

*CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF
FLOYD ROSCOE BRANCH, JR.*

“SKIP”

*SUNRISE:
NOVEMBER 14, 1959*

*SUNSET:
AUGUST 10, 2019*



Service

Saturday, August 17, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.

ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

132 W. 138th Street • New York, NY

ORDER OF SERVICE

Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III
Officiating Pastor

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL
Ministers • Officers

INVOCATION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE
Old Testament • New Testament

PRAYER OF COMFORT

MUSICAL SELECTION

TRIBUTES

Rice HS • Cardinal Hayes • NYCBBC • Ol' School Friends
Motorcycle Buddies • Referees • Pastors • Family

MUSICAL SELECTION

THE OBITUARY
Floyd Branch III

MUSICAL SELECTION

ECCLESIASTICAL TRIBUTE
Bishop Dr. Kent Branch

EULOGY
Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT
Fair Lawn Cemetery
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

TRIBUTES

*Floyd "Skip" Branch, Beloved son, brother, father and loving husband.
Forever in our hearts.*

My Dearest Son - Skip. One of the greatest heroes to me. You will truly be missed. Thank you for the man that you were. In the passing of your dad, you became a protector and provider. You promised and kept your word that you would love and care for me. Words cannot express my endless love for you. Missing your daily and nightly calls and visits, has ripped my heart. This has been one of the greatest losses and separations of my life. Until we meet again. ~ Mom

To my father - You raised me to be a man of faith, dedication, love and commitment; because of you, I am able to be a person of integrity and a great father to my children. ~ Skip Jr.

Dad - I keep thinking about you even though it pains. I'd give anything to relive those memories again. Just one last chance, I wish I could hug and never let go. What I will most is the unique and special bond we've shared. It was a bond that was unbreakable, and only you and I understood. You would always tell me you were mine and I am yours. Thank you for loving me unconditionally and always telling me how beautiful I am. I wish every daughter could experience that type of love. Dad, although I didn't say it often, you will always be my superhero. I miss you dad. ~ Daddy's Little Girl, Tierra.

Dear Daddy, to the man who - Taught me how to be a man, devoted his life to me, first taught me how to cook, taught me how to drive, cried while watching me be born, that loved me for me, encouraged to be the best I could be until your last day. Even on your last day, you were coming to church to support me. You loved me until your last day and our last phone call we both said we loved each other, and I will forever cherish that. Daddy I love you into eternity. ~ Bryce

My beloved brother Skip - My blood brother, my heart and hero. You have been one of my best friends, my best man in my wedding, and my best hero. It's hard to believe we won't have our daily morning talks. Somehow, someday, with the help of the Lord we will make it through this, and we will make you proud. I'll take care of mom and the 'Golden Girls' and the rest of the family. ~ Kent Sr.

Skip,

*My life was richer with you as
my husband. I love you honey.*

*You will forever be engrained
in my heart.*

~ Love, Carole

OBITUARY

Floyd Roscoe Branch Jr. (a.k.a. Skip) was born on November 14, 1959 in Mount Sinai Hospital to the late Floyd Roscoe Branch Sr. and Inez Branch. Born and raised in Frederick Douglass Housing Projects in Harlem, Skip attended PS 121 and Joan of Arc Middle School. He graduated from Louis D. Brandeis High School and later attended LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City where he majored in aviation.

Around the age of 15 Skip developed an affinity and love for riding motorcycles which he learned from his father. His love of motorcycles led him to a community of bikers where he developed friendships and lifelong bonds with riders from different clubs. As part of this community, Skip often traveled long distances on open roads and to racetracks in Englishtown, New Jersey with club members.

Professionally, Skip worked for six (6) years at Harlem Hospital for the Health and Hospitals Corporation. Following his tenure at Harlem Hospital, he worked with the NYC Transit Authority as a bus operator for twenty-three (23) years prior to his retirement in 2008.

When it comes to basketball, Skip's history and experience was extensive and diverse. It included being a team player with the NYC Broadcasting Radio Station WBLS Sure Shots for four years (1981 to 1985) where he was coached by the famous radio personality, the late Mr. Vaughn Harper, as well as playing in numerous elite basketball leagues and tournaments around NYC and the Tri-State area.

In 1995, Skip transitioned into basketball coaching when he became the Founder and Director of the NYC Bombsquad Basketball Classic, Inc. (NYCBBC), a non-profit youth summer league. The NYCBBC was a place where Skip's passion for basketball and Harlem's youth was on full display. The league averaged 250+ participants each year and Skip sought to mentor every youth participant. After 25 years of service and success, the NYCBBC concluded its final season on July 27, 2019.

In addition to his NYCBBC duties, Skip coached for several other schools and organizations. Some of his many experiences included: Coaching in the Earl The Goat Manigault Walk Away From Drugs basketball tournament summer league (2001-2002); the Warriors Basketball League, sponsored by the Children's Aid Society (2001-2002); the Safe Haven West Side Basketball League (1994-2000); the Ray Diaz Round Ball Classic Metro Swoosh Tournament, sponsored by Nike (1998-2000); and assisted the head coach, Mr. Hinton, in forming the first basketball team at PS 129, Harlem, NY in 1996.

