

Celebration of Life for
Johnny Lee Poole



Sunrise
October 14, 1952

Sunset
July 28, 2019

Saturday, August 10th, 2018 - 9:30am

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street

Newark, New Jersey

Reverend Dr. Moses L. Mckenzie, Officiating



Love's Dream

While I know I was too young to remember, you did a great job in conveying, and allowing me to picture and dream:

About how you anticipated me.

How you dreamed I would look.

How the name 'Michael' went out the window when you and Mommy's first picture of me told you

"Michelle" was the route to go.

How you walked in the snow and playfully screamed Mom's name outside of the hospital during the Winter storm of '79.

How you got to the room just in time, and declared your love for me in a way that transcended the minutes of my arrival.

Your love for me never wavered. Even through my crazy teens to my uncertain 20s and beyond, you stood vigilant and diligent in your nuggets of wisdom of which you proclaimed:

Do your best.

Know I love you.

Keep pressing.

Pay your bills.

Love God.

Don't be so niggerish.

Make yourself proud.

You've now gone to be with God, of whom loves you more. And although not hearing you or seeing you physically will at times shred every fiber of my heart, know that you will always be

My first superhero

My confidante

My go-getter

My first love.

Thank you for all the firsts you had with me. Thank you for sharing in my most important moments. Thank you for your guidance and every prayer you prayed to God, for me. Most of all, my first love, thank you for the picture and the dream.

Obituary

Johnny Lee Poole burst into this world on October 14, 1952, to the late James Timothy Poole, Sr. and Lenora Jackson-Poole, as the 8th child out of 9 children, in Emanuel County, Swainsboro, Georgia.

Johnny attended Emanuel Elementary and High School in 1970. After graduating High School, he relocated to Newark, NJ, where he worked many positions, one of the first being a position at the Ronson Corporation in Newark. He worked quite a few other places over the years, until 25 years ago, landing a position with the Essex County Improvement Authority. He moved successfully up the ranks, eventually becoming a deputy manager of the Juror Parking Facility.

Johnny met the late Frances L. Whitaker in the midst of the 70's, fell in love, and the two welcomed their daughter, Paryss in January of 1979.

Johnny was a kind, loving, caring, and an absolutely hilarious, no-nonsense type of man. He loved his family with his entire being. He did not play when it came to his sisters and brothers, and when Paryss and her husband, Sylvester presented him with two grandchildren, he was ecstatic and got even more protective and loving.

Johnny not only worked hard, he played hard. He had a flair for style: seeing him was seeing the nicest suits, a good timepiece, and yes, he rarely went out ANYWHERE without an authentic Kangol! He was a high-roller that loved his trips to A.C., whether solo or with his devoted companion, Freeda. When it was time to visit Georgia, his Ace and Flying partner, his wonderful sister Anne, was always prepared to fly out with him! Johnny was also a lover of great old-school music and good ole country cooking, of which one of his favorite dishes, Georgia-Style Brunswick Stew cooked by his sister Anne, and his daughter's cakes and pies, kept him with a song in his heart and licking his plates

clean! Johnny stayed true to his family, his roots, his job, God, and himself.

Johnny was preceded In death by his parents: James T. Poole and Lenora Jackson-Poole, 3 brothers: Eddie James (AJ) Poole, James T. Poole, Jr., and Sidney Poole. 2 Sisters: Allene Poole-Adams, and Dora Poole Richards. 1 Sister-In-Law, Mary E. Poole, and 2 Brothers-In-Law, Otis Wadley and Arthur Bryant.

Johnny leaves to cherish wonderful memories and those who will miss him dearly: His daughter, Paryss M. Dowling, and her husband, his son-in-law Sylvester S. Dowling, both of Newark, NJ. Devoted companion of 22 years, Freeda Dotson-Cole of Newark, NJ. Two Grandchildren, Serenity L. Dowling and Riley S. Dowling (Newark, NJ), a bonus grandchild, Ayanna Dotson (Newark, NJ). Three Sisters: Anne Poole-McKenzie (Moses) of New Jersey and her children, Angela (North Carolina), Fondaria (deceased), Derrick (NC) and Tamara (NJ), Mary Poole-Wadley with her children Melissa, Calvin, Eddie and Janice, all of Georgia, and Geraldine Poole-Jones (Eugene) and her son John, both of Georgia. His late sister Dora's 2 children, Felicia And Beatrice, of Georgia, along with his late brother Eddie James' children: Eddie James Proctor, Jewell Proctor, Marissa Poole (all of NJ), and the late Theresa Poole.

His daughter Paryss has siblings that Johnny loved dearly: Her sisters Rhenotha Whitaker and Belika Scott of New Jersey, and her brother, Lonnie Whitaker of Pennsylvania, along with all of his wonderful bonus daughters and sons that he loved, including Linda Taylor, Anissa Davis, Aleese Thomas, Tommy Green, Robert Dotson, Steve Brown, and his niece, April Sharpe.

He is also survived by two Aunts: Jessie B. Hodges and Christine Poole-McClain of Georgia, along with a host of great-nieces and nephews, wonderful cousins, awesome friends, and co-workers that enjoyed him as a person and loved him very much.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Selection

Presiding
Invocation

Scripture Readings
Old Testament (Psalms 23)
New Testament (2nd Corinthians 9,1-8)

Poem Reading Aleese Thomas

Prayer of Comfort

Remarks..... (2 min each, please)

Reflections

Musical SelectionRhenotha Whitaker

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Moses L. McKenzie, Sr.

Recessional

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Interment</u> Evergreen Cemetery Hillside, New Jersey</p>
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Repass
14 Mapes Terrace
Newark, NJ 07112

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see if the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me. I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today, while thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say. I know how much you love me, as much as I love you, and each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too. But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand that an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand and said, "my place was ready, in heaven far above and that I'd have to leave behind, all those I dearly love." But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home. When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne. He said "This is eternity, and all I've promised you." Today for life on earth is past, but here it starts anew. I promise no tomorrow, for today will always last. And since each day's the same way, there's no longing for the past. So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart. For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

-Author unknown



Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We Thank You, Whatever the part.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
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