

CELEBRATING THE LIFE  
OF



*Matthew Lewis, Jr.*

Sunrise: December 18, 1937 - Sunset: December 2, 2016

Service:  
Saturday, January 21, 2017 - 2:00 pm

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
130 Main Street • Orange, New Jersey

## Obituary

**Matthew Lewis Jr.** was born on December 18, 1937 in the city of Rocky Mount, North Carolina to the late Mary Vaughn and Matthew Lewis Sr. He left this life on December 2, 2016 in Freehold, New Jersey.

While growing up in Newport News, Virginia, he was an avid member of the United House of Prayer for All People Church. At 8 years of age, he picked up the saxophone, thus beginning his musical career. Although he could not read music, when he was 17 years old, his gift and talent was recognized by Ray Charles and he was offered the opportunity to go on the road with him.

After moving to New York, he started working for the Social Security Administration. Because music was his life, he played with several bands around the New York area for years. He also had the privilege to sponsor several programs for Black History Month with, then, Congressman Floyd Flake. He retired from the Social Security Administration after 35 years of service.

Matthew leaves behind to cherish his memory, a wife, children, grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

# Order of Service

Prayer..... Cheri Fontanez

Scriptures.....David White

Solo.....Chantel Hampton

Obituary..... Cheryl Lewis

Poem ..... Tara Toodle

Words of Encouragement

Reflections from the Heart

Solo ..... Cherette Lewis

Eulogy ..... Evangelist Linda Hampton

Closing Remarks

Benediction

**INTERMENT**  
Rosedale Cemetery  
Orange, New Jersey

## *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.

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, to 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 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 hearts and peace to thee  
God wanted me now; He set me free.

## *Acknowledgement*

We, the family of **Matthew Lewis**, would like to  
thank you for your prayers and support at this time.

### Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
201-433-1000

