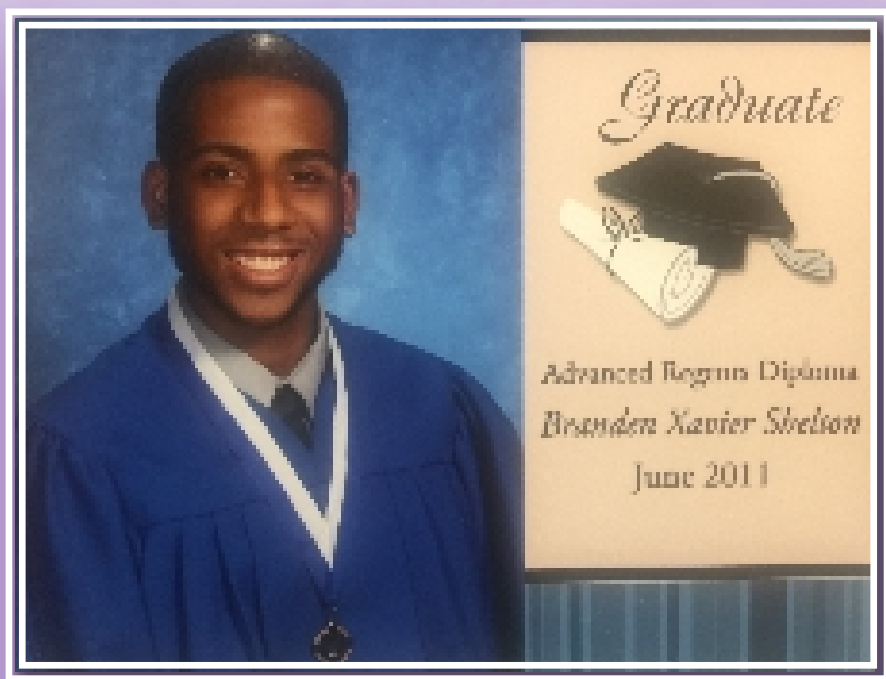


*Homegoing Celebration of*

# *Branden Xavier Shelton*



*Sunrise: February 2, 1993*

*Sunset: July 22, 2017*

**Service**

*Tuesday, August 1, 2017*

*Viewing: 3:00pm to 6:00pm*

*Funeral: 6:00pm*

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

*Rev. Reginald L. Bachus, Officiating*

*Rev. Dr. Eric B. Turner, Organist*

# Obituary

**Written by his mother, Karen Marie Diaz**

*Branden Xavier Shelton was born on February 2, 1993, in New York City to Karen Diaz and Darren Shelton. Branden was 8 pounds 13 ounces at birth, and born with a full head of hair. He was a precious and beautiful baby boy, who slept through the night from his first night home.*

*As a baby, I would place Branden in his high chair in the doorway of my kitchen as I cooked, and he would laugh this deep hearty laugh from his belly every time.*

*As a toddler, he was on the move and could not be stopped. He was bright and active, and often put his hands on the speakers to feel the pulse and vibration of the music while he shook his little bottom. He felt the music, and this was a sign of things to come. Branden had a lot of hair as a toddler, and would sit perfectly still as I would box braid his hair once a week until his first haircut. I knew he enjoyed the soothing and relaxing feeling of my hands in his head.*

*Branden attended pre-kindergarten and kindergarten at C.S. 211 in the Bronx. My mother took him every day as she worked there. Branden loved it as his Titi Carla worked there also, and would often drive them home.*

*Branden was shared by the Diaz, Lane, and Shelton families. He often took vacations to Disneyland and other places during the summer month of July with his dad, Grandma Susie, and other family members. He had many nicknames such as "Brandini", "Bran Muffin", and "Brandywine". As he became a teenager and young adult, I often called him "Bran".*

*Branden attended Holy Cross School and Church in the Bronx from 1st through 8th grade. He was baptized, and received the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation at Holy Cross Church. He was a stellar A student throughout his elementary school career, and was bestowed the honor of attending the summer program at Fordham Prep Academy during the summers of his 6th and 7th grade years. This was a prestigious honor bestowed on a handful of students. Upon completion of 8th grade and graduation, Branden was offered a partial academic scholarship from Fordham Prep Academy, All Hallows H.S., and St. Raymond's H.S. The partial scholarship from All Hallows H.S. was accepted, and he attended and graduated from All Hallows H.S. in June of 2011 from St. Patrick's Cathedral with a Regents Diploma.*

*After high school, Branden received a partial scholarship from and attended Five Towns College in Long Island, New York. It was here where he began to hone his craft and what he loved to do, music production. It was also here where Branden would meet Stephanie Osorio, who would become the mother of his only son, Jeremiah James Shelton. Branden completed his freshman year at Five Towns College.*

*Branden's son, Jeremiah James Shelton, was born on June 15, 2013, weighing in at 8 pounds 14 ounces (1 more ounce than Branden). Branden worked various jobs until settling in at Verizon as an Administrative Assistant in Pennsylvania where he resided.*

*A little known fact about Branden is that he was my equal partner in the rescue and foster of a stray cat, which we provided veterinarian care for. Once the all clear by the vet was given, the cat was kept and cared for at our house for a week until adopted by my coworker. Branden's first pets were a lizard at his dad's house, Thor (who has passed), my cat, Pookie (who has passed), and my cat Tabby, who is also a rescue cat. Both cats, hands down, chose Branden as their favorite person in the house. Animals loved Branden, and Branden loved animals. My neighbor's dog would often jump the fence to be in our backyard, and prop herself up in Branden's bedroom window to look for him. As an adult, Branden would work with dogs as one of his occupations. This was how he came to adopt Marshawn, his beloved puppy. He absolutely loved and pampered his dog, Marshawn.*

*Branden was able to complete and record one song, Never Find, with Eddie Hill as well as produce and store many beat compositions (including one with Jeremiah). Branden cherished the time he spent with his son, Jeremiah, and loved him very deeply. Branden leaves behind a legacy through his son, loved ones, and music. Branden is our pride and joy, is everything to us, and is deeply loved and cherished by many.*

*Branden is survived by: his only son, Jeremiah James Shelton; his parents, Karen Marie Diaz and Darren Alexander Shelton; his stepfather, Jabril Padilla; his sister, Aurora Michelle Jubilee Shelton; his maternal grandparents, Jacqueline Diaz-Olive, James Olive and Anthony Diaz; his paternal grandparents, Susie Lane and Ted Shelton; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friends.*

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional

Selection

*"I Believe I Can Fly" (R. Kelly)*

Scripture Readings

Prayer of Comfort

Acknowledgements

Remarks (Two Minutes Please)

Obituary

*Karen Marie Diaz, mother*

Selection

*"Stairway to Heaven" (O'jays)*

Eulogy

*Rev. Reginald L. Bachus*

Committal

Final Viewing

Recessional

## Final Disposition

*Woodlawn Crematory*

*Bronx, New York*

## Acknowledgement

The parents and family of **Branden Xavier Shelton** would like to express our deepest appreciation to our extended family and friends during this difficult time.

We are extremely grateful for all the outpouring of love and support. The calls, thoughtfulness, and prayers have carried us through, and we humbly ask that you continue to pray for us as we grieve and march forward on this journey.

**2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300**

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*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

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