

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



Eric Mack
"Ricky"

March 16, 1957 - August 5, 2026

Sunday, August 16, 2026 - 9:00am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027
Reverend Dr. Turner, Officiating Minister

OBITUARY

Eric “Ricky” Mack, a longtime resident of Newburgh, New York, passed away peacefully on August 5, 2026, at the age of 69, surrounded by the love of his family. Born on March 16, 1957, to George Mack and Mary Frances Hawes, Eric spent his early years in the Bronx before making Newburgh his home. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend whose presence touched countless lives.

In 1984, Eric met Helen “Denise,” whom he lovingly called “Nicey,” and knew her to be someone special. What began as a simple encounter blossomed into a lifelong partnership filled with love, laughter, hard work, and cherished memories. Together, they raised their family, traveled, celebrated milestones, and created a home where loved ones always felt welcome.

Eric’s greatest joy was his family. He was immensely proud of his children, Erica “Baby Dumplin,” and Eric “Baby E,” and took great pleasure in watching them grow and build lives of their own. With Erica, he shared the special bond of a father and daughter, always offering his love, guidance, and support. With Eric, he shared a close relationship strengthened by their mutual love of sports, attending games and enjoying time together.

His grandchildren, Emile and Angel, and his great-grandson, Jayden, held an especially treasured place in his heart. Eric loved cooking for his grandchildren and feeding the people he loved; sharing a meal was one of the many ways he expressed his care. He enjoyed traveling, laughing, telling stories, and simply having his family close. He took great pride in the life he and Denise built together and in seeing their love continue through the generations.

As the only son among four sisters, Eric developed a deep and lasting bond with his siblings. He especially loved having his sisters around because, whenever they were together, it felt like old times again—full of laughter, stories, familiarity, and the comfort of family. Eric also shared a lifelong brotherhood with his best friend, Leslie Caesar, whom he met as a young boy growing up in the Bronx. Their friendship remained strong throughout their lives as they raised their families across the street from one another, affectionately calling each other “Slick Rick” and “Daddio!”

That love extended far beyond his immediate household. To many of his nieces and nephews, “Uncle Ricky” was more than an uncle; he was a father figure. He showed up when he was needed, offered guidance, shared meals, attended important milestones, and created memories that would last a lifetime. He had a gift for making people feel seen, valued, and loved.

Eric dedicated 30 years of his life to the American Museum of Natural History, where he worked with pride and dedication before retiring in 2019. After retirement, he began working at BJ’s Wholesale Club, where he enjoyed staying active and developed special relationships with his coworkers. He took great pride in providing for his family and remained engaged with the people and community around him.

Outside of work, Eric found happiness in life’s simple pleasures. He loved cooking out and grilling, especially when family and friends gathered around. He enjoyed fishing, traveling, family cruises, and watching old Westerns. A devoted

sports fan, Eric proudly cheered for the New York Yankees, New York Knicks, and Dallas Cowboys. He also loved staying informed about current events and could often be found surrounded by newspapers, making sure he never missed a thing.

Eric’s greatest legacy was the love he gave so freely. He was present when it mattered, generous with his time, and always willing to offer guidance, laughter, a meal, or simply a listening ear. The home he and Denise created became a place where family and friends gathered for celebrations, conversations, laughter, and countless memories. Those moments will remain a lasting part of the legacy he leaves behind.

Eric is survived by his beloved wife, Helen “Denise” Graham-Mack; his children, Erica Peay and Eric G. Mack; his stepson, Jason Wright; his grandchildren, Emile Vazquez and Angel Peay; his great-grandson, Jayden Vazquez; his sisters, Barbara Loudon, Renee Mack, and Sharon Hawes; his brother, Shaquan McDaniels; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George Mack and Mary Frances Hawes; his sister, Evelyn Hawes; and his son-in-law, Glenn Peay.

Eric’s legacy will live on through his wife, Denise; his children, grandchildren, and great-grandson; his siblings; his extended family; and all those who were blessed to know and love him.

Until we meet again, may you rest peacefully, Eric, knowing just how deeply you were loved. Your memory will forever remain in the hearts of those whose lives you touched.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Prayer Reverend Dr. Turner

Hymn of Comfort “Take Me To the King”

Reading of Scripture Reverend Dr. Turner

Poem Reading by Kevin Caesar

Acknowledgements Cards and Condolences

Reading of the Obituary The Family

Selection “Deliver Me”

Eulogy Reverend Dr. Turner

Benediction

Recessional

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 work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close 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 I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured 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 heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

*The repast will be held following the service at
Grand Slam Banquet Hall
3534 Broadway, New York, NY 10031*

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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