He was the head coach of the Varsity-B basketball team at Rice High School and assistant coach of the Varsity-B team for eleven (11) years. In 2002, during his first year as assistant coach of the Varsity-B team, he helped the team to a championship. When he became the head coach, he took the Varsity-B team to four (4) championship games. He later went on to coach at The Children's Storefront (an independent school in Harlem) where he coached middle school players and led the boys' basketball team to an undefeated season winning the championship (in 2010) on the court at Madison Square Garden. Skip went on to expand that career to include Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx from 2014 to 2018 where he coached the freshman team for three (3) years and JV for one (1) year. Finally, he served as the assistant coach of the men's basketball team at Hostos Community College.

Skip's mentoring of NYC's youth did not end on the basketball court, neither did his dedication to his native Harlem community go unnoticed. In May 2002, Skip received the Father-of-the-Year award from Rice High School for being a loving and devoted Rice parent, role model and mentor to Rice students. He worked closely with the players and Rice HS staff to find colleges or universities that were a good fit for the students academically, socially and athletically.

In June 2005, Skip received the Children's Service Award from the Parent Advisory Board of the Children's Storefront School for his dedication and mentoring of NYC youth. In October 2006, Skip received the Pepsi Cola Heroes in our Community Award sponsored by 98.7 Kiss FM Radio Station. On June 3, 2007 at the 35th Annual Bob Douglas Hall of Fame Luncheon, presented by the John Hunter Memorial Camp Fund Inc., he received the prestigious Native New Yorker Award. This was for his outstanding and unselfish contributions to the welfare of others and his leadership and support in his community. His work in the Harlem community continued with his supervisory role of the evening Teen Program at the Harlem Police Athletic League where he dedicated himself to mentoring and encouraging academic and athletic excellence among participants since 2010. Most recently, August 26, 2017, at the 2nd Annual Harlem Honors, a red-carpet black-tie event, Ms. Susan "Bunny" Southwell Dais, awarded Skip with the prestigious Harlem Honors Award.

Just as Skip was dedicated to his community, he was equally dedicated to his own family. He cared tremendously for his beloved mother whom he never neglected to make daily visits and calls to. Their bond was undeniable, unshakable and a testament of the never-ending love of a mother and her son. He was extremely close to his only sibling, his brother Dr. Kent Branch, who was also his best friend. From sharing childhood memories to adulthood as fathers, their bond never diminished.

He enjoyed a very hands-on relationship with each of his children. For his eldest son Skip Jr., he showed his love and affection by giving fatherly advice, being involved in his college and professional life as a teacher and teaching life lessons through basketball. For his middle child Tierra, his only daughter, she was his little girl. They had a special bond, spending time together, attempting to teach her to drive or from their spontaneous daddy/daughter dates. As for his youngest son, they shared a love of music. He supported Bryce in every aspect of his life, from his church life, to cooking, to anything Bryce wanted to do. Showing up to every school event, every graduation, and even being a part of his prom, he was his baby boy, and he loved him dearly.

He was affectionately called "PaPa" by his loving grandchildren who he adored immensely and regularly enjoyed spending time with. He always made time to care for his elderly aunts, "The Golden Girls," Chris Lovelace, Wanda Ward, and Loreese Wood. Skip shared that same endearing love with his in-laws and other extended family members.

While Skip had an undying love for all his family, all that knew him also know that his love for his wife was unparalleled. He married his wife of 16 years, Carole Richards-Branch, on April 23, 2003 at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in a ceremony officiated by Dr. Calvin O Butts, III. Together, he and Carole enjoyed going to the movies, eating dinner at Miss Mamie's Spoonbread, traveling, attending Sunday morning church service at Abyssinian Baptist Church, managing NYCBBC, attending basketball tournaments throughout New York City and spending quality time with family. They enjoyed being together and it was rare seeing one without the other. There are no words for the sense of loss felt by his mate and partner.

Skip is predeceased by his father, Floyd Roscoe Branch Sr; his son Branden Carter Branch, born 1988; and survived by his wife Carole Richards-Branch; son Floyd Roscoe Branch III (a.k.a. Skip Jr.), Born 1984; daughter Tierra Carter Branch, born 1994; son Bryce Anthony Wellington Branch, born 2000; mother Inez Branch, brother Kent Branch (spouse: Diana Branch, Skip's nieces Courtney and Chloe and nephew Kent II); grandchildren Kayden Branch, Elijah Branch and Ny'jah Moore along with many other aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family that were just like his own and a host of lifelong friends.





WHEN AT A LOSS FOR WORDS

*When at a loss for words, we thank God
for the time we spent with Skip.*

*When at a loss for words,
think of Skip's warm smile and kind heart.*

*When at a loss for words,
be grateful for the times Skip put you before himself.*

*When at a loss for words,
reflect on the many life lessons Skip shared.*

*When at a loss for words,
remember how Skip cared for everyone.*

*When at a loss for words,
pick up the phone and check on a family member
or friend just as Skip did.*

*When at a loss for words,
try to see the good in all people
just as Skip did.*

*When at a loss for words,
dry your tears and thank God for
all the lives Skip touched.*

By: Floyd Branch III (Skip Jr.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness
shown to them during this time of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You !

THANK YOU

Greater Highway Deliverance Temple Church

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