and daughters, Shannon and Sarah.

To those who knew him, Royce was the most steadfast, loyal, no non-sense person they ever met. He was reliable, trustworthy and honest. He was always firm in his beliefs and true to his word. He had no tolerance for people who did not follow this same code.

To those who loved him, Royce was funny, admirable and full of practical wisdom. He loved nature, nature shows and animals, especially his dog, Socks. He loved history shows and western movies. He watched judge shows and talk shows religiously. He loved all things sports and any movie starring Christopher Walken. Bob Dylan and Leon Russell were his musical icons, but he'd sneak in a little Andrea Bocelli, Temptations, or Willie Nelson as a change.

To his family, he was "Roy." To his children, he was "Dad." To his grandchildren, he was "Grumpy." He was enchanting and mercurial with his own brand of magic, humor and charm. He walked between raindrops. He caught flies between two fingers. He could open any jar or bottle just by staring at it. He always knew where to find the best sweet snacks. No one grocery-shopped like him. No one packed the trunk of a car like him. No one could make art out of candy wrappers and rubber bands like him. And no one could whistle like him.

Royce was so humble and reserved that we're not sure he ever believed the love, loyalty, respect and admiration so many felt for him. His loss has left a hole that will never be filled in many lives. We thank God for the blessing of his life and for the privilege of knowing and loving him.

Royce was predeceased by his parents, Levi and Joyce; his Uncle Dwight Davis; Aunt Alene Gathing; and Brother-in-law, William Patterson Jr.

He is survived by: spouse, Bunnie; son, Scott Davis of Oakland, CA; daughter, Shannon Davis of Miami, FL; daughter, Sarah Morgan of Cary, NC; son-in-law, David Morgan Jr., of Cary, NC; grandchildren, Skye Chloe Davis of Oakland, CA; Specialist, US Army, Elijah Royster (Stacie) of Fort Gordon, GA; Levi S. Davis of Oakland, CA; Gabriel Vaught of Myrtle Beach, SC; Andre Williams Jr. of Cary, NC; London Alana Williams of Cary, NC; Dorian Kitcart of Atlanta, GA; David Morgan III of Cary, NC; and Deja Morgan of Cary, NC; brother, Charles Davis (Michelle) of West Orange, NJ; sister Sharon Davis of Newark, NJ; in-laws, Alice Ruth and William Patterson, Sr.; and brother-in-law, Daniel Patterson, all of Irvington, NJ.

Royce is also survived by his loyal friends, Charles Griffin and Ermet Caldwell; "adopted" grandson, Jonathan Thomas; faithful dog Socks, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

*"He who abides in love, abides in God, and God in him"*

# Order of Service

Processional..... *“Knocking on Heaven’s Door” by Bob Dylan\**

Welcome Remarks

Scripture Readings

Prayer

Song Selection .....*“Spirit in the Sky” by Norman Greenbaum\**

Reflections..... by Family and Friends

## Song Selections

*“A Song for You” by Leon Russell*

*“Have a Little Faith in Me” by Joe Cocker\**

Reading of Obituary

Eulogy.....Reverend Jeffery Garland

Song Selection..... *“Impossible Dream” by Luther Vandross\**

Closing Remarks

Recessional..... *“Forever Young” by Bob Dylan & the Band\**

***The family invites you to join them for repast immediately  
following the service at the  
Elks Lodge located at 475 Main Street in Orange***

*\*Today’s song selections are non-traditional choices requested by Royce. We hope you will listen and be inspired, encouraged and reminded of Royce by the lyrics.*

The family thanks everyone for attending today and for sharing your respects and memories about this wonderful man.

We also thank all who provided prayers and support during Royce's illness and for the prayers and condolences following his passing.

We would also like to acknowledge the outstanding medical professionals who treated Royce during his period of illness:

Dr. Kenneth Bannerman, Dr. Robert Zenenberg, Dr. Chirag Mehta;

Therapists Roy, Josie, Lauren, Roz, and Ruls;

Nutritionist Rosa Smith;

the St. Barnabas Medical Center;

the Van Dyk Manor nursing home;

the St. Barnabas Home Hospice team of visiting nurses and staff;

and the Hackensack University Medical Center at Mountainside Heart Failure Center

Thank you for your commitment and respect to Royce throughout his care.

We are grateful for you.

Thank you to our cousin Deacon Darryl Harrington for presiding over today's service and to the Rev. Dr. Jeffery Garland for his spiritual guidance and inspiring words during this time.

Thank you to Adrienne Hatchett, Lydia Mota and their team for their preparation and service for today's repast.

Thank you to Rudy and the team at Woody's Home for Services for their stellar service in the handling of Royce's cremation and memorial service.

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Professional Services Provided By

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